



United News Canada

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“The desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose” Isaiah 35:1.

The October 14-21 Festival of Tabernacles will paint word pictures of this coming World of Tomorrow. The Festival will be celebrated at these locations across Canada: Kelowna, Midland, Saskatoon, and St. John's.

Top left is the Peace Arch on the U.S - Canadian border near Vancouver. The inscription reads: *Children of a Common Mother*. This unique peaceful border relationship between America and Canada portrays in a small way the peace that will come as the Prince of Peace restores harmony to this earth (Isaiah 9:6-7). The annual Festival of Tabernacles highlights the need for world peace. See the article on page 3 for a description of the annual event that celebrates this unique (but yet little understood) relationship.

CANADIAN THANKSGIVING OCTOBER 13TH

Our 2008 Thanksgiving coincides with the opening night of the Festival of Tabernacles. See page 19 for some things about which to be grateful.





New air times as of September 7, 2008

**BEYOND
TODAY
TELEVISION**

Time Zone	The Christian Channel	Vision TV Network
Pacific Standard Time	Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Sunday 7:00 p.m.
Mountain Standard Time	Sunday 8:30 a.m.	Sunday 8:00 p.m.
Central Standard Time	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	Sunday 9:00 p.m.
Eastern Standard Time	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Sunday 10:00 p.m.
Atlantic Standard Time	Sunday 11:30 a.m.	Sunday 11:00 p.m.
Newfoundland Standard Time	Sunday 12:00 noon	Sunday 11:30 p.m.

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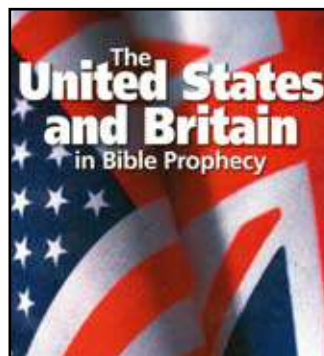
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TWO NATIONS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

“The policies and resources of America and Britain have both encouraged and enabled the true gospel of the Kingdom of God to be proclaimed around the world in recent years. They have provided the climate of religious freedom, the financial resources and most of the laborers that were needed to disseminate biblical knowledge to all the nations.” (The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy, page 35). The unique relationship between Canada and America is highlighted by the longest undefended border between two countries. The Peace Arch at the Blaine, Washington, border crossing illustrates this well.



THE PEACE ARCH : A SYMBOL OF UNITY

Poised above the international boundary of Canada and the United States, the Peace Arch stands between Blaine, Washington, and Surrey, British Columbia. It represents the longest undefended boundary in the world. It literally straddles the Canada/U-S border with one side on Canadian soil, the other on American.

The American side of the Arch is inscribed with the words **“Children of a Common Mother”**; the Canadian side, with the words **“Brethren Dwelling together in Unity”**. Within the portal of the Arch on the west side are the words **“1814 Open One Hundred Years 1914”** and on the east side, **“May These Gates Never Be Closed.”**

Excerpts from the official Peace Arch website gives us a little history:

“The Arch was constructed to commemorate the centennial (1814-1914) of the signing of the Treaty of Ghent on December 24, 1814. The Treaty of Ghent

ended the war of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain, a conflict that was waged in North America and involved Canadians, as well as Americans and British.

Standing 67 feet high, the Peace Arch is made of concrete and reinforced steel. Its foundation consists of 76 fourteen inch pilings driven 25-30 feet into the earth. The Arch was said to be one of the first structures in North America constructed to be earthquake proof.

The 3,500 sacks of concrete for the Arch’s foot walls were donated by R.P. Butchart, of Victoria, of British Columbia’s Butchart Gardens’ fame; and 50 tons of steel were donated by E.H. Gary of New York.

Two bronze plaques are placed above the exterior foot walls of the Arch. One is of the Canadian steamship the Beaver; the other of the Mayflower. Wooden relics, allegedly cut from each ship, were sealed

behind each plaque when the Arch was dedicated in 1921.

The International Peace Arch is one of the few landmarks in the world listed on the National Historic Registries of two different countries.

The history of the Peace Arch reflects more than our past; its existence gives meaning to our present. As the world moves further into the twenty-first century the Peace Arch is a beacon of hope for our future” (Peace Arch website).

Each year the Peace Arch is the scene for a celebration called **“Hands Across the Border”** observing the anniversary of the dedication of the International Monument. The event takes place the second Sunday in June; hosting alternates between the U.S. and Canada.

Participants traditionally include military veterans, law enforcement officers (including Canadian Mounties in full regalia and available for photo opportunities), and

Continued on page 4

youth organizations from both countries. Girl and Boy Scouts of America, Campfire USA, Explorers, Girl Guides and Scouts Canada all join in. Annual attendance ranges from 13,000 to 20,000, most of whom are youth.

The annual event provides opportunity for young participants to trade flags, pins and souvenirs representing their countries and groups, while meeting their counterparts from across the border, in an activity which fosters international cooperation and understanding.

The symbolism of the Peace Arch can be summed up with a portion of the lyrics from the song "Standing Tall," written by U.S. recording artist Christiana Alexander.

Standing Tall There For All
A Symbol Of Freedom Peace &
Harmony

Our Fathers Eyes Saw Troubled Times
So They Built A Reminder
For All The World To See

A Sign Of Hope From Sea To Sea
It Binds Together Two Countries
That Are Free

Let's Not Forget Our Precious Debt
For The Gift Of Knowing
What It Means To Be

Canadians and Americans are free
To show the world our strong diversity
Dwelling in unity

Canadians and Americans are free
Children of a common mother

We are sisters we are brothers
Children of a common mother
We are sisters we are brothers

Children of a common mother
Sisters brothers it's all about you

Sisters brothers it's all about you
Sisters brothers it's all about
you and me

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David Palmer

Vancouver



"And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose;...And the eyes of the blind shall be opened..." Isaiah 35:1/5.

Can you IMAGINE a blind person wide-eyed with wonder feeding migrating humming birds sugary water from their hand! The Festival of Tabernacles annually paints the picture of a transformed planet - especially for man. This article helps paints the picture of what God is doing for man to become part of the Divine family in the Kingdom of God. (Internet photos).

GOD AND THE FAMILY OF MAN

In our very mixed up world of merry wantonness and subsequent suffering, few people take pause to consider the awesome majesty of marriage and family relationships. Sadly, all too many people might quickly respond, 'Awesome majesty, are you joking?'

And yet, throughout the Bible, marriage and family relationships are taken as metaphors for mankind's relationship with God. If you think that royal weddings and the births of Princes and Princesses are regal and majestic (as they are), how much more marvellous will be the Marriage of the Lamb, the Son of God, and the birth of

heirs to the entire universe? This was the plan of God from square one, a plan made before this old planet was restored from the wreck it had become, and God made day and night, man and woman, and the amazing world which is our home in the vastness of time and space.

Consider this: Jesus Christ not only used parables to compare the coming Kingdom of God to a Wedding Feast, but performed His first dramatic miracle at the Wedding in Cana. We might also consider that soon after God had created everything, then came the first marriage when He brought the woman to the man (Genesis 2:22).

It naturally follows that marriage and family is of the utmost importance in the

scheme of things. As Christians, we pray daily to our Father in heaven, following the example and instruction which Jesus Christ gave us, but without the fact of family relationships how could we understand that?

Even so, comprehension comes slowly, with gradual dawning of the incredible realization that God will indeed be our Father in a very real and personal way, not simply by the remote creative act back there in the Garden of Eden, but with an ongoing concern for our everlasting future with Him. That God is revealed as 'our Father' (Matthew 6:6-9) is one of the most sublime wonders of human existence. But man in his vain philosophy has exchanged it for

the foolishness of the theory of evolution. It is this descent into atheistic rationalism that robs mankind of a firm base on which to build civilization.

If it all began by accident when a bolt of lightning fortuitously sparked life into a mixture of inorganic substances in a primeval rock pool, then how did intelligence, organization, and reproductive capacity follow? What about imagination, motivation, and the will to survive? Can anyone really have faith in that sort of mindless accident? Where did the rocks and the pool and the lightning come from, and why didn't this primeval protoplasm simply disintegrate and wash out? Our science provides no answers to these most basic questions.

Of far greater interest are questions not only of where we came from, but of why we are here and where we are going. The famous song, *What's It All About, Alfie?*, by Hal David and Burt Bacharach, challenged listeners as well as the lead man in the movie to think what life and love was all about. When all is said and done, most people realize that it is about family and friends, loving and being loved. They are surely right, but where does it start and where does it end? That is the question.

The answer lies in the Bible, and with God. God is love (1 John 4:8) and the source of life, and the Creator of family. Consider again:

God didn't have to create us in the first place, yet He did so, knowing from before the Garden of Eden that we would cause tremendous grief. But over and above that was His tremendous love! God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). How many of your family and friends have perished already - dead and gone, so far as this world is concerned, and no science on earth can bring them back? But there is a God in Heaven, and He can and will resurrect them.

Jesus Christ accepted to die in our stead for our sins, which was all part of the very plan and purpose of God *before* the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8, 1 Peter 1:20). This was God's family plan from the beginning, and it is still being worked out here below. It is the process whereby we humans may become immortal children of God. Family is of the utmost importance to our heavenly Father, and to His Son. Jesus Christ is crowned King of kings and

Lord of lords, and He will take the Church as His Bride when He returns. Then the resurrected and transformed saints will rule under Him as kings and priests on earth (Revelation 5:10, 11:15 and 20:6).

And the government shall be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor,

*Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).*

How can the people of God ever rule properly in the world tomorrow if they cannot learn to rule themselves well in the world today? Families are not nurtured by oppression, but each member should be encouraged to cooperate with loving kindness, and with hope for everyone's eventual success. This is the way of peace. Nations should not be ruled by oppression either, because really they are only families grown large. All the nations and families of mankind will come into the greater family of God when at last His wonderful plan is fulfilled.

People of the world often ask "What is the purpose of life?" We could respond, "In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity." We can observe that God is more interested in our character than in our comfort, more interested in making us holy than making us happy. We can be reasonably happy, but that is not the goal in life: the goal is to grow in character, in the likeness of Christ.

That is important stuff, but think about it: if we are to be given life which goes on without end even after gazillions of years, then don't you think that our spiritual Father might insist that His children behave themselves properly? Would you personally want to see the wars, murder and mayhem of this world go on out into the universe? Do we want worlds where greed, vanity, lawlessness, oppression, sickness and disease are prevalent? God Himself will not allow that, but neither will He enforce peace and righteousness with the bullwhip and torture racks! No, self discipline must be developed in His children in this life, and self discipline arises from love. Love is not some icky sentiment, but genuine concern for the welfare of others, caring and sharing with them, serving their needs. We want everyone to find joy, contentment and fulfillment in life. These things should first be modeled and practiced in the family at home, and then they may flow out into the community, and eventually into the

world at large.

This is a huge subject and we are touching on it but briefly here in preparation for the upcoming Feasts. Tabernacles is intended to give us a foretaste of the wonderful world which is coming when Jesus Christ returns. This beautiful but presently polluted planet will find peace and plenty as He restores law and order, and teaches the way of abundant living. Our children will be comforted, and will get all the encouragement and counseling they need to lead happy, productive lives, and they will reap the rewards as they go on to immortality in the family of God. At His right hand are joys forevermore (Psalm 16:11).

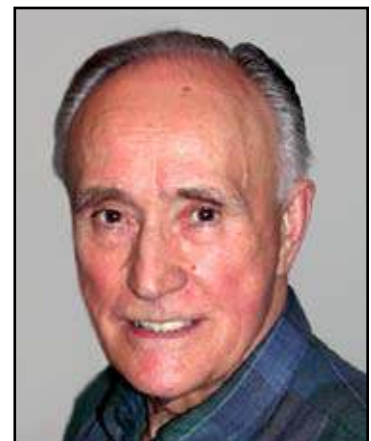
This then is what we mean by the awesome majesty of marriage and family: it provides a model whereby we may come to understand the love of God, and His desire to have His children dwell with Him in peace, joy, and everlasting glory. Neither the theory of evolution, nor any other man-made philosophy, can give mankind this transcendent hope.

The annual festivals which God has ordained show His Church the steps along the way. Not until Jesus Christ returns will all the families of the world be given this great light. Until then, the Spirit and the bride say 'Come!' (Revelation 22:17). He will come, and this is what we are anticipating in the Fall Feasts.

So let's go up to the Feast this year in the spirit of family, giving God thanks for His everlasting kindness toward us His children, and try to make it truly a time of family-focused fun and fellowship.

George Carter

Toronto



NEWS HEADLINES YOU WON'T SEE
UNTIL THE WORLD TOMORROW

**“Oil Crisis Over!
Price of Oil Drops to
100 Year Low!”**

We will not likely see a headline like the one above now, or in any future generation. Rising oil prices have started to tighten their grip on the world economy, raising the price of food, consumer goods, shipping, and of course, travel. These far reaching consequences are affecting everyone, no matter their occupation or life style.

A few more headlines we will likely never see are: “Hydro Companies Report Record Profits, Announce Immediate Rate cuts,” - “Government Abolishes GST As Promised” - “Banks Introduce No Fee Banking, No Strings Attached, Free Cheque Books.”

Just imagine seeing in today’s news some headlines like the following:

NHL ANNOUNCES NO MORE BODY
CHECKING OR FIGHTING.
TO PLAY FOR SKILL.

CFL RENOUNCES WINNING IS
EVERYTHING.
NOW PLAY FOR THE LOVE
OF THE GAME.

PLAYERS TO HONOUR UMPIRES

NO MORE PLAYER EXHIBITIONISM.

OIL COMPANIES ANNOUNCE PROFIT
SHARING WITH CUSTOMERS

75% CUT IN GAS PRICE
FIRST 3 MONTHS FREE

POST OFFICE ANNOUNCES
OVERNIGHT DELIVERY
PRICES DROP TO 1980 LEVELS

UN SOLVES CRISIS

DRUG CARTELS BURN CROPS
PLEDGE ORGANIC FOOD
PRODUCTION

CONVICTED CRIMINALS SERVE
OUT FULL SENTENCES

CHEMICAL COMPANIES CANCEL
IMAGE-BUILDING ADS
WILL SPEND RESERVES ON
TOXIC CLEAN-UP

CIGARETTE COMPANIES
ADMIT LIES
TO SHUT DOWN WITH
FUNDS TO CANCER
VICTIMS

ALL MORTGAGES 1%
BY LAW

RETAILERS NO LONGER PASS ON
COSTS TO CUSTOMERS

SHOPLIFTING CEASES

INSURANCE RATES TUMBLE

RELIGIOUS LEADERS ADMIT
SUNDAY HOAX

XMAS, EASTER, HALLOWEEN
BANNED

Unfortunately there is one major reason why we will never see headlines like these, greed. The concept of greed is mentioned several times in the Bible. Most of them are cautionary, warning us to not set our hearts on the riches of this world. *“Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart [upon them]”* Psalms 62:10. This concept is lacking in the corporate culture of today, which focuses all of its attention on making the most profit, with the least amount of input.

The greed of today shows where society’s heart lies, as Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:19- 21: *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal ... For where your treasure is, there*

your heart will be also.” It is important to keep the riches of this world in perspective to those riches which we hold in heaven, so we are not led astray by greed and temporary things.

There is a song called “A Little Good News” - the lyrics credited to Charles Black, Rory Bourke, and Thomas Rocco. The words paint a picture of a world the way we want it to be: no murders, no robberies, and love between all. This picture is one painted of the coming Kingdom of God as shown in Revelation 21:4: *“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

With all of the sad headlines that we see every day, there is good news, the coming Kingdom of God, as Jesus preached in Luke 8:1: *After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.*

The Festival of Tabernacles has this GOOD NEWS:

“They shall beat their swords into
plowshares, And their spears into
pruning hooks (knives);
Nation shall not lift up sword against
nation,
Neither shall they learn
war anymore”

Isaiah 2:4

A Little Good News - a popular song sung by various artists, including Canadian Anne Murray.

I rolled out this morning...kids had the morning news show on
Bryant Gumbel was talking about the fighting in Lebanon
Some senator was squawking about the bad economy
It's gonna get worse you see we need a change in policy

There's a local paper rolled up in a rubber band
One more sad story's one more than I can stand
Just once, how I'd like to see the headline say
Not much to print today can't find nothing bad to say

Because...

Nobody robbed a liquor store on the lower part of town
Nobody OD'd, nobody burned a single building down
Nobody fired a shot in anger...nobody had to die in vain
We sure could use a little good news today

I'll come home this evening...I'll bet that the news will be the same
Somebody takes a hostage...somebody steals a plane
How I wanna hear the anchor man talk about a county fair
And how we cleaned up the air...how everybody learned to care

Whoa, tell me...

Nobody was assassinated in the whole Third World today
And in the streets of Ireland all the children had to do was play
And everybody loves everybody in the good old USA
We sure could use a little good news today

Nobody robbed a liquor store on the lower part of town
Nobody OD'd, nobody burned a single building down
Nobody fired a shot in anger...nobody had to die in vain
We sure could use a little good news today

(Lyrics and music credited to Charles Black, Internet source)

William Moulton, Ottawa

WAS JESUS CHRIST REALLY RESURRECTED?

Part one in the July-August issue discussed Christ's personal testimony. Topics presented were:

PEOPLE DON'T DIE FOR CHARLATANS AND DECEIVERS; TRUTH IS FUNDAMENTAL; IT STARTED WITH JESUS CHRIST, and TRUTHFUL UNTO DEATH.

Part Two that follows covers the other eyewitnesses who corroborate the events of Christ's testimony.

WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION AND RISK DEATH

The disciples saw Jesus Christ taken from the cross as an inanimate corpse. The dead body was taken to a nearby tomb and was placed into it. A huge round stone was rolled over it and the entrance was sealed. Several soldiers were placed in front of the tomb, and it was guarded for three days and three nights. The disciples waited patiently until the guards would have finally left, and then they went to help embalm Jesus' dead body. What they found was an empty tomb and angels who confirmed Christ's resurrection. Finally they saw the resurrected Christ Himself.

This is one of the most momentous events ever witnessed by any human being. In fact this is one of the most significant events that has ever happened, as its occurrence confirms with absolute certainty that Jesus indeed died for the sins of humanity, and that the resurrection of the dead is possible -- and is indeed certain, because Christ led the way. Because of the tremendous importance of the event, the reader is encouraged to read the whole account as it appears in the Gospel of Luke chapter 24.

After the joyful pause and the receiving of the Holy Spirit, the time came to spread the Good News. Jesus Christ had defeated death, by His death and resurrection. Humans could now hope to be resurrected themselves. The first location where the message would be preached was the same *den of lions* where Jesus had been killed - Jerusalem. The High Priest and the religious leaders that had demanded Jesus' death were still there; ready to quash anything that pertained to their hated enemy: Christ. But that did not discourage them. They had seen Jesus Christ alive, and they understood the magnificent significance for all of humanity, and no human being was going to deter them, even if it meant potential

beatings, scourging and even death.

The Book of Acts tells us that the leading force behind the spread of the Good News was Peter, the one who denied Jesus Christ the night before the crucifixion. But he would deny Christ no more, in spite of the dangers that faced him. He stood before the multitude of foreigners, locals and local leaders and asserted the truth of Christ's resurrection. The transformed Peter continued spreading the message and healing people, giving evidence that the power that had worked in Jesus Christ was now at work in him as well (Acts 3:11-15).

The bewildered religious leaders did not hesitate to react, and quickly had them arrested. They threatened Peter and John with severe consequences if they persisted in preaching about Christ's resurrection. Both could have changed their minds and could have gone home in peace, but they did not. What they had witnessed demanded that all know about the momentous event (Acts 4:1, 3; 13-22). The Apostles' confident attitude and courage made the High Priest and the leaders very angry. How dare ignorant men speak like that to such lofty personages. Thus the result was prison once again. But they remained unafraid and did not turn to lies to escape punishment (Acts 5: 17-42). Not even beatings could now stop them. In fact, for the Apostles, suffering for Jesus Christ had become an honor.

Stephen, too, had the same unstoppable attitude. He too was bent on bringing the Gospel to all, and he too was taken and imprisoned. But he had a different final punishment: death by stoning (Acts 6: 8-15). At this point the High Priest asked him to confirm or deny the accusations. He could have lied and could have escaped certain punishment. But his response was shockingly direct and honest (Acts 7: 51-60). He could have lied and denied having had any involvement with Jesus and he certainly could have denied having seen the resurrected Christ. But he did not, because the glorious "truth" had to be defended to the death.

A VEHEMENTLY UNBELIEVING OPPONENT TURNED SUPPORTER

The Apostle Paul, like today's unbelievers, did not initially accept the resurrection of Christ. To him, Christians were liars, charlatans and deceivers who deserved to be killed. In his anti-Christian zeal, he made sure that as many Christians as he could find would be imprisoned and then killed. In fact he had been one of Stephen's

accusers, and he too wanted him dead. Now Saul, (Paul's name before conversion) was consenting to his death (Acts 8: 1). Paul had been a blind follower of the religious leaders. He was, you might say, their blindly dedicated and committed secret agent, who zealously sought to eradicate this new, dangerous and fanatical new group that was spreading lies and heresy (Acts 8:1-3). Later on Paul confessed to his blind zeal and vehemence against new believers, before the very group of leaders he had previously supported, who stood before him in disbelief (Acts 22:1). He then explains the transforming experience he had experienced, due to his encounter with Jesus Christ, and goes on to explain what happened afterwards (Acts 22: 17-21). Paul became so convinced of all that pertained to Christ and His resurrection from the dead that he was willing to endure the most gruesome consequences to announce Jesus' death and resurrection. In his Epistles to the Corinthians, he shares some details of what awaited his choice (2 Corinthians 11:24-26). Here is the same man who had previously opposed Christ, his followers and everything they preached and stood for who now was joining the opposition and was preaching the same message he had opposed and was even willing to bear great sufferings and risk death, so as to announce the death and resurrection of Christ, and all that it entailed for humanity. Yet unbelievers would love to rationalize away the zeal of this brilliant and fervent man as the consequence of "another" hallucination. But if so, they have to then explain how the same hallucination gave Paul great miraculous powers, which lasted throughout his life. Of course, in their blind zeal against Paul and Christ, they can rationalize them away as being skillfully crafted "lies." But this attempt can be quickly rendered void by the fact that Paul consistently taught against lies. It is not a coincidence that later on in his epistle to the Colossian church he confirmed the need to be truthful. "Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds..." (Colossians 3:9).

LUKE WAS AN OBJECTIVE AND TRUTHFUL INVESTIGATOR

Some sincerely wish that someone had done an objective investigation of the events so as to provide an account of what transpired during the early days of Christianity. Well, we have such an account. Luke, "the physician," as he is

called in the Bible, went to Jerusalem and the surrounding area; he interviewed many witnesses of the events that surrounded Christ's life as he reasonably could and then wrote a thorough historical account of the events surrounding Christ's life, His death and resurrection. This account we know as the Gospel of Luke. We must also mention that Luke went a step further and accompanied and watched first hand the works of one of Christ's foremost Apostles, Paul of Tarsus, and then wrote a thorough, detailed account of his observations (i.e. the Book of Acts). Thanks to Luke, we have an unparalleled and totally reliable, "first-hand account" of the first foundational decades of Christianity. Luke is objective, methodical and "truthful," and as such he is not well liked by some "objective" intellectual unbelievers who wish that Luke's two works would simply disappear. But disappear they will not. Luke and Acts

are outstanding historical works, which testify to the existence of Christ, His mighty works, His death and His resurrection.

CONCLUSION

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was a momentous event for humanity. Because of it we have a hope that Satan would love to destroy, and this he attempts to do through the works of atheists, agnostics, and other religions that are openly anti-Christian.

God would not allow such a critical event to rest on flimsy evidence. The resurrection of Jesus Christ rests on the witness of many "truthful" men that had no reason whatsoever to lie on behalf of a callous and cunning deceiver and manipulator. Their witness sufficed for the first Christians; it sufficed for the great multitudes through the ages up to our days who have accepted the reality of Jesus' resurrection, and it suffices for those who today are willing to objectively examine and accept the

unassailable facts. The result of embracing this glorious truth is tremendous joy and a longing for the day when, because of Christ's death and resurrection, the multitudes will come to life for evermore.

Michael Caputo

Toronto



Illustrating the Biblical symbolism of 'resurrection out of a watery grave', three new members of the Toronto congregation underwent the 'burial' of their old natures (Romans 6), in the portable baptismal tank at the Wasilkoff home in Toronto.

At right from the left are pictured Tom Davidson, and Rudolph and Phyllis McFarlane.

WHY TAKE OFF THEIR SANDALS?

When God called to Moses to approach His appearance in the 'burning bush,' the first thing God told him was to 'take off his sandals!' (Exodus 3:5). Some forty years later, when God appeared to Joshua as the Israelites besieged Jericho, He again said, 'take off your sandals' (Joshua 5:15).



What was God's purpose in both of these incidents? And how does it relate to us in God's Church today?

Is God too 'old school'?

Why would God tell Moses and Joshua to take off their sandals? Is God too picky, too punctilious, too fastidious for our modern generation? As Joshua was surveying the besieged city, he was met by an armed man. Boldly walking up to him Joshua enquired whether he was 'for us or against us?' (Joshua 5:13-15; 6:1-2). This Commander of the Lord's Army was God. When Joshua heard that he immediately fell on his face to the earth and worshipped. This was the same response as Moses at the burning bush. Each time God said the ground they were standing on had become *Holy* from His direct presence. And they were to 'take off their sandals.'

A sign of reverence and respect.

The putting off of a sandal is like the putting off of a man's hat today (or it used to be), as a token of respect to a woman. The ground was holy because of Divine presence. People were to approach God with solemnity and humility. Taking off their sandals was an outward expression of an inward reverence. Showing such respect avoids anything casual, sloppy or rude. Some eastern religions today still require bare feet when entering their temples. Anciently the Greeks, in the worship of Diana and Jupiter, required worshippers to take off their shoes (*Adam Clarke's Commentary*, Exodus 3:5). A common custom in many places when entering a person's home is to take off your shoes. God has a high standard for approaching Him.

When God established 'rules and

regulations' for the Priests and Levites in the service of the Tabernacle, He specified a *lofty* standard of propriety. Male priestly dress had to ensure no 'unsightly' flesh areas be exposed (Exodus 28:42 & 20:26). The high priest had 'bells' on his garment. Adam Clarke's Commentary says: "His sound shall be heard - *The bells were doubtless intended to keep up the people's attention to the very solemn and important office which the priest was then performing, that they might all have their hearts engaged in the work; and at the same time to keep Aaron himself in remembrance that he ministered before Jehovah, and should not come into his presence without due reverence.*" Disrespect brought the death of Aaron's sons who ignored due procedure, along with the influence of alcohol (Leviticus 6:8-13; 10:1-10). Sloppy service mixed with alcohol for self aggrandizement was unacceptable.

God decorated Israel with jewelry (Ezekiel 16:10-13). But in times of sin and God's wrath, they were to take off their 'ornaments' to show evidence of contrite hearts, humility and reverence (Exodus 33:4-6).

Do rules matter?

Does sincerity or zeal negate obedience? King David learned a hard lesson in neglecting how God's presence was to be approached. When he was finally established as king in Jerusalem, David determined to bring up the Ark. He was sincere, he was zealous. They even made a new cart to bring it from Abinadab's home (2 Samuel 6:1-5). And David had harps, cymbals and stringed instruments to praise God. Then....the oxen stumbled...rocked the cart, and Uzzah put out his hand to steady the Ark and prevent it from falling over. He

may have done this quite involuntarily. But at that instant God struck him dead! And David was *angry* about the tragedy. So they left the Ark at another home while David sought guidance on what to do.

With reflection and study David came to see he had been ignorant of God's clear Levitical rules for transporting the Ark. After thoroughly addressing 'correct procedures' (1 Chronicles 15:2-15), David then successfully brought the Ark of God up to Jerusalem.

God's calling is a high one.

How does this relate to us today? God is the 'same yesterday, today, and forever' (Hebrews 13:8). What He established for Moses at the burning bush was no different forty years later for Joshua at Jericho. Since He is the same today, it means that when we approach God we should have similar reverence to 'take off our cultural sandals' as a mark of respect in our worship. It is understood we are not directly in God's presence as was Moses and Joshua.

However, we do know Scripture commands us to assemble (Hebrews 10:25; Leviticus 23), and the Church all through its history has believed that when we come to Sabbath services and God's Holydays we are spiritually entering into God's presence. So, the question for us....

Do we bring the world's culture into God's worship? Or, do we worship God in the way He has provided?

God's worship requirements for the New Testament are taught through His Church. We show reverence for God and His Church by observing Biblical rules, customs and traditions. Occasionally some seek to justify a more lax attitude by claiming that 'modern culture' is casual

and relaxed. Summer weather can be blamed by saying it is hot, and surely God would want us to feel comfortable when we worship. We know too that it is common in worldly church meetings to see a variety of formal and casual, and even sloppy dress. The same is true for weddings and funerals, even the opera. But they are of the world, and we are called *out* of the world to reflect God's culture.

Does Church dress matter? Do hair styles matter? Does it matter how we dress publicly to present special music? These questions are well answered in our *United Church of God* Welcome package available to all Canadian Churches. It is intended to help new people who attend with us to know what God's culture requires at church services. It is also a good review for we who are regular in attendance, especially at the Festival of Tabernacles. The Welcome package includes what the *United Church of God* teaches on this topic:
Etiquette at Sabbath Services: *On time;*

In the hall during hymns; Loitering during services; Noise; Children; Cell phones; Computer games; Conversation; Clothing (Doug Horchak, United News, August 2006).

What Kind of Clothing Is Appropriate to Appear Before God? *Clothing and worship; Appearance counts; Standards; Offenses* (Richard Pinelli, United News, September/October 2006).

Feast Brochure: At each Feast there is a page of *Etiquette For Services* covering many of the above points.

Our high, holy and heavenly calling.

The apostle Paul explained that the calling of God is a *high* and *holy* calling (Philippians 3:14; 2 Timothy 1:9). When we come before His presence at Sabbath services and Holydays, do we bring the world's culture with us? Or, do we come in appropriate dress and attitude as God intends? Our calling is truly from 'heaven' (Hebrews 3:1), and this demands that we

approach God reverently, respectfully, and humbly.

So why take off their sandals? When in the presence of God we are to worship His Way.

It is positive overcoming to rise above the casualness and slackness of today's worldly culture.

Graemme Marshall



“Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance (institution) of men for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors,.....

Honour all people.
Love the brotherhood.
Fear God.
Honour the king”

1 Peter 2:13-14/17

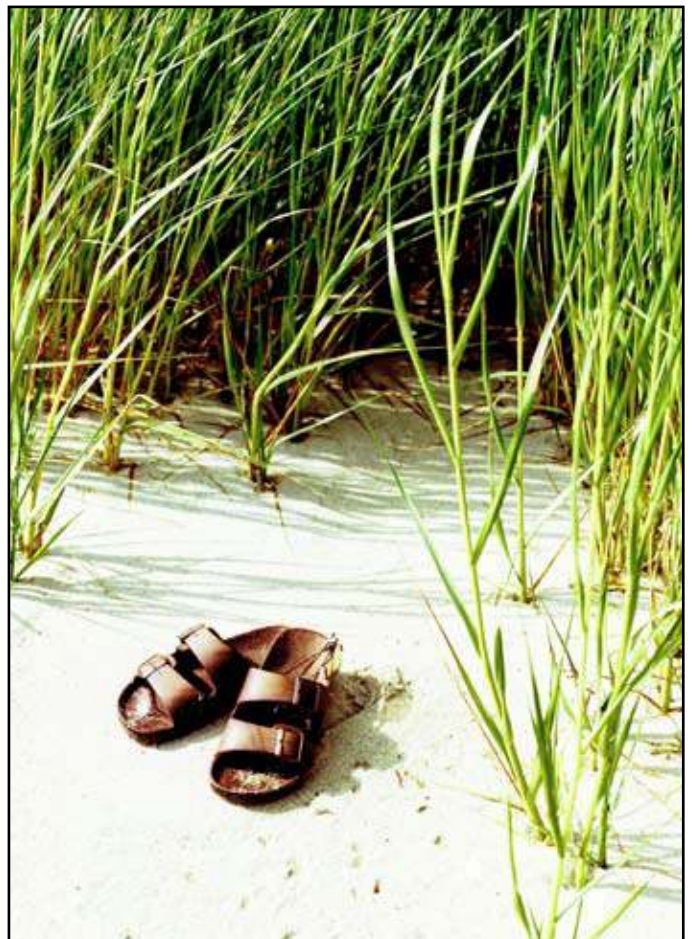


Photo.com images

SECOND LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP WEEKEND

Last January, a Leadership Workshop was conducted in Toronto for invitees living in eastern Canada. On June 21 and 22 a second workshop was held in Calgary for forty-one individuals from western Canada.

Planning for the workshops begins when Ministerial Services requests that pastors submit names of leaders they believe could benefit from the weekend. Since the workshops need to be kept to a smaller number, then comes the process of paring down the list to fit into the budgetary and size limitations. Generally, younger individuals were preferred but in some areas the “young” leaders turned out to be a little older!

This is the beginning of an on-going program designed to help train new leaders, “upgrade” existing leaders and hopefully find individuals that may, eventually, become deacons/deaconesses, elders and pastors.

The workshop began at 9:00 on Sabbath morning by Richard Pinelli explaining the purpose of the workshops and the importance of sound doctrine. The purpose was to cover the foundation, to train and teach the younger generation and to develop manpower. To do this the presenters would look at the basic government structure of United, how individuals fit into the structure, basic character and attitude issues, and how to do the job of a leader. Mr. Pinelli explained how and where we got our fundamental beliefs and the process required to make changes to them.

After a quick lunch, attendees rushed off to attend church services with the Calgary brethren. Then it was back to more sessions from 5:30 until 9:00 p.m.

On Saturday evening Mr. Pinelli told the story of how United began, stressing that the primary reason for forming UCG was to preserve doctrine. Then the founding members looked for a governing structure that would protect the church from doctrinal departure. With that background, an outline of our governing documents was given.

Graemme Marshall covered the topic of “Heart of a Leader” while Anthony Wasilkoff covered “Personal Integrity and Code of Ethics”.

Sunday morning attendees were in their seats by 8:30 and the workshops continued until 3:30 with an hour for lunch. The first topic of the day was “Biblical Guidelines

for Husbands and Wives” presented by Mr. Marshall. Next Mr. Pinelli covered “Congregational Structure” discussing the job of a Pastor and how members can help the pastors. Anthony Wasilkoff then discussed the topic “The Fine Art of Delegating and Mentoring”.

During the afternoon Richard Pinelli presented “Working With Your Pastor,” giving hints as to what/how to be helpful in the local area. Rainer Salomaa had an interactive Power Point presentation on “Developing Wisdom and Judgment”.

In his final presentation, Mr. Pinelli covered “Discernment”. He said that knowledge, understanding and wisdom lead to the ability to discern, which is the ability to assess a situation.

After two jam-packed days full of lots of sitting, discussion, questions and fellowship, attendees said their good byes to new acquaintances and old friends, took their new Leadership Workshop binders and prepared for the journey home.

While the attendees were being instructed, an additional function was occurring. Richard Pinelli was working with some Canadian pastors so that Canada can begin to expand upon this program to include more people. Last fall, Mr. Graemme Marshall attended classes in Cincinnati to help with this program here in Canada. Plans are underway for a follow-up session for the attendees within the next year.

Perhaps the weekend can best be summed up in the words of one of the attendees, Joan Hleboff:

“Our impressions of the weekend can be summed up as: Wow! On a personal level, we were excited that we could be there in Calgary to participate. On a greater level we were really impressed to see how the church is striving to go about the mission of ‘Preparing a people’. It’s not just about those of us sitting in a lecture room for a couple of days but about grounding all church members in what really matters – foundational doctrines; being a support in the church; strengthening one another; promoting unity; supporting the elders/pastors in their work – and that this information will be shared among all. Being made aware of the load that pastors carry and encouraging us to be sensitive to being ‘helpers’, was important. What also struck us as being significant was the emphasis on

the husband/wife team; pointing out that leadership works a whole lot better when there is a team and including the wives in this process. That was just great.”

Doug Lesh from Grande Prairie added the following comment: *“As far as the leadership workshop goes, we both thought it was fantastic; it exceeded our expectations! Right from the start it had our attention. It was informative, personal, as well as candid at times; it fostered an incredible learning environment for us both. In fact, even after the long trip to Calgary and a full day of instruction, we could not sleep, but rather spent several hours in our room recapping the instruction which we had received that day. It was a small enough group that it created an atmosphere in which Beth and I felt a connection to the presenters of the material as well as to the brethren from the various church areas. Although we only had a short time together, we were able to glean a tremendous amount of information from the material presented, as well as having a moment or two to touch bases with others to compare notes, to encourage, and be encouraged from their fellowship. I should also add that the binder which was handed out with all of the information which we covered over the week-end is invaluable; it will be a reference for years to come. On a personal note, we thank everyone involved for the hard work of organizing this workshop and bringing it through to fruition as well as the opportunity to be able to attend. It was a pleasure to finally meet you and your husband in person and look forward to seeing you again when the second half of the workshop takes place.”*

From Vancouver, Glyn and Melody Davies provided the following assessment: *Thanks for asking for input regarding the Leadership Weekend in Calgary June 21-22.*

Location: the hotel was clean, comfortable and provided for a very enjoyable experience. We really appreciated the thought and organization to keep costs down for attendees.

Set Up re Lunch/Dinner: round tables at lunch/dinner promoted and provided for shared conversation with many people good food at all the meals. One person remarked to Glyn, “I didn’t think the food would be this good..!” We were able to connect with

a number of people who we have never met, yet have heard or seen at church for many years. This encouraged the sense that we are a part of a bigger body than we see each week.

Number of Breaks: thank you so much for providing the number of breaks that were offered. We never felt we wanted the sessions to end....

Sessions: thank you for the outline and binder – it made the sessions easy to follow along. Mr. Pinelli's ability to engage the audience through story, humor, sensibility and passion for God's way of life are truly remarkable. We count it a great privilege to have been able to sit and listen to him for so many hours. We were thankful to hear about the beginnings of and history of United. We hope and pray there will be more desire for unity by the scattered brethren and their organizations. We sure appreciated all the opportunities to ask questions. We enjoyed the gentle interactivity of scripture

reading by both men and women during Mr. Salomaa's presentation. Mr. Wasilkoff did a great job of presenting as he is a confident, talented public speaker. We appreciated Mr. Marshall's use of Powerpoint. We recommend it to make subjects more palatable for the listener. Mr. Wasilkoff's sense of humor, and commitment to make the workshop run smoothly was evident. Thanks to Mrs. Wasilkoff for her apparent thorough planning and all the connections she must have made with the hotel staff. We appreciated the forethought that was put into the event, rather than simply throwing it together. God's word and way of life have such incredible value.

Tools to Take: We would really like to have the binder that Mr. Pinelli passed around put on line (virtually no cost except for entering the information – we would even volunteer to help enter some of the information) for us to access. The core materials from the binder are presented

in a clear, concise manner and are a tremendous asset to have.

Workshop Value: Absolutely fantastic – we wish both our kids had been there. We came back inspired and rejuvenated, ready to make a positive impact on our local church area. One additional session which would have been beneficial would have been on speaking, namely sermonette and sermon structure, content, time of, delivery etc. Many are not natural public speakers, and need instruction on this."

Linda Wasilkoff

Toronto



Richard Pinelli (above) led the meetings at the Blackfoot Inn, Calgary. To the right, Rainer Salomaa, Calgary Pastor, makes a presentation on Wisdom and Judgment.

At bottom right Anthony Wasilkoff, Director of Operations for Canada, presents the fine art of Delegating and Mentoring. More photos of the Calgary Leadership meeting are on page 20.

CONTINUING LEADERSHIP SEMINAR – OTTAWA

Following the theme of the Eastern and Western Canada leadership Weekends, a continuing seminar was held Sunday July 13th in an idyllic cabin and lake setting, courtesy of the hospitality of Joe and Mary Moulton, of Spencerville. Members of the Ottawa and Montreal congregations participated in the review of the leadership principles presented on those occasions, along with a sumptuous lunch.

The day began with an introductory discussion of various personality and temperament types, presented by pastor Graemme Marshall. Some notable points were:

* We need to have each temperament type for the functioning of the spiritual body as a whole.

* Most people are a mixture of two different personality types, and some are even a mix of four.

Whatever your personality might be, REJOICE in that God has made you that way. And remember that the Holy Spirit influence gives you help for every weakness by modifying you where needed. Personalities are like a fingerprint. They show your uniqueness and can also reveal your tendencies.

Some Table Topics were then presented asking the following:

* What are some of the ways your pastor's personality type would affect the way he might approach his congregation? Answer: When a member is going through a severe trial an extrovert personality may likely phone the person several times a week. The introvert personality type may not do this as much, but instead quietly fast for the person without anyone ever knowing about it.

* What are some of the potential problems

if members fail to understand a pastor's temperament?

Answer: A quiet temperament may be very organized while a more social person may not be so much. We need to look to the positive gifts and talents of everyone rather than what your own personality might prefer.

* What kinds of things would be good to include in your prayers for your pastor? Answers ranged from: 1. Pray for his inspired discernment as a shepherd, and on the members' part to understand their pastor; also before going to church services pray that church that day will do something spiritually for you; 2. Pastors are ageing and have some health concerns, so pray for their vigour, enthusiasm and health to remain in their calling and not to want to retire while still healthy; 3. Pray God provides for them financially as some have less economic protection against the ups and downs of an expensive society.

In the Leadership Workshops Richard Pinelli presented points about Congregational Structure, showing how helpers and leaders can assist a pastor by bearing in mind the number of different 'hats' he may wear today. As there is a sifting and sorting happening through Church history, attitudes bubble to the surface and there is a need to be aware of protecting the flock from wolves and from diverse opinions about whether one has to keep the law.

The day concluded with a sermonette with audience feedback and evaluation. The sermonette topic was about the freedoms we enjoy in North America, showing how mankind knows the need for law. The problem isn't with law but when those laws are broken. Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, of Great Britain, once

explained how she passionately believed in liberty, that such is only possible under the rule of law. She believed in the law of freedom, but not freedom from the law.

"The third thing I believed in passionately was the human being's fundamental right to liberty, and that liberty would only work under a rule of law because it is the order of the law which enables freedom to work. That really is what we fundamentally believe. We believe that each individual has that right to liberty but you can only accept that liberty if you accept the rule of law."

Keeping God's law is the best thing that can happen to us. Feedback was positive and encouraging along with showing pointers on presentation and content.

The final part of the day was a discussion on the relevance of "A Message to Garcia," by Elbert Hubbard. During World War 1 copies of the letter were distributed to all of the sailors in the U.S. Navy. It found its way into Russia and Japan and by 1913 there were over 40 million copies in print. Its principles still hold true today. Quoting from the text:

"My heart goes out to the man who does his work when the 'boss' is away as well as when he is around. ... Civilization is one long anxious search for just such individuals."

One attendee commented on the day's presentations as: "This has been a very meaty day."

Lynn Marshall

Below Ottawa pastor Graemme Marshall leads a follow-up leadership workshop. At right some of children occupied themselves while the adults were engaged.





Sharon and Harold Descoteaux

FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Sharon Descoteaux

Coaticook, Quebec.

Where were you born and where did you meet your husband and marry?

SD: I was born in Sherbrooke, Quebec in 1953. When I was almost a year old my mother's sister talked my Mom and Dad into moving to the United States where, at the time, there was more work. That is how I ended up in Colebrook, NH. I met my husband on Mothers Day 1973. My family came up to Lennoxville, QC to spend Mothers Day with my grandmother, and Harold was there. He was going with my cousins to the dance that night. There was a whole group going and my two sisters and I were invited to go along. Harold and I spent most of the evening sitting and talking and he asked if he could see me again. We were married 10 months later in Coaticook, Quebec on March 16, 1974, one day before my 21st birthday. That was 34 years ago. I had planned on finishing my nursing and joining the Air Force but God had other plans for me.

Descoteaux is an interesting name. What is its origin?

SD: Descoteaux has a French origin and means the small hillocks or hills.

How many children do you have and how do they view the Church?

SD: We have two children; Michael (32) and Monique (30). How they view the church is an interesting question. We have never really sat down and talked about it since they left. So when I asked them, I

wasn't sure what the answer would be. I decided to put in their responses just as they wrote them.

(Michael) *Growing up I believe that my parents strong beliefs and what the church taught helped me to become the person I am today. I think that in my life I try to always put what will help others in front of my own gain and be the best person I can. I liked the idea of always trying to do what the Bible said and not relying on tradition. I thought that this was a good thing, even though it was this that seemed to bring about the "demise" of the church. Strong values, great memories and a fond love of life are just a few things I was given by the church.*

(Monique) *Growing up in the church was sometimes a challenge for me. When I was in High school, I sometimes resented the fact that I couldn't participate in extracurricular activities, due to the fact that many of them took place on Friday nights and Saturdays. However, the church did work very hard to compensate for this in all of the different activities they planned for their youth. I can easily say that the best summer I ever had was spent at camp Vendee. I was able to experience activities that I otherwise never would have had, and I met other teens from all across Canada. It was an experience that*

I will never forget. The church was more than just an "institution." The brethren who attended were my extended family, and many still are today. They were my support system; they encouraged me, and celebrated my accomplishments with me. Along with my family, they were my role models. They showed me just how important it is to care about others, and just how far one act of kindness can go. Although I no longer attend a church, I continue to strive to be the best person I can be, for myself, and now for my son. That is what the church gave me.

How did you first come to know God's Truth?

SD: After my sister-in-law's wedding (she was married in the Worldwide Church of God by Mr. Bill Rabey) Harold told me he had invited the minister to come to our house for a visit. I was really surprised and said to him "What on earth are we going to say to a minister?!" The next night Harold told me that he was going to go and study his Bible and if I would like to study with him he would help me with the dishes. I took him up on his offer and that was the beginning of my conversion. I had been completely turned off religion at a very young age, by ministers who had absolutely no idea what the Bible really says. I was amazed at the truth God unfolded before me as I read and studied His word!

Continued on page 16

Continued from page 15

Sherbrooke used to be a substantial church. What are past impressions?

SD: I remember the Sherbrooke Church as being filled with loving and caring people; people who loved God and each other. Many of us still try to keep in touch with each other although we can't talk about spiritual things the way we used to. I find it very sad when I have to watch what I say and veer away from certain religious topics with people who I was so close to and for years believed the same things. At one time we were all on the same track and now everyone has gone their separate ways.

How was the transition from your former affiliation to your decision to leave?

SD: The last few years in the church were distressing. We didn't even feel like we belonged to a church; we felt like we were adrift and nobody cared. The thing that kept us going, was knowing that God was in charge; that He loved us; would take care of us and in His own time would show us what He wanted us to do. We kept meeting on the Sabbath to worship God and study His word. We prayed to be blessed with Godly wisdom and discernment. We stopped reading all church literature and studied directly from God's word. We learned not to blindly trust anyone, but to ask questions and really study the Bible to see if what we are being told is really what God is saying. (Just like the Bereans)

What did you and other family members do in the transition before attending UCG?

SD: We did an intense study of God's word and proved to ourselves without a shadow of a doubt that the commandments, Sabbath and Holy Days are still in force. Then we began checking out the statements of belief and some of the literature to three of the different Churches of God. We didn't want to leave the church we were in and go to any church. We wanted to go to a church that worships God the way He wants to be worshipped. A church that doesn't find the days that God created as a blessing for His people, a burden.

What UCG strengths do you see?

SD: I have found the UCG to be very committed to feeding and tending the flock. Compassionate, understanding and welcoming (rather than judgmental) to those going through the turmoil of realizing they have chosen the wrong path and are desperately trying to find their way back.

What is your occupation and how has it been blessed?

SD: My husband and I have a housecleaning business. I started working close to home for a couple of people, just for a little extra money after the children graduated from high school. Then by word of mouth it grew into a business. My husband began working with me when I started having problems with rheumatoid arthritis and could no longer lift heavy objects or do vacuuming and mopping. We really enjoy working together and have met some very nice people and made some very good friends.

What do you do for Sabbaths services?

SD: Because of fuel prices and health issues we are only able to get into Montreal about once a month. There are four in our group here in the Townships, and when we are unable to join the brethren in Montreal, we continue to keep the Sabbath together here. We worship God with hymns and listen to sermons on CDs that we are fortunate enough to receive from the UCG; we try to pray for those that we know need prayers, and encourage each other for another week

What has marriage and family meant to you in the light of modern culture?

SD: Marriage and family are two of the most precious gifts that God has given us as human beings. His plan is based on family, the family of God, and Satan has waged war on the family because of this; gay marriages, living together without marriage, free sex, abortions, divorce - how very tragic!_

When I look around, I realize just how much I have. God blessed me with a wonderful husband, partner, and sweetheart, and he blessed our union with two wonderful children, a fantastic son-in-law and a beautiful little grandson; and He has opened our hearts and minds to the wonderful encouragement for the future that only His word can bring. What more could a woman ask for!?

Sharon Descoteaux

Coaticook, QC

NO TURNING BACK

Too young and naive to think they
could fail,
Too full of visions for the end of the
trail
They stored their silk dresses and
donned calico
To join in the cry of Westward Ho
- - -
Their diaries tell of the endless hours
The vast sea of grass and bounty of
wildflowers
They tell of children conceived and
born
And of those who were buried in the
gray silent morn
- - -
Still the wagons rolled on and the ruts

got deeper
The column moved westward as the
route got steeper
Teams dropped from exhaustion in the
summer heat
As the emigrants pressed on defying
defeat
- - -
They met Indians who were friends
and many that were foe
They saw days of drought and
blinding snow
Only one thing was certain along this
wagon track
- - -
There was absolutely
No Turning Back



Sculpture and Poem by Veryl Goodnight.
Frontier Days Museum, Cheyenne,
Wyoming, USA
It reflects Jesus' words of Luke 9:62.

BUSY SPRING SEASON FOR TORONTO

Passover this year was especially heartening for those in Toronto UCG, as three newly baptized members were in our midst. They were Liz Garant, Owen Martin, and Rebecca Martin. A visitor from the Chicago UCG, Marilyn Anderson, also joined with us.

Following the Sabbath service the next day, about one hundred persons enjoyed a delicious pot luck supper in the church hall for The Night To Be Much Observed.

Between the first course and the dessert, our pastor, Mr. Tony Wasilkoff, conducted a short quiz concerning God's plagues sent on the Egyptians long ago. He also invited personal comments of remembrance of one's very first NTBMO. There was widespread participation

On the First Day of Unleavened Bread, Mr George Carter's sermon entreated us to keep moving spiritually toward God's kingdom, just as the Israelites quested for a physical promised land. After the service, the brethren fellowshiped and feasted abundantly on an array of finger foods.

There were two services in Toronto for the Last Day of Unleavened Bread. While the offering was taken up in the morning Justin Archer played the piano. The Toronto choir then sang Psalm 150, a forceful song of praise. Mr. Mike Caputo began a series of sermons on The Fruit of the Spirit by showing us how we can achieve Agape

love. The afternoon service followed a sit-down, potluck lunch. Mr. Dennis Horlick spoke on exercising our thought processes correctly in order to discern good or evil.

May 3 saw a Gala supper that concluded the Family Christian Club for 2007-2008. The theme was the Seventh Law of Success, Seeking God's Continued Guidance. Earlier monthly meetings had dealt with the first six laws of success. Club director, Mr. Dennis Horlick welcomed about 45 members and guests, while Carlos Aviles, Topics Master, invited responses to questions using God's help for success in life.

Toastmaster Pat Brathwaite introduced the three speakers: David Pearson, René Aviles, and Patrick Read. Finally, Mr. Wasilkoff encouraged all to participate in next year's club, in his closing remarks.

The following Sabbath service was conducted mainly by the young people of the church. Owen Martin led the hymns while Justin Archer played the piano and Kristina Archer played the clarinet. A choir of fifteen young adults sang, "Who Can Find A Virtuous Woman?", accompanied on the piano by Justin Archer. Mr. Wasilkoff used the fifth commandment as the basis for his sermon.

There was a luncheon provided by the Young Adults after the service in honour of the mothers. Each mother received a mug containing chocolates, personalized with

her name painted on the outside. Poems and tributes were also read and recited.

During the month of May, the Toronto congregation was encouraged by our assistant pastor, Mr, Dennis Horlick, to collect used clothing and pack it in large garbage bags, as an Outreach effort. A large collection of bags was brought to church on May 31 to be picked up by an agency that aids the poor in Haiti.

The end of the busy spring season culminated with three more baptisms, Rudolph and Phyllis McFarlane, and Tom Davidson. They celebrated their first Pentecost with us on June 8. There were several visitors with us on this High Holy Day. Kevin Ford played the piano during the offering, followed by the choir singing, "On the Day Of Pentecost." The sermon by our pastor, Mr. Tony Wasilkoff, dwelt on the aspect of the Holy Spirit as a Comforter. The day ended with a beautiful time of brethren visiting and feasting from a table groaning with succulent finger foods. It is with keen anticipation that we look forward to the next series of God's Holy Days showing us His plan for man's salvation.

Lillie Robinson

Toronto



Toronto brethren enjoying a picnic after a Sabbath service in July
Photos - Gary Haynes



NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY FOR SLAIN PEACE OFFICERS

September 30th



In October 1962 U.S. President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15 of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week containing May 15 has since been America's National Police Week.

In Canada, September 30 is set aside to honor Peace Officers who gave their lives in the line of duty. In 1994 the first granite stone was unveiled on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to display the names of 227 policemen who had been killed in the line of duty since 1879. By the end of September 2006 the number of names on Canada's Honor Roll had risen to 715.

The Officer Down Memorial Page Web site is dedicated to honoring America's fallen law enforcement heroes. More than 18,000 officers have made the ultimate sacrifice in the United States. With law enforcement becoming an increasingly dangerous profession in most countries of the world, honor pages in memory of fallen police officers have now also been established in Australia, New Zealand and some European countries.

Police Service Dogs have become the courageous, loyal companions of increasing numbers of peace officers. Some of these dogs also die while attempting to keep the peace, just as do many peace officers.

For example, on June 23, 1998, Police Service Dog "Caesar" with his handler responded to a report of a suicidal male armed with a gun. At their arrival on scene the male suspect fired a shotgun into the air.

Police then set up a perimeter to await their tactical unit to arrive. However, the male started walking with his gun towards a nearby school. As he began to cross the school grounds the police officers were forced to take a stand to prevent him from reaching the school itself.

The Police Service Dog "Caesar" was sent forward to attempt to stop the suspect so the police could avoid the use of lethal force. Unfortunately, the male suspect spun around and shot "Caesar" from close range ("Valor Row," Canadian Police Canine Association Web site).

On June 25, 2000, the Police Service Dog "Bandit" along with his police officer handler began tracking a male who had fled a residence and was believed to be armed. As they approached the suspect he stabbed "Bandit" with a knife he had concealed in his sleeve. In spite of his injuries, when the suspect turned his attention towards the police officer, Bandit attacked again and was stabbed a second time, which proved fatal. Bandit's courage and loyalty allowed his police officer handler to avoid being harmed.

Other Canadian police dogs have died by gun shot or stab wounds while assisting or defending their handlers who were attempting to keep the peace. Because of an increasing numbers of deaths in the line of duty, special days have been set aside to honor the men and women peacekeepers and their specially trained dogs that lose their lives in the line of duty.

We should be very grateful for the dedicated peace officers who enforce the law so that we private citizens can enjoy safety and freedom. But isn't it a tragedy that we have to live in a society that needs this type of sacrifice? How sad that a front line of peacekeepers must protect us in our own lands, villages, towns and suburbs.

We need to ask ourselves, "Does society have to be this way? Is this really the good life? Is this the way it ought to be?"

Surely there must be a better way.

And there is a better way, a way that our Creator plans to teach to and require of all of mankind under the rule of His Son Jesus Christ when He returns. That better way and the wonderful results it will bring was the central theme of Jesus Christ's gospel (good news) message about the coming Kingdom of God over which He will be the King.

I recommend that you learn more about that new way and how Jesus will implement it by requesting, downloading or reading online two of our free, informative booklets:

The Gospel of the Kingdom, and The Ten Commandments.

Originally published as a UCG website commentary by Graemme Marshall, Ottawa.





CANADIAN THANKSGIVING OCTOBER 13th

Thanksgiving day for 2008 is also the day leading up to the opening evening service of the Festival of Tabernacles.

Below is some of the traditional history for its observance along with some thoughts on what to be grateful for.

In Canada Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday in October. Unlike the American tradition of remembering Pilgrims and settling in the New World, Canadians give thanks for a successful harvest. The harvest season falls earlier in Canada compared to the United States due to the simple fact that Canada is further north.

The history of Thanksgiving in Canada goes back to an English explorer, Martin Frobisher, who had been trying to find a northern passage to the Orient. He did not succeed but he did establish a settlement in North America. In the year 1578, he held a formal ceremony, in what is now called Newfoundland, to give thanks for surviving the long journey. This is considered the first Canadian Thanksgiving. Other settlers arrived and continued these ceremonies. He was later knighted and had an inlet of the Atlantic Ocean in northern Canada named after him - Frobisher Bay.

At the same time, French settlers, having crossed the ocean and arrived in Canada with explorer Samuel de Champlain, also held huge feasts of thanks. They even formed 'The Order of Good Cheer' and gladly shared their food with their Indian neighbours. After the Seven Year's War ended in 1763, the citizens of Halifax held a special day of Thanksgiving. During the American Revolution, Americans who remained loyal to England moved to Canada where they brought the customs and practices of the American Thanksgiving to Canada. There are many similarities between the two Thanksgivings, such as the cornucopia and the pumpkin pie.

Eventually, in 1879, Parliament declared November 6th a day of Thanksgiving and a national holiday. Over the years many dates were used for Thanksgiving, the most popular being the third Monday in October. After World War I, both Armistice Day and Thanksgiving were celebrated on the Monday of the week in which November 11th occurred. Ten years later, in 1931, the two days became separate holidays and Armistice Day was renamed Remembrance Day. Finally, on January 31st, 1957, Parliament proclaimed...

"A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed ... to be observed on the 2nd Monday in October.

(Internet source)

What can you be thankful for?

I give thanks that I can again attend the Festival of Tabernacles.

I'm thankful for the clothes that fit too snugly because it means I have more than enough to eat.

I give thanks for the lawn that needs mowing, the windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.

I'm thankful to God for the shadow that follows me during the day because the sun still shines.

I'm glad of the parking spot at the far end of the car park because I can still walk.

I'm thankful for my huge heating bill because it means I keep warm.

I'm glad of the many e-mails because it means I have friends who keep in touch.

I'm thankful that the taxes I pay mean I am still blessed to be employed.

I thank the person behind me in church who sings off key because it means I can hear.

I'm thankful when the alarm goes off in the morning because it means I am still alive.

"Be anxious for nothing,
but in everything by
prayer and supplication,

with thanksgiving,

let your requests be
made known to God"
Philippians 4:6.

Graemme Marshall

July 28, 2008 e-mail

Today @ This is the way...

Greetings,

Make a matchless match.

Marriage: Choose Wisely

Not long ago, parents were much more involved in choosing a mate for their children.

Today most say they marry for "love," but it seems few understand how to be happy.

"Marry above thy match, and thou'lt get a master," someone wrote.

Marriage is built on respect (1 Peter 3:1-8). There must be something to respect and honour. A marriage that has huge differences in the "match" also has huge possibilities for troubles. An unhappy person in a marriage will become more unhappy with time. Choose wisely. *Clyde and Dee Kilough*

Further Reading:

Dating Dos and Don'ts from our booklet **Marriage & Family**.

Here are subject headings from the article available from our UCG website for the *Good News* magazine and booklets link.

Preparation for marriage

Modern standards of dating

Paying the price for passion

Bad decisions not limited to teens

History repeats itself

Dating for sociability

Dating for marriage

Physical contact before marriage

How to decide

Planning for sexual happiness

UNC

CALGARY LEADERSHIP WEEKEND PICTURES



Above, Rainer Salomaa, Calgary Pastor, gives some announcements during the Leadership meetings. Middle photo is Graemme Marshall presenting the Biblical Role of Husbands and Wives. At far right Anthony Wasilkoff and Rosemary Moore cut an anniversary cake to celebrate the beginning of Calgary UCG.

Below is the start of Sabbath services with the songleader and brass ensemble for the hymns. The sermonette time featured the Canadian Work's video presentation at the General Conference in Cincinnati. Pictured are the Toronto office staff.

Richard Pinelli gave the sermon which was a stirring message highlighting the need for correct attitudes, as reflected through Cain, Job and Jonah.



OTTAWA AND MONTREAL FAMILY CHRISTIAN CLUBS

During July and August summer months Family Christian Clubs were enjoyed in both Ottawa and Montreal. Table Topics, speakers and slide presentations were enjoyed. Below are some pictures from one occasion in Ottawa, July 26.



Above left, twelve-year old Heidi Lacroix, spoke on the Biblical lessons of being branches and vines.

At right, Barbara Plummer of Pembroke, spoke on the Lessons from Noah's Flood.

Below John Graziano is pictured as Toastmaster with the role of introducing the speakers for the afternoon.

Far right pictures Isabel Nicol during her slide presentation on the Miracles of Plants and Flowers.





Manny pictured at Niagara Falls, Ontario

MANUEL SAN JOSE

TRIBUTE

Manuel San José, a member of the UCG Toronto Congregation, passed away on June 7, 2008. He was 73. He was baptized in 2001 and observed his first Passover that year. He had kept all the feasts of God for seven years from 2001 to 2007. He kept his last Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread this year. He died on the Sabbath day just before Pentecost. He is survived by his wife Cleo San José, two daughters, four stepchildren, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Manny, or Lolo Manny as he was often called, was a very likeable and service-oriented man. He was an inspiration to his family because of his cheerful and positive attitude. He did not complain even throughout his illness. He was a terrific cook, very neat and organized. He was a man of few words but willing to help in any way he could at church for the set-up of the information table, the stage and the putting away of hymnals after services. He provided a good example to the young people in church.

Manuel had tried many different kinds of religions and beliefs; both large and small denominations. One by one, these different beliefs left him confused and

disillusioned, sometimes to the point of almost giving up on any organized form of worship altogether. He became weary and skeptical because there were many things he observed that were not according to what he thought was the right way of life, especially for people who profess to believe in God. It may have been a combination of what he saw as superstitions, traditions of men, false doctrine and wrong practice, but he continued to seek for the true God and for absolute truth.

He was a prayerful man, kind, gentle and generous. He showed by example that it is possible to get along with people and where he fell short, he fully realized his mistakes, picked himself up and tried to do better. He showed through living a full life with his family around him and with his belief in God that we should all be thankful for each day that God gives us. He understood that we do not have any guarantees of another new day; that we are here at the mercy and graciousness of God. He was a punctual person and would usually be at Church one hour before services. He said *“Why would God wait for me?”* referring to being early and ready to worship God. He loved reading his Bible and learning

the deep truths from God.

Manny understood that without the true God, all of us here have no real hope for a real future. By understanding the plan of God for all mankind, he was able to live his life in faith and in hope for all his loved ones, those who are in the church and those who are not, knowing the goodness and graciousness of God. His life was a true success because he learned to discern the true values: love towards God and love towards fellow man. He asked God for forgiveness and he forgave others; he was at peace with God and all men, having a clear conscience towards all. He died in the faith and I for one am proud of him and say that he has done well, as I trust God will say to him in that day, *“Well done! good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.”*

Rio Guzman, stepson,

Toronto

LETHBRIDGE MEMBERS LEARN FOLK ART

On May 25, 2008 a painting class was held at the MacPherson home for the Lethbridge brethren. Helen Orsted of Weyburn, Saskatchewan came to instruct us in the methods of folk art. She taught us how to paint a winter scene on a board as a welcome sign for the front door of our homes. A total of seven brethren attended and the neighbor joined in also.

A rather serious and deliberate experience it was. Quite enjoyable once you learn to relax. Relaxing your wrist and your will takes some practice and comes easier to some than others. Although it took a good measure of concentration, we did have a great time and look forward to another class after the Feast.

I think I now know why some great painters sip a glass of wine while they paint. I am not used to relaxing my will in what I put my hand to! A stiff wrist along with a strong will make it tough to be happy with your handiwork. I wonder if GOD the potter looks at His work (us) this way?

Overall it was very rewarding. The brethren who took part were: Maureen DeLong, Amber DeLong, Robert Teetaert, Esther Campbell-Mcleod, Beverly MacPherson, Keegan MacPherson and Kurt MacPherson. Pictured is little Keegan MacPherson with a sample of painting. Receiving instruction are Helen, Amber, Maureen and Robert.

Kurt MacPherson



MANITOBA SOCIAL HAPPENINGS



Above are pictured Dave Hofer, Dave Johnson, Mike Hoffer, Bruce Anderson, and Maurice Drewniak. At the right the ladies are Joyce Mayer, Sarah Hofer and Margaret McLaren.

Below at left is Ian and Debbie Simons. At the right are Christine and Curt Drewniak.



On the Sabbath evening of July 12, twenty two brethren and visitors from the Winnipeg Church had a barbecue at the house of Maurice and Josie Drewniak in Steinbach. Even the rain, which poured down at times, couldn't spoil the good food and excellent fellowship. Their garage turned into a "banquet hall" and even the chef, Maurice Drewniak, managed to stay dry while barbecuing the meat. Special guests for the event were Curt and Christine Drewniak who came all the way from Wallingford, Connecticut.

One week later, on the Sabbath of July 19, twenty six people gathered at the home of Ian and Mariana Simons in Killarney for a service and a pot-luck meal later in the afternoon. The "traveling duo" as Mr. Bruce Anderson, an elder from Minnesota, and Mr. Ralph Mayer, a deacon from Minnesota are fondly called, were here to give the sermon and sermonette respectively. We were blessed with a cool summer's day and of course lots of food and good fellowship.

Mariana Simons



Reflections

As I reflect upon the past decade of continued growth within Canada, I am deeply encouraged by what has been accomplished. We have come a long way in ten short years.

When we attended the first United Feast site in western Canada in 1995 in majestic Whistler, B.C., those of us who were there were greatly rejoicing in having a spiritual home where we would once again hear the Truth proclaimed. We rejoiced in once again having a viable church. We rejoiced as we received the premiere edition of the *Good News* magazine printed anew by our organization. At that time we looked back on the mistakes of the past and determined to avoid repeating them. We were all religiously alert and anxious to grow spiritually. Our counterparts attending the feast in Hull, Quebec were similarly filled with hope and appreciation.

At that time, my thinking was that all our woes were behind us – a rather naive approach, I must admit. We adopted a form of church governance where it would be nearly impossible for any one man or a handful of individuals to hi-jack the church doctrinally ever again. Since then it has become clear that there will always be inter-personal conflicts – reminding us that the human condition will be ever with us in this age. It has become clear that it takes deeply converted people to make a system of governance succeed, no matter what it may be. Furthermore, the adversary will always be trying to undermine, infiltrate and hurt the church and each of us as individuals. So, the question comes down to, how much have we grown during this intervening time – individually and as a church?

When Clyde Kilough was selected to be President of UCG, he delivered a moving sermon to motivate us. He mentioned then and subsequently that the motivation and excitement for the work must come from within. He explained that this cannot be like a shot of caffeine from drinking a cup of coffee. In this world, it is easy to pick up on negativity and begin looking for the “bad” in our family members, other church members and the Church itself. In recent

travels, my wife and I have heard comments from various people both in the U.S. and in Canada that the church isn’t really growing. The feeling is that even though there are new people coming into the church, the numbers are being offset by those leaving and dying!

To see the physical growth over the past decade is fairly easy by taking a good look at some hard statistics. In 1998 the average Sabbath service attendance in Canada was 404, and the highest number attending in any week was 464. Thus far this year, we are averaging 556 and our highest attendance was 642. While we would wish to have larger congregations in more areas, the slow but steady growth is easier for us to plan for and to handle. In light of this we can think of how the people wept during the construction of the replacement temple. The book of Ezra describes how those who remembered the previous temple knew that the one under construction was a far cry from what once was. And yet subsequently Jesus Christ Himself entered and visited the new ‘inferior’ temple during his momentous first coming to this earth.

When United conducted its first official meeting to set up the church board in January 1996, there were a total of eight ministers for the whole country – five pastors and three non-salaried elders. Today, we have a total of twenty-four ministers (eighteen lay ministers and six pastors) serving the church. Furthermore we are in the process of training more leaders to help with the expanding workload.

We have so much to be grateful for. We have so much to be enthusiastic about. Those of us in the office have the on-going opportunity to read letters and notes from our subscribers who are so very thankful and excited about what they are learning through our publications. Some telephone the office to request additional booklets and express their appreciation for what they are learning and how it is changing their lives. It brings home to us how very precious the knowledge we’ve been given continues to be as brand new people are called and ‘first love’ bursts into flame.

How do we measure all this growth

spiritually? That is more difficult and perhaps it can only be done by each individual on a personal level looking at prayer, Bible Study, how faithful we are in tithes and offerings (including festival), Sabbath attendance and how much our hearts are in the work.

All members are a crucial part of the work – not only because of financial support, but because of the power of example to family and community. Many of you have been involved in various programs to promote the gospel message. All members are “Ambassadors” for the church in that our actions and deeds will reflect back on the church. We are Ambassadors when prospective members attend and see a warm, caring group of individuals who are actively living what they are professing. New people will be affected positively or negatively by our actions as a group. Each of us has a part to play in what happens in the life of a new attendee.

Thank you for your part in the growth and development that has taken place in UCG-Canada over the past decade.

Anthony Wasilkoff

Director of Operations-UCG Canada

