



United News Canada

News of the United Church of God - Canada

Vol.13 No. 3

www.ucg.ca

May - June 2008



Inside...

- 3 National Conference Meeting
- 4 Holy Spirit... *Kevin Ford*
- 6 Christian Huddle.... *Achille Vitale*
- 8 Leadership Training Schools...
Graemme Marshall
- 10 Montreal Public Lecture
- 11 Mother's & Father's Day....
Joseph & Mary Moulton
- 13 Different Places... *Kevin Spahich*
- 15 Horses and Health...
Linda Henderson
- 17 FOT Europe '07... *Walter Martin*
- 20 Church News Across Canada
- 21 Flier Delivery...
Isabelle Nicol
Wayne Lue
- 21 Office Profile... *Wayne Lue*
- 22 Church News
- 24 Prince George Snow Party

The 'CHRISTIAN HUDDLE'

A lesson from the Emperor Penguins. See page 6 to read how their survival instinct can apply to our Christian experience.

Photo.com picture

READER'S DIGEST ADVERTISEMENT APRIL 2008

950,000 English subscribers across
Canada

Advertisement card placed in a plastic
poly bag cover

In the May 2008 edition

Booklet offered - "Making Life Work"

FREE BOOKLET AND SUBSCRIPTION!

Life works much better with the right instruction manual

It shows how you can have...

- A happy marriage
- Healthy children
- Successful career
- Financial security

FREE!

Your subscription is absolutely free, with no strings attached. No one will call on you, your name will not be given to anyone else and you may cancel your free subscription at any time.

Yes! I want to learn more about the practical solutions to the common challenges and questions of life. Send my free copy of *Making Life Work* and begin my free subscription to *The Good News* magazine. I understand that I will never be charged or have any obligation, and can cancel my free subscription at any time.

Please print clearly

Name _____

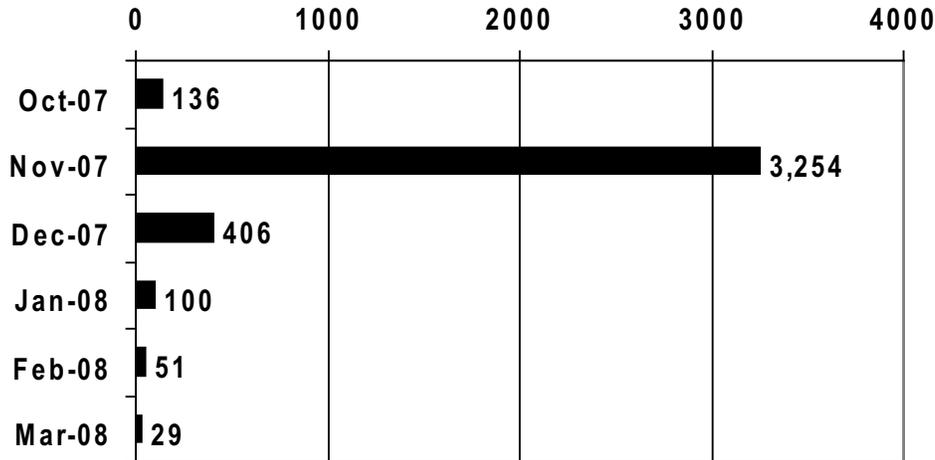
Address _____

City _____

Province _____ Postal Code _____

Visit our Web site at www.GoodNewsMag.ca/ST4CRD

Responses from the November 2007 *Reader's Digest* ad by month



At April 2008 responses were still coming in.

On one day 7 came in the mail - four months after the advertisement appeared.

This brings the total to **3,982** for a Cost Per Response rate of **0.457%** .

There was also a card from the *Open and Save* advertising campaign done back in 2004.

United News Canada

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

Director of Operations for Canada: Anthony Wasilkoff
 Managing Editor: Graemme Marshall
 Editorial reviewers: Angie Erickson, Kevin Ford, Lynn Marshall, David Palmer, Joseph Sheperd
 United News Canada is automatically sent to all members of United Church of God - Canada, and is free to all who request it. Subscriptions are provided by the voluntary contributions of its members and co-workers. Donations to help share our free publications are gratefully accepted and are tax-deductible.

For a free subscription write to the address above.
 Or phone 1-800-338-7779.
 Email: canadian_office@ucg.org

Websites:
 English www.ucg.ca
 French www.revuebn.ca
 The on-line version is available at
www.unitednews canada.org

National Council of United Church of God - Canada
 Robert Berendt, Larry DeLong, Graemme Marshall,
 David Palmer, Patrick Read, Rainer Salomaa (Chairman),
 Joseph Sheperd, Ian Simons, Anthony Wasilkoff

International Home Office:
 United Church of God, an International Association,
 555 Technecenter Drive, Milford, OH 45150
 Website: www.ucg.org

Reproduction in any form without permission
 is prohibited.
 © 2008 United Church of God - Canada.
 Printed in Canada. All rights reserved.
 Canada Post Publications Agreement #1487159



The Canadian National Conference had their annual teleconference, followed by a short National Council meeting on Sunday, March 9. My wife Claudia and I flew in to Toronto, arriving about an hour and a half behind schedule because of severe weather conditions at the Toronto airport. On the Sabbath, we attended services in Toronto. The attendance was sparse since a major snow storm was building. We hunkered down that evening with the Wasilkoffs in the comfort of their home beside a warm fireplace as the snow swirled outside. Sunday morning saw sunny skies and high snow drifts. The mounds of snow in Toronto were such a contrast to the warm temperatures and bare ground which greeted us in Calgary, Alberta when we returned on Tuesday. I want to publicly thank Dennis Horlick for his three years of service on the National Council, and to welcome Patrick Read from Toronto as a new council member. I also want to express appreciation for all those who let their names stand for nomination. We are blessed with a large pool of talented people in United Church of God – Canada. Warm Regards, Rainer Salomaa
Council chairman



ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The teleconference call meeting was conducted from the Canadian National Office.

Conference Meeting March 9/08

The 2008 annual meeting of the National Conference started at noon (Eastern Time) and ran for two hours. There were a record number of conference members online for the teleconference – twenty out of a potential of twenty-five. All balloting was completed prior to the meeting.

Address by Director of Operations

Anthony Wasilkoff referred to the Scriptures where Christ asked his disciples who people were saying He was. Christ then asked the disciples who they thought He was. One point being made was that He wanted his disciples to be aware of what was happening around them – of public opinion.

A recent poll showed that the American religious economy is very competitive. Some parts are growing, some are in decline. We have a fluid society where people often change jobs, homes and churches.

Several articles from the *Toronto Sun*, *Time* magazine and even *National Geographic* have apocalyptic themes. The gospel message is not one-dimensional. The gospel should be a warning. Matthew 24 talks about the end time being shortened for the elect's sake. Today there are many talking about the apocalypse.

Mr. Wasilkoff referred to Colossians 1:4-23, which talks about the gospel message that is also a message of hope. Our message to the world should be a warning, but one that also has hope for a better future. We plan soon to run another ad in *Reader's Digest* that will extend some hope to people in a troubled time.

Media Update

The Media Team has been working to get the *Beyond Today* television program on better viewing times. The problem that we run into is the "Canadian content" rules.

We have negotiated another ad in *Readers Digest* magazine with a different theme this time. It should come out in late April. Internet requests are now averaging about 28 per day.

Ministerial Services Update

Ministerial Services has initiated a police background check on every individual who works with youth in the church. There are programs under development and some being implemented to train and upgrade our leadership. We recognize a need for additional elders and pastors across Canada.

As an aside, Robert Berendt mentioned that the Roles and Rules committee of the Council of Elders is working on the various roles of ministers at different times in their lives. There will be an all-Canada ministerial conference held this November in Toronto. We anticipate having Jim Franks join us for that.

Address by Treasurer: Edwin van Pelt

Mr. van Pelt read a portion of the auditor's report showing that we are in good financial health. There was a significant increase in our data base this year with over 10,000 new names added. That gives a net increase (after cancellations) of about 3,600. We now have 148 subscribers to *Bonnes Nouvelles*.

Outgoing mail is increasing. We issued about 10% more donation receipts this year than last year.

Address by Chairman

Glen Beck of CNN television interviewed Jon M. Huntsman, a self-made billionaire, who is donating \$1 billion of his own money to help fund cancer research and hospitals. At one time, Mr. Huntsman made a \$54 million deal to sell a portion of his business by a handshake. By the time the deal was completed, the value of the business had

increased to \$225 million. The CEO he was dealing with offered to split the difference, but Huntsman kept to the original agreed-upon deal. Huntsman's integrity had so impressed the CEO that when he died several years later, Huntsman was asked to speak at his funeral even though they were not that close. Huntsman went on to say in his interview that he has a plaque behind his desk which says, "*The greatest exercise for the human heart is to reach down and lift another up.*"

Here in the UCG we are not fighting cancer but are involved in something much larger than ourselves – lifting others up to a higher plateau, God's standard. To do that takes character, integrity and a right personal example. There is a parallel between where we are today and the time of the rebuilding of the temple. We need to heed what God instructed the Israelites at that time: Be strong, do not fear, and work!

Business

Ballot results were read. The Strategic Plan, Operations Plan and Budget were all ratified. The 2007 National Conference Minutes and March 2007 Financial Statements were approved. The firm of Marsh Goulding was officially appointed to conduct the 2009 audit. The three individuals selected to start a three-year term on Council on April 1 are: Larry DeLong, Graemme Marshall and Patrick Read.

The National Conference determined that the next National Conference meeting would be held on Sunday, March 8, 2009. After some discussion the meeting concluded with prayer.

Linda Wasilkoff
Council Secretary

THE SPIRIT OF PENTECOST

The Spirit of God, or Holy Spirit, is one of the most basic and important themes to be found throughout God's Word – from the very first chapter of Genesis to the final chapter of Revelation. The Bible also mentions an angelic spirit (Ezekiel 10:17) and a human spirit (1 Corinthians 2:11). But what is the Holy Spirit, and what is its significance in a Christian's life? Notwithstanding the contrary belief among so many professing Christians, it is never described in the Bible as a Being or Person. Whenever the God Family is mentioned in Scripture, as in the introductory verses to many of the New Testament letters (Romans 1:7, I Corinthians 1:3, etc.), only two Beings are mentioned, God the Father and Jesus Christ. In fact, if the Holy Spirit were a person, then Jesus prayed to the 'wrong' Father, as, according to Matthew 1:18, his mother Mary was "with child of the Holy Spirit"!

One of the clearest descriptions of the nature of the Holy Spirit is found in Luke 1:35, after Mary had asked the angel Gabriel how it was possible for her to give birth to the Son of God. She is told that "the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God." Here, God's Spirit is identified with the power and actions of God - the means by which He accomplishes His will. This understanding is further reinforced if we examine the references to the Holy Spirit in the original Greek, many of which omit the definite article. The Concordant Literal Translation is one of the few to accurately observe this distinction, rendering Acts 4:8, for example, as: "Then Peter, being filled with Holy Spirit.....".

How do we receive God's Holy Spirit? God's instructions, as expressed by the apostle Peter at the inauguration of the New Testament Church, are specific: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). It cannot be purchased for any price (Acts 8:18-20), but God offers it to us as a free gift when we fulfill His conditions.

What are the many ways by which a Christian's life is impacted by the indwelling presence of God's Holy Spirit?

Here are some of them:

(1) ***It imparts spiritual power.*** In Luke 4:14, Jesus "returned in the power of the Spirit" to Galilee, following His great ordeal in the wilderness. The disciples, after being filled with the Holy Spirit, are described as speaking the Word of God "with boldness" (Acts 4:31). Paul had to remind Timothy that the Holy Spirit he had been given was not a spirit of fear (timidity) but of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

(2) ***It imparts understanding.*** Just as the human spirit present in all human beings enables us to have understanding on a physical level, the divine spirit gives us spiritual understanding. "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.... These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but by which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (1 Corinthians 2: 11-13 NKJV).

(3) ***It inspires the gifts that are necessary in the Church.*** I Corinthians 12:8-11 provides a long list of the gifts that edify the Church and are available by God's Spirit – wisdom, knowledge, faith, healings, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues. If we would like to see more of these gifts in our local congregation, we can ask God to give a greater measure of His Spirit to all of us.

(4) ***It helps us to pray effectively.*** "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words" (Romans 8:26 NRSV). Effective prayer does not come easily to a human being because "the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh, and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish" (Galatians 5:17). God's Spirit fills that serious shortcoming in our life.

(5) ***It identifies us as belonging to God.***

Professing Christians have come up with all kinds of ideas and definitions of what constitutes a true Christian, but the only one that matters is the one found in Romans 8:9: "But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now, if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."

(6) ***It will enable us to receive eternal life at the return of Jesus Christ.*** Having received God's free gift of his Spirit, we are not simply promised the power to overcome Satan's temptations and the downward pull of our human nature, but something much more awe-inspiring. "If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through His Spirit which dwells in you" (Romans 8:11 RSV). For those of us who may be advanced in age, this is not describing simply a rejuvenation to the strength and health we experienced in our youth, but a transformation into a totally new plane of existence as a member of the God Family. "So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body (1 Corinthians 15: 42-44 RSV).

Although the Bible states that "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9), it does not mean that it is impossible for us to have this knowledge.

The same passage continues: "But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit....." (verse 10). This is what the Day of Pentecost is all about – the giving of the greatest gift we physical human beings can ever receive!

Kevin Ford Toronto

It imparts spiritual power

It imparts understanding

It inspires the gifts that are necessary in the Church

It helps us to pray effectively

It identifies us as belonging to God

*It will enable us to receive eternal life
at the return of Jesus*

***In fact, if the Holy Spirit were a person, then Jesus
prayed to the ‘wrong’ Father, as, according to
Matthew 1:18, his mother Mary was
“with child of the Holy Spirit”!***

THE CHRISTIAN HUDDLE

A WISDOM LESSON FROM THE EMPEROR PENGUINS

"Wisdom calls aloud outside; she raises her voice in the open squares. She cries out in the chief concourses, at the openings of the gates in the city she speaks her words: ..."

Proverbs 1:20-21

The male "mother"

The Emperor penguin is well adapted with unique traits for surviving the harsh Antarctic environment. It possesses some very distinct social features. Emperor parents share parental duties, as do most penguins. But their difference is manifested in the males' collaboration while performing his part.

The male undergoes a 115-day ordeal. He will court, mate and incubate an egg and will not eat before the end of these days. His original 40kg weight may drop by half before returning to feed at sea. Furthermore he has to deal with an austere polar winter that gives rise to wind chill temperatures as low as -60°C. In these conditions, keeping himself and his 120mm long, 600gm egg warm in the bitter cold Antarctic winter necessitates rallying with the other male penguins.

In mid-May the female lays her egg then leaves to feed. For the next 65 days the male

remains behind with the egg resting on his feet enclosed in a patch of bare skin on his lower abdomen and an abdominal fold that is lowered over the egg to keep it warm. The egg is never exposed to the elements except when the male transfers it to the female upon her return. The developing chick in an egg that is accidentally tipped on the snow and abandoned, can freeze to death in two minutes. Soon after the transfer, which takes about ten seconds, the male returns to sea to feed and the egg hatches.

Huddling

These remarkable birds contend with freezing -45°C temperatures, excluding wind chill. They also face 'Katabatic' winds that blow off the polar plateau downwards, intensifying temperatures and blizzards that reach a wind speed of up to 200 km/h.

To survive in these conditions, the emperors form colonies and stand in compact huddles. Although the male's chest size is similar to an average man, in a huddle, as many as ten of them pack into every square meter during inhospitable winter days. These tightly knit enclaves of ten, or multiple hundreds of birds, reduces exposed surface areas and heat loss by up to 50% enabling the fasting birds to conserve body fat longer. The temperature

in the interior of a huddle can reach a high of +35°C.

Their huddling behavior is an extraordinary act of co-operation in the face of a common hardship. Each penguin leans forward on a neighbor with the outside birds typically facing toward the center. For the duration of the huddle the emperors appear to behave as one, seemingly losing individual identity. They all take turns occupying the warmest, and coldest positions in the huddle.

With their eggs resting on their feet, the outer layer of Emperors exposed directly to the wind slowly shuffle down the sides of the group away from the windward edge, and gather on the opposite side sheltered from the wind. The subsequent layer of birds joins the procession creating a slow churning action. Each successive outer layer peels away from the windward edge and envelops the previous layer that gathered on the sheltered side, thus allowing all the penguins to spend time in the warm interior, and at long last finding themselves back on the windward edge. This activity may shift the huddle as much as 200 metres downwind during a 48-hour blizzard.

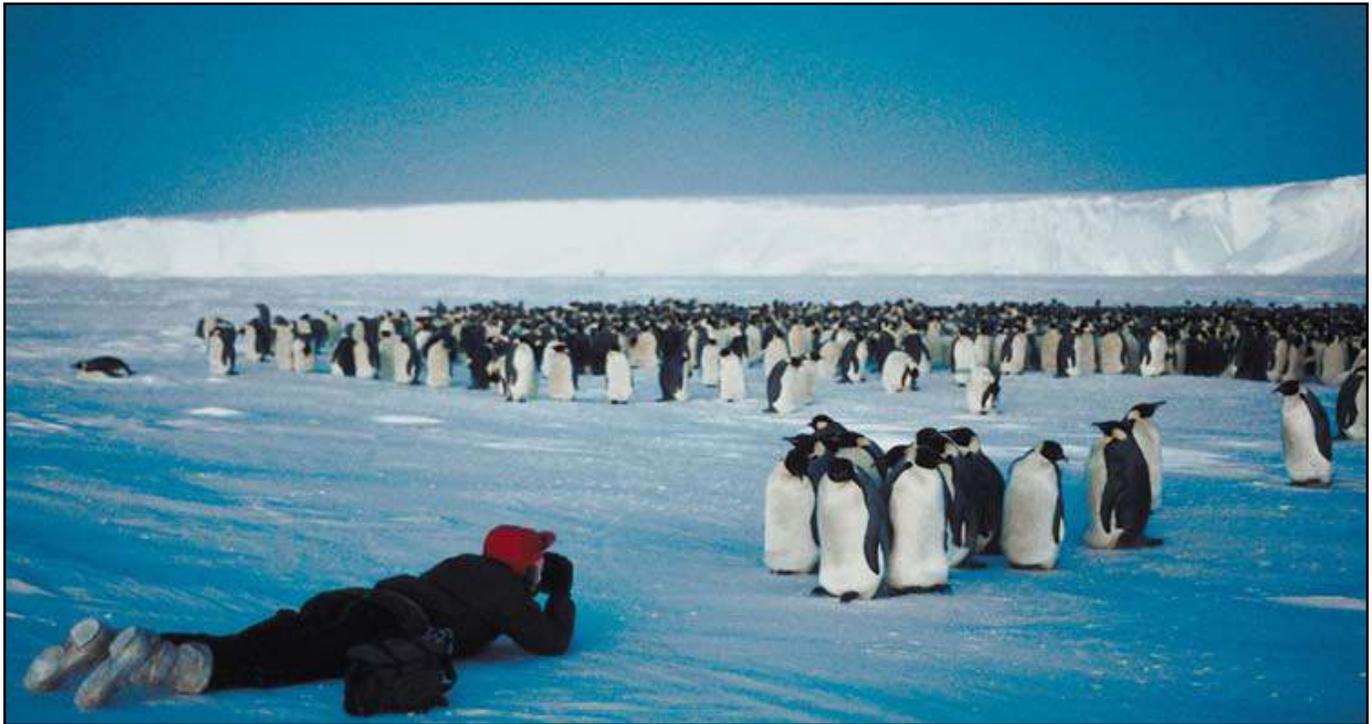
A wise purpose

The four-foot high Emperor penguin and his egg survive the conditions of the polar



The four-foot high Emperor penguin and his egg (and emerging chick) survive the conditions of the polar winter on account of God instilling in them the extraordinary huddling instinct.

Photo.com pictures



winter on account of God instilling in them the extraordinary huddling instinct. What would happen to a penguin if he separated himself from the group during a 48-hour blizzard accompanied by 200 km/hr winds and a wind chill temperature of -60°C ? Alone the penguin would certainly run the risk of dying along with its defenceless egg. This is why the Emperor male never separates himself from the colony while caring for the egg. Both his and his egg's survival depend on him remaining in close proximity to the colony. When prolonged and brutally cold winds blow, he is able to quickly join the huddle.

By analogy, there exists an intense spiritually cold and unforgiving landscape outside God's Church. Our spiritual survival depends on our close proximity to God, His Truth and His Church. Can we weather it alone for long, or even a short time? Can we realistically remain separated from God's Church and survive? Surely the answer would be a 'no'. As Proverbs 18:1 says, "*A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment*" (NKJ). God never intended His spiritually begotten children to live a spiritually isolated life. In great wisdom and love God raised up His Church for the edification and protection of His children. Isolating ourselves seriously diminishes our chances for survival in a spiritually void world.

Assembling of ourselves

Understanding our human need, God created the Sabbath. When we assemble on the Sabbath we honor God who made the Sabbath day Holy, and commanded us to gather together in the places He has chosen throughout His Church. During the Sabbath we have the opportunity to stir up Godly love and good works toward one another. We are able to exhort and encourage each other to please God and walk in His ways, as Hebrews says, "*And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching*" (Hebrews 10:24-25 KJV). Through fellowship, and the hearing of God's Word preached each Sabbath, we maintain our spiritual zeal within us by the Holy Spirit.

Christ's call to be HOT – not lukewarm

Not one penguin remains at the outer edges of the huddle permanently. In order to protect himself from the cold, and incubate his egg properly, each male penguin instinctively knows his need to work with the group and spend time within the hot interior. Lingering on the fringes compromises survival because he will lose body fat quicker and the egg will not get the needed warmth to develop. Once a penguin is on the windward edge of the huddle he shuffles down one side of the group and

allows the penguins following him to wrap around him at the lee, thus benefiting from the energy-conserving heat radiating from the interior.

The key message to the Laodicean Church in Revelation 3 is precisely the importance of seeking, becoming and remaining spiritually hot. Remaining spiritually hot and surviving today's austere secular environment greatly increases when we actively choose to remain in the inner parts of God's Church. The Emperor penguin instinctively avoids lingering on the lukewarm fringes. Is there not a good lesson here?

Antarctic storms trigger the survival instinct to huddle for each of the 35 known colonies along the coast of the continent. During a huddle episode the Emperor penguins appear to behave as one.

Likewise we are in the middle of a pervasive, spiritually wicked storm, and we need to be one with God. We cannot go it alone. Keep in the huddle of the Church for warmth and safety.

Achille Vitale - Montreal

LEADERSHIP TRAINING SCHOOLS - FROM THE BIBLE

God shepherds His people by a consistent approach. Here is an illustration of how God has often provided Schools of Leadership for His people.

When wicked Queen Jezebel decreed death to Elijah, he fled into the wilderness. He was nurtured by angels as he walked to Horeb and took refuge in a cave. There God spoke with him directly. "And behold, the Word of Jehovah came to him, and He said to him, What are you doing here, Elijah? (1 Kings 19:9 MKJV). Elijah's answer was: "I alone, am left. And they seek to take my life away" (1 Kings 19:10). Twice Elijah gives the exact same answer to God's repeated question – that he alone was left. Then God instructs the prophet about several future tasks, along with the statement: "Yet I have left seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth which has not kissed him" (1 Kings 19:18).

How do we reconcile Elijah claiming he alone was left, with God saying there were 7,000 faithful within Israel?

Searching the context for background we can see that there really is no contradiction. We can also discover how God provides leadership development for His people, even in the midst of a pagan, apostate environment.

OBADIAH – A LESSON FOR TODAY

Consider this man Obadiah. Here was a highly influential man who 'feared the Lord greatly' (1 Kings 18:3/13), yet was Ahab's palace administrator. Obadiah's name, "servant of Yahweh," indicates his righteous character.

Ahab could scarcely have been ignorant of Obadiah's faithfulness to God. It might indicate to a degree that Ahab's worst deeds sprang less from his own free will and more from the evil counsel and imperious requirements of his wife.

Rulers often want a man of celebrated honesty, industry, and ingenuity; one in whom they can trust to remain above palace intrigue and deceit. As Joseph with Potiphar and Daniel with Nebuchadnezzar, so, too, Obadiah remained uncorrupted by Ahab. These righteous men weren't influenced negatively by their unrighteous national leaders. In his high public profile role, Obadiah had taken one hundred of the faithful prophets and hidden them, fifty

to a cave, and daily fed them. This was after Jezebel had killed some. Surely he ran a great risk at being found out. So, we find Elijah was not the only faithful one! Obadiah says later that he had reported to Elijah his action in saving one hundred of the prophets (1 Kings 18:13).

When God states there are 7,000 who hadn't bowed to Baal, we can understand that Elijah meant he was the only one publicly still confronting Ahab and Jezebel. Everyone else had gone into hiding from Jezebel's purge.

What the biblical account tells us is that there were a number of prophets and ordinary people faithful to God in Elijah's day. What was instrumental in keeping them faithful? Now unfolds the story of the schools of the prophets, or perhaps we can term them schools for training leaders.

LEADERSHIP SCHOOLS

Various scriptures give us tantalizing references to them. Our first glimpse comes during the ministry of priest and prophet Samuel. He was notable as God's agent to anoint both Saul and David. However, another legacy of his may well have been the foundational beginning of a school of prophets. Although no direct Biblical statement tells us the manner of their living in groups or their organization, is it reasonable to deduce that many appear to be in company with one another. Is it similarly reasonable to infer a progression of development from Samuel through into Elisha's day? Often 'servants' knew where the 'man of God' lived. When Saul is looking for his father's strayed animals, it is his servant who is aware of how to reach Samuel (1 Samuel 9:6, 9). We find Saul is met by a 'company of prophets' (1 Samuel 10:10-11), and the people query whether he had now joined them. We would assume there was some sort of organization or administration of these groups. When David later flees from Saul he heads for refuge with Samuel at Ramah. The biblical record tells us that a group of prophets were prophesying and that Samuel was "standing as leader over them" (1 Samuel 19:20-21).

Jumping ahead to Elisha's day there is an intriguing account of three kings (Israel, Judah and Edom) allied against Moab, and taking a circuitous route, perhaps east of Edom to surprise Moab, but running out of water. In their dilemma it is one of the servants of the King of Israel who knows, somehow, that Elisha is nearby. Later

Elisha is with the Shunammite woman up near Haifa at Mount Carmel. Here he is somewhere way south and east below Edom and a servant apparently is currently fully aware of his whereabouts (2 Kings 3:11).

So, is it reasonable to infer a progression from Samuel's early 'seer' days to Elisha's later building program when the 'sons of the prophets' had too small a facility to accommodate them all (2 Kings 6:1)? When we see isolated prophets emerge, as later with Nathan and Gad, to announce repeatedly the words of God to the kings under whom they served, might they also have been associated with a 'company of prophets'? Various verses in Scripture could paint this picture.

IN SAMUEL'S DAY

At the anointing of Saul by Samuel we find a 'group of prophets' (1 Samuel 10:5/10). When we read of 'a man of God' or 'sons of the prophets' it is telling us that they were members of a special teaching and leadership class. 'Sons' does not refer to their ancestry but to their membership as part of the prophetic school of their day. From this school they were sent out under Divine inspiration to warn and witness as God directed. In Samuel's day we find young David fleeing from King Saul and seeking refuge with Samuel at Ramah. Samuel takes him to Naioth and is described as the leader of this prophesying group of prophets (1 Samuel 19:18-20). Later in Ahab's day we find 'a man of God' is directed to witness to Ahab, and 'a certain man of the sons of the prophets' also instructed to denounce Ahab's actions (1 Kings 20:28-35).

IN ELIJAH'S DAY

By the time of Elijah and Elisha we find at least two groups of the 'sons of the prophets,' one in Bethel and the other in Jericho (2 Kings 2:3, 5, 7). God must have divinely indicated to Elijah that he was to be taken away and so before this departure Elijah visits the schools to say farewell. Here we find considerable numbers of 'sons of the prophets' at Bethel where one of the calves had been set up. And in Jericho which was rebuilt despite a curse upon it.

In Jerusalem and Judah the people had the privilege of Priests, Levites and a Temple service. In Israel, no such opportunity. So God graciously provided leadership training colleges where men were employed to teach the people how to worship God

and to offer sacrifices. This maintained the Truth of God during times of apostasy. Jezebel provided the upkeep for her 400 priests of Asherah, while Ahab maintained 450 priests of Baal in the state religion of Israel (1 Kings 18:19). The righteous enjoyed no such official support, and they lived by trusting in God's provision. We do not have any indication that Elijah or Elisha ever attended the temple in Jerusalem. These training schools maintained Godly worship within Israel, and Elijah prior to his departure now bids them farewell, after instructing, encouraging and blessing them.

IN ELISHA'S DAY

The sons of the prophets apparently had awareness that their leader, Elijah, was soon to leave them. Either this insight is from Elijah himself, or perhaps God reveals it to them. On each visit to the schools they inform Elisha of this, both at Bethel (2 Kings 2:3) and at Jericho (verse 5). Elisha knows it full well and his blunt responses can be understood as not irritation but that his heart is dispirited at his mentor and leader soon to be taken away. Perhaps daunted by the weight of filling Elijah's shoes, Elisha asks for a double portion of Elijah's spirit.

We find at Elijah's dramatic departure there are 50 "sons of the prophets" standing at a distance as witnesses to the event. Rather than taking a ferry across the Jordan, Elijah is moved to strike the river with the prophet's outer garment. God parts the water, as He did through Moses with the Red Sea.

Elisha, now alone, is mocked in the popular sport of the day – poking fun at those who stand for God. This verbal abuse from young men from Bethel, the centre of idolatrous worship, was probably a result of Elijah's denunciation of the prophets of

Baal. The expression 'bald head' doesn't necessarily refer to Elisha being bald, for it is a common epithet-even against people with a full head of hair. The call "go up, go up" is meant to mock Elisha as well as Elijah, taunting Elisha to go into the skies, as the youths had heard Elijah had done. Clearly, they don't believe the story about Elijah, but their taint is mouthy scorn, suggesting Elisha has no real power as a prophet. God takes exception to the mob's derision and has two she bears maul them (verses 23-25).

FAITH IN WIDOWHOOD - GOD WILL PROVIDE.

Because prophets are not on the payroll of the king, their livelihood depends on trust in God. On occasion it seems they had meagre provisions and a touching illustration is in 2 Kings 4. Here a destitute widow of one of the 'sons of the prophets' has a creditor threatening to put her two sons into servitude for unpaid debts. She has nothing in the house left and so she appeals to Elisha. What follows is the well-known wonderful miracle of the jar of oil repeatedly filling up until she had enough money to pay her debts, plus capital on which to live (2 Kings 4:7).

That 'sons of the prophets' were viewed as likely to be impoverished provides the excuse used by Gehazi, Elisha's servant, in the story of Naaman the Syrian commander and his leprosy. When Elisha refused any payment for the dramatic healing from God, the temptation of considerable wealth was too much for Gehazi to resist. He chased after Naaman and gave the excuse that "...just now two young men of the 'sons of the prophets' have come to me from the mountains of Ephraim" (2 Kings 5:22). The implication being they were of course

in need of welfare, so give some money for them. It was a deception and cost him dearly. But an interesting allusion to the likely survival problems for 'sons of the prophets.'

BUILDING EXPANSION

During Elisha's day their numbers outgrew their lodgings and we find them involved in a 'building program.' Their cutting down of trees for that purpose is intriguing with the loss of the axe head. It was 'borrowed' and we get the feeling they were so poor they needed to borrow sufficient tools (2 Kings 6). Now, let's jump forward to our day in this illustration of God's consistent provision.

How God has worked to teach and shepherd His flock in the past is invariably repeated in later times. When we come to Herbert Armstrong we find this same strong desire to establish a modern day version of a school of the prophets in Ambassador College. The building program in Elisha's day reminds us of Ambassador's building program over the years. And in recent years, the United Church of God has instituted the Ambassador Bible Centre! More recently, UCG has begun the process of relocation to provide an adequate leadership training facility for those who God calls to serve as pastors in His church.

Is there consistency here from the Spirit of God? I believe so.

How positive and reinforcing is the constancy of purpose of God in shepherding, teaching and providing for His people!

Graemme Marshall



Above is a picture of the Home Office Cincinnati as it was being built. At right is a picture of the former impressive Ambassador College Auditorium as it was being added to the growing College facilities.



MONTREAL PUBLIC LECTURE FOR *GOOD NEWS* SUSBSCIBERS - Joel Meeker - Editor, *Bonnes Nouvelles*.

Saturday April 5 was a full Sabbath activity as Mr. Joel Meeker and his wife, Marjolaine, presented a French sermon in the morning, and then an English video of the French areas of UCG that Mr. Meeker coordinates as Regional Pastor.

His French sermon focused on our Passover preparation need to re-commit to God's calling without leaving 'options' open. He began by explaining Christ's teaching to Peter and the disciples after a fruitless night of fishing (Luke 5:5-10), how that as fishers of men it was going to be God's provision that would make their human efforts worthwhile. He explained that our present evil age has

little commitment to anything. And that people 'keep their options open' – even within God's Church. He mentioned the example of the Spanish explorer Cortez, who deliberately burned his ships after landing in Mexico, so there could be no turning back. We have a need to fully commit ourselves to God's calling and be busy with that responsibility.

Mrs. Marjolaine Meeker translated the sermon into English for anglophone listeners. In the afternoon Mr. Meeker presented a question and answer period about the African work, and then narrated an English video highlighting areas of Africa, along with their privations

compared to our affluent first world lifestyle; and concluded with an invitation to the French Festival of Tabernacles in France.

Of the 57 in attendance, 17 adults and children were from other church of God affiliations. Kevin Ford from Toronto kindly played the piano for hymns as well as presenting a special music piece by Chopin. Sandwiches were served at the lunch break with an afternoon tea at the end of the day. Many stayed to fellowship for an hour or more afterwards. Another Public Lecture for Montreal is planned for next spring. Graemme Marshall



At left the Feast in Mauritius was featured. At the right Mr. Meeker conducts a question and answer period. Below left is pictured the group who attended. At bottom right is a picture of the English video narration on the francophone areas of Africa.



Allan Darbyson Obituary -- June 1, 1931 – March 17, 2008

Allan Darbyson of Sorrento, B.C. died on March 17, 2008 at the age of 76. He left behind his wife Janice, his three sons – Elliot, Warren, and Tod, his grandchildren, and his brother Phil who lives on Vancouver Island. Al had good health all his life until fairly recently when he was diagnosed with cancer in his kidneys which then spread to his lungs.

He was born in Montreal, Quebec in 1931 and moved to Cedar, British Columbia with his parents in 1939. He met and married Janice Rogers in 1957 and they homesteaded in Pouce Coupe, BC near Dawson Creek where both Al and his brother Phil bought ranches. It was there that they came in contact with the church

and were baptized by Mr. Pinelli. After that, they sold their ranches and moved to Edmonton, AB to be closer to church. There, he and his brother operated their own equipment for the city. The foreman of the work crews affectionately called Al and Phil "the sundowners" because they quit work by sunset Friday evening.

From there Al and his family moved to Blind Bay, BC about thirty years ago and bought a home at the end of Blind Bay on Shuswap Lake. Al loved sailing and for a number of years he was the admiral of the sailing club, which he helped to start on Shuswap Lake. His family organized a "Celebration of Life" memorial at the Sorrento Hall March 22. Al Darbyson will be remembered by those of us who knew

him in the church as a faithful soldier of Jesus Christ.

Rainer Salomaa and Roger Gloux



MOTHERS AND FATHERS DAY

Joseph and Mary Moulton had their first child in 1949 at Brockville, Ontario. Then followed Alan, Greg, Steven and so on until there were 10. After 59 years of marriage and family, they have two children as members of UCG and all but one child living within a radius of 10 kilometers from their home farm at Spencerville, Ontario.

To help celebrate *Mothers and Fathers Day* for 2008 (May 11 and June 15 respectively), they both added some observations to the following quotes which had meaning for them.

MOTHER'S DAY

Raising a family is a lot like gardening. Both require patience and support. Like a garden, our children get bigger and present new challenges with each passing year. It is, however, a labour of love.

When my husband and I were discussing marriage fifty-nine years ago, he told me he would like to have a family the size of a baseball team. I certainly differed with him on this point, but after all these years of marriage I now know who won! There is, however, nothing more gratifying than to have a large family and to share their successes and occasional failures. It gives one a minute glimpse of how God must feel when He looks on His family with their successes and, sadly, failures.

A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie~Tenneva Jordan.

Most mothers are willing to sacrifice their time, clothing, food and even their lives for their children. Very often one's income does not allow families to have all the things they would like to provide for them. I found as a mother, if one of the children needed books or a new pair of shoes or a new coat, I chose to provide their needs first. After all, I could get along with what I had for a while longer.

Being a full-time mother is one of the highest salaried jobs...since the payment is pure love~Mildred B. Vermont.

Our budget was limited as the children were growing up and days were filled with preparing meals, doing laundry and

keeping the house clean. Buying clothes was difficult; so many evenings were spent sewing dresses, pants, shirts and even snow suits. The children were warm and looked well dressed and to them, their new outfits were just as good as bought ones. Their appreciation and love was all the salary needed.

A suburban mother's role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car forever after~Peter De Vries.

Living in the country meant driving the children to some sports events. The girls took piano lessons and figure skating lessons and the boys played hockey during the winter months. During the summer they all played baseball, horseback riding, swimming and water skiing. One of our sons really loved to play hockey, but on one occasion when we talked to his school teacher, she told us he was not taking his school work seriously and his marks were not good. So his father assured the teacher he would take care of that, and when he talked to our son about his marks Dad said: "no more hockey until your marks are satisfactory with your teacher." Of course, life without hockey was not for Steven and within a short time his teacher contacted us and said; "Whatever you have said or done, Steven's marks have improved immensely." Therefore he was able to be back in his goalie position again.

*All mothers are working mothers
~ Author Unknown*

Very often I was asked the question 'do you work?' This question has always bothered me. I was fortunate enough to be a 'stay at home mom,' but I did work! Many households today require two incomes. For many years our household furnishings were limited and the children's toys were in short supply, but they were creative and made their toys from boxes and string or whatever was available. Today, statistics are telling us that the absence of a mother in the home when children arrive home from school is adding to the violence we see around us. Children are left on their own for hours, being deprived of the one-on-one relationship they hunger for. Television and Internet chat rooms are replacing the parents. Baby sitters are helpful but often teach different values to our own.

The moment a child is born, the mother is also born. She never existed before.

The woman existed, but the mother, never. A mother is something absolutely new~Rajneesh.

This is absolutely true. I grew up being an only child without brothers or sisters. I had a whole new life to learn and I'm still learning. An important lesson that we learned was the importance of eating together. We were able to teach them respect for others as well as to influence good manners and eating habits. Sometimes a child has in mind that there are foods they don't like to eat. They don't realize the importance of eating vegetables, fruit, whole grain products and drinking milk. We insisted they at least try everything prepared for the meal and eventually they would acquire a taste for it and ask for more. Packaged and prepared foods are filled with much sugar, salt and fats which can lead to poor health later in life. Living on a farm, we could have our own home-grown vegetables, beef, chickens and milk. The children learned to take care of the garden, how to identify weeds from vegetables as well as to help prepare them for winter freezing or canning. They learned how to milk the cows and to take proper care of them as they grew older. There were times when time spent in the barn was used to practice mathematical times tables. They didn't always welcome this but it helped with their skills for school.

*When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child~
Sophia Loren, Women and Beauty.*

When children are small it is vitally important to teach them the word, 'STOP.' This can be done while playing games with them and having them respond to the word "STOP." While we want to teach them independence to walk down the street unaided, we also must remember that if their ball rolls across the street and a car is also coming along, we want to know that at a command to 'stop' they will do so. The consequences will not be good if they run in front of the car.

When our children are young we feel our concerns for them will be over when they grow up. This is not true. When you are a mother, you are always a mother! Only the concerns change.

Continued on page 12

MOTHERS AND FATHERS DAY

Our eldest son was involved in a terrible automobile accident when an oncoming vehicle crossed the center line and hit him head on. His wife was killed instantly and his fifteen-year-old son had broken bones, and our son was severely injured which required two months hospitalization as well as being in a wheelchair for a month in our home. We gave full focus to our son. I felt like I would like to sweep him into my arms and comfort him even though he was forty-two years old.

It has been most rewarding to me, now that our children are adults, to have them show their love and appreciation for me and to see them passing on some of the values they were taught. Recently I repaired a pair of jeans for my six-year-old grandson. When I returned them to him, he looked at them and smiled and said, "I love patches on my pants." That was all I needed to hear!

Our first feast was kept in 1967. From then on the Feast was the highlight of the year for each of the children. As they grew up, and some began to stop attending services, Feast time brought back many happy memories for them which they talked about, and appeared to have a longing to go with us. That brought both good and sad feelings to me. Somehow, I'm sure God must have similar feelings when He sees one of His little ones rejoicing at the Feast, or saddened when one turns his back on the Truth.

Although it was not my idea to have a large family, I am happy we have been able to have so much joy in our lives. To be surrounded by our children and their mates as well as their children has been a wonderful and most rewarding experience.

(Quotations for Mother's Day
– quotegarden.com)

Mary Moulton

FATHER'S DAY

A home is where the heart and family is. My wife and I have enjoyed our family and now they and their families show us a great deal of love and respect.

One father is more than a hundred Schoolmasters ~ George Herbert, *Outlandish Proverbs*, 1640

Fathers can have a lifelong influence on their children. My farther taught my siblings and me many lessons. He owned

and operated a stone-crushing business when I was growing up. Sometimes he would take my brother and me with him to the work place. He was a hard working, generous and honest man and treated his family and his employees as he would like to be treated. I have tried to teach these same values to my children. I have had the privilege to work on several projects with my sons and some of my teenage grandsons. I feel honoured when they bring home projects from school for me to see.

You don't really understand human nature unless you know why a child on a merry-go-round will wave at his parents every time around - and why his parents will always wave back ~William D. Tammus

Children will always put their complete trust in their parents. They have no worries that they will ever harm them. When one of our daughters was about three years old, she would love to climb on my back with her arms around my neck and I would dive into the water completely submerging her, and then swim to the end of the pool. She put her complete trust in me and to this day, she has no fear of water.

Dad, you're someone to look up to no matter how tall I've grown ~Author Unknown

In our family we had seven boys. They are, except one, all taller than me. Many times they seek my advice and then I encourage them to make their own decisions. One time we had three teenage sons attending high school when it was time to go to the Feast of Tabernacles. Although we had informed the teachers of their being absent for eight days, upon their return to school their guidance teacher berated them in front of other students because of their absence and said, "*You are big boys now, you don't need to do as your family does.*" I immediately telephoned the teacher and said, "*We teach the boys to respect you. I would like you to teach them to respect us.*" From that time on, the boys were always encouraged to have a 'good vacation' each year when we left for the feast.

It kills you to see them grow up. But I guess it would kill you quicker if they didn't. ~Barbara Kingsolver, *Animal Dreams*

We are privileged to have our family living near us. The days are few that we don't see

one or two of them or receive phone calls from them. Life flies by quickly, especially when you are busy, but suddenly you have reached old age and your family has grown up. Recently, my wife and I went to a local restaurant where our son Alan often eats his breakfast. There is a waitress at this restaurant who speaks quite loudly, and she knows our son. As we entered the restaurant she said, "*Here comes Alan's parents.*" She sounded like an announcer introducing some television guests. Then she went on to say, "*He tells me he has never heard you two quarrel, and you have been married almost sixty years!*" Perhaps this is the reason. My wife has never publicly complained about the decisions I have made, and she would not allow the children to do so either. I have never heard her say, 'I told you so.' Any project I have ever started, she has always been there until it's finished.

Stress is a killer for many people. Recently, I read an article on married and single people's longevity, and married couples who don't create stress for each other live a longer life. That may be part of the reason we have lived this long and that our lives are as healthy as they are.

In every home there are happy times and there are sad times. So, I urge everyone to enjoy their families at every age and you will find that when you are old, it pays off!

(Quotations for Fathers Day
– quotegarden.com)

Joseph Moulton

Joseph and Mary Moulton informally pictured at an Ottawa winter activity.



DIFFERENT PLACES BUT THE SAME SPIRIT

Have you ever packed up your suitcase and left for a week? What about a month? What about a year? Welcome to the life of a field representative for *Mothers Against Drunk Driving*. I have been working with MADD Canada for almost three years now, and had a 'home' for about eight months. The rest of the time I was on the road. A typical month for me usually entails visiting two or three different congregations in communities all over North America. One month I attended Sabbath and Holy Day services in Winnipeg, Calgary, Red Deer, Vancouver, Toronto, and Edmonton. In April I will complete my tour of Canada yet again, and will have visited every UCG congregation across this great land.

I was inspired to write this article because of a unique opportunity God blessed me with. In August of 2005 I was hired by MADD Canada as the western regional field representative for the School Outreach Program. I set up high-tech multimedia presentations and speak to students about the dangers of impaired driving. The job is quite rewarding, especially because of all the different places I visit. But somewhere between the vast prairie skies and the majestic peaks of the Canadian Rockies, the people are what make this experience truly unique. I have seen the difference of people in God's church first hand. From one congregation to another there are often differences too, but one commonality no matter where I visit has been the friendly welcome of the local brethren.

I graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University in 2005 and was planning on doing some traveling. That all changed on June 9th of that year when a car struck my dad's motorcycle. We were both thrown from the bike, and I sustained a broken pelvis. Miraculously I was able to limp off the road, but the next few months were very challenging (especially for my mom who had to take care of us). I couldn't walk, and that meant I had a lot of time to reflect and pray. Our local pastor came to visit and anoint me. The healing process was perhaps more spiritual than physical.

I heard about a job opportunity at MADD Canada, and before I knew it I was making my way to an interview on crutches. A few days later I had to make one of the biggest choices of my life; accept the Eastern Canada position, or hop on a plane and move to Alberta. Since I'm really a cowboy at heart, the decision was pretty easy. I left

everything I had known in southern Ontario and began my new life in Western Canada.

The day after I arrived in Edmonton, the province celebrated its 100th anniversary in Canada, complete with a fireworks display over the beautiful legislature. What a welcome! I attended Sabbath services later that week, and the hospitality of the brethren was incredible. One family invited me over to their home that evening for some Pacific salmon they had caught off the coast of BC. I had a wonderful evening getting to know more people in God's Church.

Over the next few weeks I found a place to live in Edmonton and began getting to know the local brethren. We organized random events like dinner at the West Edmonton Mall, Bible studies, and movie nights. After a couple of months of getting to know my way ALL around Alberta, I was off to BC for work. I didn't have to miss any work during the Feast of Tabernacles because of a teacher's strike. The Lord certainly does bless His children in interesting ways.

When I arrived in Kelowna for the Feast I didn't know many people or have a place to stay. Within a few hours I had met a number of young adults at a Bible study/mini-golf event. I know I wasn't the only one there who felt the welcoming environment. One of the ministers knew an older gentleman who was also looking for a roommate. He was a paraplegic confined to a wheelchair, but I didn't find this out until after I got to the hotel and met him. During the course of the week we got to know each other and I'm convinced that God wanted us to meet. I've visited him at his home in Montana several times since then.

I was included in many social gatherings with people I had just met. My brother noticed this too. He moved out west for a few months and said it felt as if he had known people for years after just meeting them. I was really getting to know the friendly people of BC when it was time to head back to Alberta. I made many friends in the West, and love getting back there any chance I can. This feeling continued while I was in the prairies for a few months. Whether it was camping with new friends in Manitoba, or celebrating the Night to be Much Observed twice in Saskatchewan, the warmth of the people is as vast as their skies. After two years of working out west, the time had come for me to venture back to Ontario, Quebec, and the East coast. The same warm spirit of the brethren awaited

me in Eastern Canada as well.

When only a few months of my work contract left, I was left with a mixture of emotion. I was baptized at the Feast of Tabernacles 2007 in the Caribbean, and it was such an amazing experience. This job has allowed me to see so much of Canada. The physical blessings of this great land are incredible. More importantly, I have learned a lot about others, about God's Church, and what true friendship really is.

The last two summers I had the opportunity to serve as a counselor for the United Youth Camp program in Hye Sierra, California. After camp I attended Sabbath services in California, Texas, Florida, North Carolina, and Ohio before returning to Ontario. Two things stressed at camp were the importance of God's Word, and that we are never alone. Regardless of how large or small a group of people may be, there are always others we can turn to for help as we face challenges in our lives.

This summer I move to Saskatchewan to marry my best friend. I'll be adjusting to life as a cowboy, and hanging up my keys...for a while. But I will never forget this great opportunity God has given me to see His creation, meet His people, and grow closer to Him with their help. My thanks to everyone in the scattered congregations who welcomed me for being a part of that.

Kevin Spahich

Near the highway bridge to
Prince Edward Island.



Please Do, and Please Don't

Suggestions for encouraging widows.

Miriam Neff | posted 1/18/2008

Apart from the outreach of the church, there are many ways individuals can encourage widows on their journey. But it's often hard to know what to say, for fear of making things worse. So let me offer some "Please do" as well as some "Please do not" suggestions.

1. Please do stay connected.

Do not assume we need "space" to grieve. There is already a huge hole in our universe.

2. Please do say you are sorry for our loss. Do not tell us you understand, unless you do from personally experiencing the loss of a spouse. We would rather you

tell us you do not know what to say than tell us the story of losing your friend or even close relative. We may be able to listen to your story later, but not now.

3. Please call and ask specific questions, such as "Can we go for a walk together? May I run errands for you? Meet you for coffee?"

Do not say, "Call me if you need anything."

4. Please refer to our husband's acts and words, both serious and humorous. We are so comforted by knowing our husband has not been forgotten.

5. Please invite us to anything. We may decline but will appreciate being asked. Do not assume we no longer want to participate in couples events.

6. Please accept that we are

where we are. Marriages are brief, long, healthy, dysfunctional, intense, remote. Death comes suddenly or in tiny increments over years. Again, our experiences are so different, as are we. So are our journeys through grief. Do not assume we go through the grief process "by the book."

7. Do say, "I've been thinking of you." Don't make a conversation-only offer, such as "We'll call you, and we'll go out to dinner"—unless you can follow up. We'd love that, too.

Christianity Today Reprint Permission Policy

"This article first appeared in the January 18/08 issue of **Christianity Today**. Used by permission of Christianity Today International, Carol Stream, IL 60188."

January 2, 2008

Today @ This is the way...

Dear friends,

Understanding the opposite sex is vital to making a relationship work. Depending on your attitude, the differences can lead to a lifetime of misery or a lifetime of exploring the mystery. As the French say, *Vive la différence!* Clyde and Dee Kilough

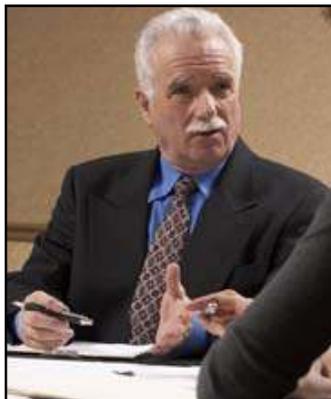
Two Most Common Relationship Mistakes

A classic book that attempts to help men and women understand each other is *Men Are From Mars; Women Are From Venus* by John Gray. Though it can sound a bit stereotypical (in a humorous sort of way), it does point out some general differences that can be good to know.

For instance, Dr. Gray summarizes the two most common mistakes we make in relationships this way:

"1. A man tries to change a woman's feelings when she is upset by becoming Mr. Fix-It and offering solutions to her

problems that invalidate her feelings [‘you shouldn't feel that way...’].



"2. A woman tries to change a man's behavior when he makes mistakes by becoming the home-improvement committee and offering unsolicited advice or criticism [that makes him feel incompetent and broken]" (pp. 23-24).

These kinds of tips can be helpful, but there's some foundational information we really need first. It's in a book by the one who created marriage in the first place,

and it's summarized in the booklet mentioned below.

Further reading:

Marriage and Family: The Missing Dimension

Online at www.ucg.ca/Literature Library/booklets/FM

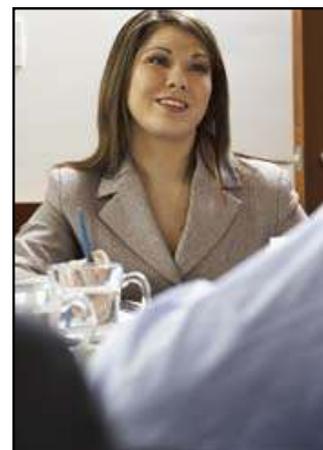


Photo.com images

ANIMALS OFTEN HELP HUMANS IN DISTRESS

Genesis tells us that God created everything and saw that it was GOOD (Genesis 1:25), and animals and birds are wonderful creatures. Then God made man in their image (verse 26). And in this life experience we often find that some animals are a great help to us humans in times of physical need.

We have a biblical example of this with the prophet Elijah during the prophesied three-year-drought upon Israel. Instead of nurturing Elijah by the miraculous appearance of food like manna, God instead chose to have ravens each day bring bread and meat to sustain him. It doesn't explain what this bread was, whether cakes, biscuits or bread as we know it. And it doesn't explain the 'flesh' – what form of meat (1 Kings 17:4-6). God did leave him to go to the nearby stream to drink for himself!

In the example of Jonah the prophet, God prepared a special fish to transport him to Nineveh (Jonah 1:17). God could surely have just provided some other miraculous method, but in these examples He chose to use the agency of ravens and a large fish.

A modern-day hospital practice in many countries is to allow trained and certified dogs to visit recovering patients. Horses too, seem to have a special affection for those with disabilities. It is hard to understand how beneficial therapeutic riding is unless you have been closely involved in it. When these disabled riders sit on top of a horse, they no longer seem to feel disabled or limited. The following is a *United News Canada* interview with UCG member, Linda Henderson, of Avon, Ohio. It attests to how her love of horses has been reciprocated into sustaining her in serious health trials.

HORSES HAVE BEEN A THERAPEUTIC VALUE TO MY HEALTH

Where were you born?

I was born in Chicago and now live in Avon, Ohio.

Can you tell us a little about your family?

I married my husband of 38 years, Hal, in 1970. He was a classmate of my brother, in fact, a blind date! We have four wonderful children from ages 15 to 35 years. Three are baptized and we have been blessed that all our children have been very active and involved in church activities. Our oldest is a veterinarian who practices in southern California. This comes in handy at times. Marty is gifted with an amazing voice and musical talents and is able to perform special music which includes Feasts and Sabbaths. He and his lovely wife Nicole have recently given us our first granddaughter – our precious little Meagan.

How did you come into the Church?

I came into the Church through my husband,

Hal. He was in the military coastguard academy and they put him through law school. Hal was baptized but I was very rebellious and wanted nothing to do with this religion. One day Hal came home from law school and said he was going to quit because of the military. I said, "Hey, put the brakes on – we are going to get the minister over here to talk to you." The minister also told Hal to put on the brakes and finish law school as there was no war. It was actually the change I saw in Hal that brought me into the Church. He was always a kind and loving person with a great deal of wisdom, but to see him change so much on top of that was so convincing. We were at a Feast and during the sermon I was reading a novel when I heard the minister reading Ezekiel 37 - about the bones coming together. This caught my attention because I had a great love for my mother who had passed away and I so badly wanted to see her again. I turned to Hal and said, "That is not in the Bible!"

How long is it since you had normal

everyday good health?

My symptoms started in 1998 after I had a horrible fall from a wonderful mare while jumping in a competition. God surely protected me, as I have the fall on video tape and it is frightening. In 1999 I realized that what I was telling my muscles mentally wasn't transmitting. Little did I know the injury to my back in 1998 was worsening. In 1999 I sold that lovely mare and gave up showing and jumping competitively over fences, something I had done since I was ten years of age. I really prayed about it and the answer kept coming back that those days were over. In 2000 my daughter Amanda and I took up Dressage, (where the horse stays on the ground☺) and began showing at competitions and soon rose to top levels nationally and locally, despite not showing on the Sabbath.

What was your normal equestrian life like?

Before ill health hit me, I and my children would go to West Palm Beach for two to three... *Continued on page 16*



At left Linda is pictured on one of her horses named 'Swingstreet.'

The horse in the air is where Linda was riding 'Silver Anniversary,' photographed while jumping a competition fence.

months in the winter and show at the prestigious Winter Equestrian Center. My son, Andrew, showed in the tough pony classes and I did the Adult Amateur classes. It was nothing to have 50 competitors in a class, but I love competing against the best and we did very well, even though not showing on the Sabbath!

How has your critical health interrupted this pastime?

My ill-health really started in 2001. Hospitalized again and again with no answer. Daily migraines, no energy and sometimes I went for months without riding. My horses are on full care so my trainer and good friend would ride them and my daughter was able to continue her lessons, which was a blessing. I had qualified to go to Regional Finals five out of six years, but never got to actually go because of my ill health.

Have your horses helped you in your illness?

I have had horses since I was 14 years of age and from them I gained a healthy life both physically and mentally. My parents divorced when I was 12 and it was an extremely traumatic time for me. My grandfather, in his wisdom, seeing the trauma I was going through, told my mother that I really needed to have a horse in my life. And that is how it all started. At that distressing time in my life I believe that my horse saved me. I do feel that had I not had a horse at that stage I could have ended up going the wrong way. I felt a deep responsibility every day to take care of my horse so I went and worked at a dog kennel for some extra money to take care of my beloved horse. I thrived on that wonderful feeling you get from riding a horse. They have such undying love. For me, especially then when I was experiencing such heartache over my parents divorcing, just stroking my horse and having it nuzzle me and breathe on my neck and simply the smell of it would raise my spirits. We all pray God would grant me to have this healthy life back again at some point. My family is wonderfully supportive, as are the brethren around the world. My husband (who has an extremely busy law practice), simply took over shopping, cooking, laundry without ever complaining. The kids helped all they could even with school and work obligations and then finally we hired a lovely lady to come in and cook. It was a very trying time for me as I had always been a person with endless energy

and loved taking care of my family, horses and dogs. My Jack Russell dogs stay close to me most of the time when I am really suffering, and I truly think they try to take my pain away. Sadly, my 16-year-old Jack died two weeks after my favorite horse “Tommy” died, and I felt this void on a daily basis. It was a hard time for sure.

What has kept you going spiritually?

My faith has grown so much through this trial. I would pray God would get me out of bed and at least do prayer and Bible study, and for years this worked. Also, the positive cards from friends! I received so many cards of encouragement that the postman had to bring them up to the door. Never underestimate the power of cards and their impact on someone who is going through a trial. I myself have sent out many over the years, because when I thought of others and their pain, it took the limelight off of me and made me feel better. From December of 2007 until March, I was basically bedridden and worsening daily. It seemed death was right around the corner so I tried to study more and get closer to God. I told friends I was “cramming for the finals.”

Where do you feel that God has most intervened for you?

On March 3, 2007 I awoke in the middle of the night with incredible “head pain” – not a headache - I was screaming in pain. I took a lot of pain medication, more than I should have, but slept until 10 am the next morning, and upon awakening felt like my head would explode. Little did I know the danger I was in. I drifted in and out of consciousness, not able to hold a phone or call 911. I waited for my son to come home from school and fought unconsciousness all day. He got home at 3:30 pm, took one look at me and called 911. Thus began an amazing ordeal. I was unconscious for six days and even had a small stroke in the small vessels in my head. I awakened to learn I had spent six days where no one, except God, knew if I would make it. But I did make it and at this point I will quote my doctor: “*The only explanation I can come up with is direct intervention from God.*” He is ranked one of the top six neurologists in the U.S. but believes God does the healing and that he is only the vessel God uses to achieve His will. He calls me his “miracle girl.” He stuck with me through the last two years and keeps looking earnestly for answers. He actually said again just recently that all we can do is pray fervently to God

to show us an answer and that there is a diagnosis for what I have, but it is hiding behind a curtain.

What do you feel you have been learning while God has allowed you to continue in such critical health?

Romans 8:26-28 is now my ‘go to’ Scripture. When you cannot pray or study for yourself, He allows the Holy Spirit to take over and the Holy Spirit that is deep inside you will comfort you and get you through. Your church family is also doing it for you when you cannot pray and study and fast for yourself. And God knows what is in your heart. The Scripture ends with “*all things work for the good of those who love God.*” I had people all over the world praying, studying and fasting for me when I was unable to do it for myself. I will never forget that and now I can do it for others!

What advice would you give to others in a similar health trial?

Don’t put God in a box or limit our thinking about what God can or cannot do. For seven years I was certain I would die and lived with the nagging doubt that my life would be cut short. I believe that doubt came from Satan and not God, and it limited my thinking based on “human knowledge and logic.” God knew what I would go through and what the outcome would be. I simply had to have the faith to believe God would watch over me and my family and whatever was best would happen. Easy to say, hard to do, but it is what I have come away from after this eight-year ordeal. Please pray I live each day to the fullest, keeping God’s plan and my close relationship with God # 1. And to love and appreciate all God has given to my family and me.

Linda Henderson

“There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man.”

Winston Churchill



Hospitals should allow pet visits

Hospital patients could receive a fillip if pets were allowed to visit, according to a psychologist. Dr June McNicholas will put her "pets on prescription" idea to the Royal College of Nursing annual conference in Harrogate on Tuesday. The Warwick University psychologist believes more hospitals and care homes should give visiting rights to animals when their owners are ill. She said pets boosted recovery, reduced stress and provided companionship. Dr McNicholas dismissed the idea that pets were a health hazard. She said they were more likely to catch illness from humans, than the other way round.

A small number of hospitals and hospices do allow patients to meet up with their pets - but as yet it is the exception, not the norm. Dr McNicholas suggested more institutions should consider the idea of establishing visiting rooms where patients could be reunited with their pets. Alternatively, patients could be allowed to see their pets through a window in a garden area outside the ward. She said: "We already know that people love their

pets but it can be dismissed as something like sentimentality and I think we dismiss a lot of what is so essential in people's lives."

Benefits

Research has shown that pets can have a positive effect. Men with cats and dogs have been shown to have lower blood pressure. In one study nearly nine out of 10 breast cancer patients said their pets had provided valuable support. And in another, pets were shown to help people come to terms with bereavement.

Dr McNicholas said there was also growing evidence that pets helped boost the immune systems of children and helped stop them getting allergies or asthma. She also described ways in which ferrets had been used to help blind children understand movement and space. She said nurses should be more aware of the importance of pets in people's lives so they could play a part in their recovery.

"I would like it to be acknowledged as an acceptable practice in hospitals wherever possible."

BBC News 11/05/2004



A trained Alsatian dog assists as a 'seeing-eye' dog for the blind. Here pictured is church member Ron Muir, who lives near Owen Sound, Ontario.

EUROPEAN TOUR - 2007 FEAST

In 2007 my brother Ezra and I had the opportunity to travel to Italy for the Feast. Afterwards we traveled for three weeks through Eastern Europe. It was a unique experience to celebrate the coming of the Kingdom of God in Europe, because the history of human suffering is so much longer and more severe there. The contrast of what Satan's world is like, and what the Kingdom will be like, is so much more significant and real in Europe.

What really became the Feast theme of the contrast between the wonderful coming of the Kingdom, and the horrors of this world, really started right at the beginning of our trip in Zurich, Switzerland. There we celebrated the wonderful Day of Atonement with 45 Swiss brethren. It was also the city where 300 years ago my ancestors were imprisoned and tortured for their beliefs during the Protestant reformation. This was before they immigrated to Pennsylvania, in the early 1700's.

After Atonement, we traveled through Switzerland and Austria, stopping at the Matterhorn, the Rhine Falls, and driving through the Swiss Alps - all admiring God's

creation. Before making our way to Italy for the feast, we visited the Neuschwanstein castle, also known as Mad King Ludwig's Castle - one of the most magnificent castles in Europe. Our hotel for the feast was in Sabaudia, a village on the beach about an hour's drive south of Rome. It was a really peaceful and beautiful setting for the Feast. The messages were great, and the food was wonderful. During the feast we had three educational tours, the first of which was to Pompeii, a city destroyed and buried by the eruption of the Mount Vesuvius volcano. This is a unique place because it is a Roman city, still very much the way it would have been at the time of the New Testament. You get the feel of what it must have been like for Paul, or the other apostles, to walk through one of these ancient cities. It too was a city of great suffering, even before the approximately 40,000 residents died from the eruption. People were dying young from a combination of lead poisoning from their lead water pipes; and from sexually transmitted diseases. The tour guide said in this broken English, that the people lived very 'naughty' lives.

He also said that it was rare for people to live into their 40's. One of the things that really struck me was that most of the art was either violent, or pornographic. I guess some things never change.

The next tour was to the Vatican, the cathedral built on the spot where the Romans murdered many early Christians. The last tour was of Imperial Rome: the Colosseum; the Palatine Hill where the Caesars lived; and the Arch of Titus, which was built to commemorate the defeat of the Jews and the destruction of the Temple. Again on this tour, the horrors of humanity, and the need for the Kingdom, came through. The Colosseum is a magnificent 50,000 seat stadium, used for gladiators and where many people were fed to lions.

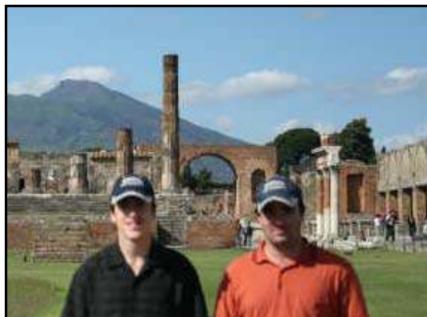
After the feast, my brother and I headed east to Croatia, first stopping at the city of Pisa to see the famous Leaning Tower. Then to Venice, a unique city. In Croatia we visited Plitvicka Jezera, the waterfalls park - one of the most beautiful places I have ever been to. It has hundreds of waterfalls coming down a valley. Here again the theme of the wonderful creation



Above: Walter at one of the many waterfalls in Waterfalls National Park in Croatia.

At middle and right: The leaning tower of Pisa; the Colosseum; and one of the many castles in Europe.

Below left: Walter and Ezra at the ruins of Pompeii with Mt. Vesuvius volcano in the background. At right is a gondola scene in Venice.



and God's plan, and the contrast with Satan's plan came through. Here we were in most beautiful places, yet many of the local villages are burned down, and many of the inhabited houses were pock marked with machine gun fire. Some had large holes from tank fire. This was all from the independence war with Yugoslavia in the early 1990's. As we left the park we came across some old tanks sitting in a field.

Afterwards we visited Lyublyana, Zagreb, Bratislava, and Vienna, all very beautiful and unique. We then traveled to Cologne for Sabbath services, where the hospitality of the 40 or so brethren was wonderful. After the very relaxing Sabbath we drove to Berlin, where we got to see the remnants of the Berlin wall, and the Reichstag, which is the German parliament building where Hitler came to power. Berlin is a modern clean beautiful city, yet a place of much past suffering, and also the cause of past suffering. After Berlin, we visited the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz in Poland. We spent an entire day there as the place is huge. Now it is an assortment of ruins and old buildings. Looking at the pictures in the museum really emphasized what happened there and the horrors of Satan's world. A

few of the more touching moments were standing in one of the gas chambers; standing in front of the gates to the camp where 1.6 million people went through but never came back; seeing the rooms full of items stolen from the Jews, such as shoes, pots and pans, eye-glasses, even hair. And one of the more sobering places was walking through the room of photos, thousands of photos, showing Jews enjoying life in the late 1920's and early 30's, not knowing that in a few years most would be dead. It really reminded me that this life on earth is very temporary, and what we take for granted can be taken away so quickly.

After Auschwitz we visited the nearby salt mine that had been in operation for 1,000 years. We then visited Prague, then traveled through Germany to Amsterdam. At the end of our 12 country, 12,000 km road trip, we took the flight home to Canada after five weeks of very eye-opening and educational travel.

One of the more unique experiences, and one that really sums up the Feast and the trip very well, happened on the road between Zagreb and Budapest. We were driving along a narrow country road not far from the Bosnian border in a very

impoverished area, when a song came on the radio on a local station. It was a gospel song, and the chorus was about sitting on the banks of Babylon, dreaming about, wishing for the waters to come out of Zion. I wonder if the group that sang it really understood what they were singing. But it really made me think about the feast, what I had seen, and the places I had been. We really are in Babylon dreaming about the waters to flow out of Zion, which we get to spiritually taste at the Feast.

But as my brother and I saw, Babylon for some is much more violent, than for others.

Europe now is a safe and prosperous place. But I still thank God for allowing me to be able to live at this time in Canada.

I just pray that we don't have the storm clouds coming up like the European Jews did in the late 1920's and early 1930's.

Walter Martin



God's creative beauty in landscapes in Switzerland and Europe. A sharp and shocking contrast to the historic brutality of man as evidenced in the remains of Nazi death camps pictured below. These railway box cars brought many Jewish people to this siding outside Auschwitz. View through the fence are the remains of barracks burned in the Nazi retreat.



An abandoned tank from the Croatian war sits in a meadow on the Croatian highlands with the Bosnian border atop the hill in the background. From an excavated street in ancient Pompeii, the volcano that destroyed the city is seen in the background. The ruins provide ample testament to how morally corrupt was the ancient city.



CHURCH ACTIVITY SCENES



Ottawa pictures courtesy Walter Martin

A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES IN TORONTO AND OTTAWA UCG CONGREGATIONS

Above left shows a group of young people from Toronto and Ottawa enjoying an afternoon skating on the Rideau Canal, Ottawa.

A combined group of young people from Toronto and Ottawa provided some welcome special music for everyone in the Ottawa congregation.

Below at left is pictured a family from Burma attending the local Hamilton Bible study. They are busily learning the English language as they settle into Canada. At the rear are Mac McKenzie and Edwin van Pelt.

The Toronto cultural dinner evening also had Mrs. Esther Martin in Mennonite dress (pictured at right) while Aurelio Calderelli sang an Italian song (pictured in the middle photo).



Hamilton picture courtesy
Edwin van Pelt



FLIER DELIVERY BRINGS SURPRISE CONTACT

Towards the end of January I had finished delivering literature card fliers sent to me from the Canadian office. I had an interesting experience this time around in my walking the streets delivering fliers to post boxes.

As I arrived at one house a man came out just as I was about to drop the flier into the mailbox. Thinking he was the man who lived there, I handed it to him and asked if he thought it would be something he would be interested in. He said that he was just a visitor but he handed it to the lady who came out behind him. She took it from him and was looking at it as I started to walk back down the driveway. Then she called out "Are you a member of the Worldwide Church of God?" So I turned back to speak with her and explained that I used to be a member, but no longer was; that I was now a member of a group called "the United Church of God." I explained that we used to be a part of the WCG group. She invited me into her home and introduced me to her young son. Then her husband came into the kitchen and I met him. But it was obvious that she was the

one who was particularly interested.

We chatted a bit about why things had changed and what brought about the changes. She explained that she had been a member when she was very young, and attended with her family. She said she had been raised in Cape Breton and that her family had been a part of WCG there. But they left sometime early in the 90's because of all the changes and had become disillusioned with the church.

However, she said she retained some fond memories and had been wondering and praying about it. I gave her my phone number and the church's website so she could look into it and get further information if she wanted to. She said she would be in touch, and said she would like to attend. I haven't heard from her yet.

I'm hoping of course, that she was serious about following up on her interest to find out more (perhaps she has visited the website), and will attend. But I know that at times people hesitate (even past members) to make such changes in their lives.

Anyway, it made my day. Often, of course, we aren't aware whether people will follow up or not. But it was really nice to bump into someone who actually had an interest, and had also been a past member.

This contact helps keep me motivated. I asked for another box of fliers from the Toronto office. And I always keep a list of the streets I have covered so the office can find any response that might come in through my personal efforts.

Isabelle Nicol Ottawa



PROFILE ON TORONTO OFFICE EMPLOYEE, WAYNE LUE

How long have you worked in the UCG Toronto Office?

I came with my friend to visit UCG in mid summer of 1998. At that time I was offered part time, and later full time, employment in the Church office starting in the fall of 1998. I greatly appreciate that opportunity.

What are your current responsibilities?

I work under the direction of Anthony Wasilkoff, the Director of Operations and Toronto Pastor. I also work for Edwin van Pelt, our Church Treasurer and Office Manager. My main duty is as mail clerk to fulfill subscriber requests for literature and member requests for sermons. I place the booklets and DVDs and CDs in their envelopes to be mailed. I am the Shipper/Receiver for all Church literature and supplies for the Church office. Along with Kevin Ford, the Church's Accountant, we deliver outgoing mail to one of the main postal stations.

How long does it take you to get to and from work each day?

It takes me two hours each way by public

transportation. I take a bus and two trains, plus I then get a ride with Kevin Ford from Oakville station. It used to be one hour each way when the Church Office was in Etobicoke.

Can you tell us something of your family background?

I live with my mother, who is still willing to put up with me. I have an older brother and a younger sister. My family is Chinese Caribbean, from the former British colony of Trinidad & Tobago. We lost our identity just like the Lost 10 Tribes of Israel. We are of an English culture which professes the Anglican religion.

How did you first discover God's Truth?

I came to know God's Truth through my mother's copy of the Readers Digest. I responded to an advertisement and kept subscribing to the "Plain Truth" in her name since 1974. So God started working with me when I was 16. I came to Church (WCG) when I was 25, so it took God a while to knock some sense into me.

What is your service to God's Church?

I help out in the Toronto Church, and at the Feast I assist by doing the video taping of Church services.

What are your main interests and hobbies?

I have a considerable interest in photography, and I like the sports of tennis, hockey and soccer. Just what the Feast of Tabernacles pictures keeps me going in life. Scriptures that give me motivation are Deuteronomy 30:19 (*choose life*) and Revelation 3:12 (*the promise to overcomers*).



UNC

TORONTO CELEBRATES A NIGHT OF CULTURAL CUISINE

On the Sabbath of January 26/08 the Toronto congregation celebrated a night of cultural cuisine. Brethren had a wonderful opportunity to share and taste a wide variety of food from 21 countries. The theme for the evening was highlighted by the main banner “*United We Stand.*” Other banners such as “from there to here” and “out of many - one people” further emphasized the event. We clearly see God’s mercy in calling so many of us from such diverse backgrounds to delightfully share with one another on such wonderful occasions.

As a congregation we reflect Toronto as a multicultural city, because we are blessed with representatives from around the globe including North and South America, Central America, Africa, Europe, Asia and the West Indies.

Dinner was served buffet-style. The tables had labels for each country and food items were carefully placed in front of them to showcase the dishes from each. However, Mexico was an exception as Mike was colourfully dressed in his Chef attire with two assistants serving tacos, and fajitas. Needless to say, there was so

much food that there was hardly any room for dessert. But we made room anyway!

After a sumptuous meal, there was a short entertainment of songs, poems, documentaries, sing-a-long and dance, all performed by brethren from the following six featured countries: Canada, Holland, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico and the Philippines. A wonderful evening was had by all.

Pat Brathwaite

(Pictures courtesy W. R. Haynes)



Clockwise from left: Mazilyn Forbes and Pat Brathwaite sing “Jamaica Farewell; Renee Aviles singing a Mexican song; Jean, Rudia and Anne Calderelli perform a Filipino dance; Tony Di Santo giving a talk on Italian culture; Heidi St.Thomas discussing Canadian animals; and tables laden with examples of international food.



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Tracy and Owen Bertram of Regina Saskatchewan are pleased to announce the arrival of their second son, Reece Carter.

Reece was born on September 25th 2007 and weighed 8lbs 4 oz. He is now a little playmate for his brother Nathan.

Bruce and Donna Bird of Tisdale, Saskatchewan are the happy grandparents.



OTTAWA WINTER ACTIVITY AT QUARRY LAKES

On Sunday February 24 the Ottawa congregation gathered at the Moulton seniors' log cabin for an afternoon snow activity. This included a Percheron horses sleigh ride through the woods, winching out an ATV from deep snow, and an enjoyable chili lunch and fellowship. Some 27 people enjoyed the occasion. Gabriel Vautour, Jordan Morasse and Graemme Marshall went stalking deer tracks and one whitetail deer spooked

across in front of the horses in a later sleigh ride. Deep snow was a problem for Westley Moulton's new Bombardier ATV, and we had a demonstration of using the winch with the wire rope attached to various trees to help him get out.

Lunch as usual was great food, mostly prepared by the ladies. The Moultons' chili is becoming a tradition at these events. After lunch, most of the group went out for a horse-drawn wagon ride, organized by Alan Moulton, pulled by

two Percherons. It was great to be able to spend some time together apart from Church services. We got to know each other a little bit better, and had a great time eating, talking and exploring nature. We thank God for His creation to enjoy. Now we look forward to our summer one for the difference of swimming and fishing.

Gabriel Vautour



From clockwise left:

Westley Moulton winches his ATV out of heavy snow on a trail near the lake cabin.

Alan Moulton and his Percheron horse team provided sleigh rides through the woods.

Michelle Moulton at left with Gerda DeJong with others inside the cabin for a chilli BBQ lunch and desserts. Twenty seven people enjoyed fun-filled fellowship in the snow activities.

SNOW PARTY - PRINCE GEORGE, B.C.

Brethren from the Prince George and Lethbridge church areas gathered together February 16-17 for a snow party weekend. The weekend activities started Saturday and Rainer Salomaa, pastor of the Calgary, Okanagan, Grande Prairie and Prince George areas was present and delivered the Sabbath message entitled "The Earth More Than 6,000 Years Old."

Saturday evening many congregated at the home of John and Collette Erickson to enjoy fellowship and a potluck meal. Sunday morning events began early as they endlessly shoveled a snow path from the top of the hill down yonder, an escalator for

all those young at heart sliding enthusiasts.

Shrieks of laughter were heard as all sorts of contraptions and sleds made their way down the hill, a bottle of furniture polish was even applied to an inner tube to increase its velocity. Amongst the saucers, crazy carpets and toboggans, was a home-invented ride'm snowboard, which turned out to be the fastest.

As the day grew to a close almost everyone had enjoyed at least one ride down the slope; several of the bravest teens and young men tried their best to entertain us with 360 degree flips and the ultimate "wipe-out" over a snow-packed,

two-foot jump. Chili and warm beverages were provided throughout the day.

It was evident that God's blessing was upon this weekend as the sun glistened on the snowy landscape all day. Psalms 133 came to mind, "How good and how pleasant when brethren dwell together in unity."

It was a day filled with good clean fun as seen in the smiling faces and wind-burned cheeks of the brethren.

Angie Erickson



Down the hill from the Erickson home above. At left is Angie Erickson and youngest daughter Sarah. To the right Matthew Erickson crashes through an obstacle. At bottom left is Maureen DeLong from Lethbridge while at the right is Ashley Erickson.

John and Collette Erickson's house is on the hill. Thirty members, friends and guests attended the day.

