



# United News Canada

News of the United Church of God - Canada

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Montreal, Quebec UCG members presented special music from the French Hymnal for an annual Good News subscriber Sabbath. Both Francophone and Anglophone members brushed up on their language skills for the presentation. From left: Marianne Connell at the piano, Sharon Descoteaux, Christian Caron, Achille Vitale, Beve Hebert, and Jon Curtis from Saranac Lake, NY.

Below is dentist Greg Swartz from the US who assists UCG brethren and other dental patients in Rwanda. He is pictured with a 'smiling' patient. This was part of the slide presentation on the French Work in Africa presented by Joel Meeker. See page 8 for the Montreal special Sabbath report.





google images.com



## AN IMPORTANT JOB

This is a story about four people named *Everybody*, *Somebody*, *Anybody* and *Nobody*.

There was an important job to be done and *Everybody* was sure that *Somebody* would do it. *Anybody* could have done it, but *Nobody* did it. *Somebody* got angry about that, because it was *Everybody's* job. *Everybody* thought *Anybody* could do it, but *Nobody* realised that *Everybody* wouldn't do it. It ended up that *Everybody* blamed *Somebody* when *Nobody* did what *Anybody* could have.

**The Festival of Tabernacles provides a special opportunity among many others to let our Christian lights shine - by helping, serving, going above and beyond.**

*"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under the grain-measure, but on a lampstand. And it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven."*

(Matthew 5:14-16 MKJV)

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## SASKATOON FESTIVAL ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

**Location of services:** Sandman Inn, 310 Circle Dr. W. - Saskatoon, Sask.

**Games Day:** We will have a cribbage tournament as well as games for all. Those who have a special game, please bring it along. Also please bring cribbage boards and cards. We will meet at the Sandman Royal Room after lunch.

**Western Cultural Museum:** Those who wish may join in a visit to the museum.

A tour and lunch costs \$13.80 and admission only is \$8.50. It is not a guided tour and there is a discount for seniors and children. With 12 or more we can get a group rate. There will be sign-up sheets on the information table.

**Bowling** – This will be a fun night – no competition, just fun. Those who do not wish to bowl are welcome to come and

watch and cheer. The lanes are nearby and we are planning a group dinner afterwards. Details at the info table.

**River Walk – downtown:** Saskatoon has a wonderful river walk path along the Saskatchewan River. There is a Greek restaurant downtown. Those who decide not to make the walk are welcome to join us for dinner. Rides will be provided for those who do not have transportation,

**Red Barn** – Just outside the city on the south end is a delightful locale called the Red Barn. It is a café with a unique gift shop. There is an area to view a marsh for birds and critters. Sign up at the information table to reserve a spot for a light lunch and pleasant afternoon.

**On the Last Great Day** - we hope everyone will join us in a farewell luncheon between the services at the Sandman. All of our activities are offered for those who wish to join us. Bring a good attitude and expect to meet and make friends.



Photo courtesy of Darlene Buck - SK

The hotel has a 24hr. on-site restaurant, an indoor swimming pool, a fitness room, and is less than 2 km from the airport.

If you would like more information about the hotel, they do have a website.

## KELOWNA FESTIVAL ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

**Location of Services:** Kelowna Community Theatre,  
1375 Water Street, Kelowna.

**Young Adults Activity:** Sunday afternoon at 2:00  
p.m. through 5:00 p.m.

**Teen Activity:** Monday evening at 5:00 p.m. through  
8:00 p.m.

**Family Day:** Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

**Family Dance:** Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m.

**Seniors' Luncheon:** Thursday afternoon at 1:30  
p.m.

**Youth Day:** Friday service.

**Food Bank Collection:** Friday service.

**Ministerial Dinner:** Friday evening at 6:30 p.m.

**Last Great Day Services:** 10:30 a.m & 2:30 p.m.

Entrance to the very fine auditorium for the Kelowna Feast is pictured below.

*Photo courtesy of Rainer Salomaa*



## MIDLAND FESTIVAL ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

### Location of Services:

Best Western Highland Inn & Conference Centre, 924 King Street, Midland, Ontario. (Corner of Hwy 12 & King Street )

**Planned activities** include the following:

- **Meet and Greet Evening** with finger food and time to renew old acquaintances and meet some new friends from many congregations. Saturday evening 6:00 p.m.
- **Scenic Luncheon Cruise** on picturesque Georgian Bay aboard the Georgian Queen. A great place to relax and see beautiful sights  
– Monday afternoon 2:00 p.m.

- A delicious **Seniors' Brunch** on site with a seasoned guest speaker for this special occasion  
– Tuesday morning 11:00 a.m.
- **A Family Day** at the Elmvalle Zoo for all ages  
– Wednesday 1:30 p.m.
- **Teen and Young adults Bible study** – Monday evening 7:30 p.m.
- **Bible Study** and Hymn Sing – Tuesday evening 7:30 p.m.
- **Variety Show**  
– Thursday evening 7:30 p.m.

- **Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre** – Thursday afternoon 2:00 p.m.
- **Last Great Day Buffet luncheon** – 12:00.

Tickets for the various activities will be sold at the business office except for the Meet and Greet evening. A collection will be taken up at the door.

- **Choir and Music:** Anyone interested in joining the Midland Festival choir or possibly providing vocal or instrumental music is asked to contact Kevin Ford at [kevin\\_ford@ucg.ca](mailto:kevin_ford@ucg.ca)



Best Western pool and Atrium area.

## ST. JOHN'S, NL FESTIVAL ACTIVITY SCHEDULE.

**Location of Services:** The Capital Hotel, 208 Kenmount Road; St. John's, Newfoundland.

**Welcome Evening:** On Saturday, October 3 there will be a Meet and Greet Mixer to be held at a surprise location in beautiful St. John's. There will be lots of finger food and favorite drinks. It will be a great time to renew old acquaintances and meet some new friends.

**Family Day:** Family Fun Day will be held on Tuesday October 6. Again this year we are having our Feast Family Day at Lavrock Centre. The Lavrock Centre is located about 45 kilometers from St. John's. We will be served lunch

at about 1:30 p.m. After lunch there will be opportunities to enjoy the outdoors with walking, canoeing, and a sing-along around the open fire. We will enjoy a traditional Newfoundland dinner, followed by a dance with a live one-man band. There will be lots of refreshments and door prizes. The cost is \$40.00 per person, taxes and gratuity included. You will not want to miss this wonderful day of fellowship and fun and food.

**Seniors' Brunch:** A scrumptious brunch will be held at The Capital Hotel on Wednesday October 7 at 11am. One of our elders will be our guest speaker. The cost is \$25.00 per person, taxes and gratuity included.

Tickets for the various activities will be sold at the business office. The Meet and Greet mixer evening will be the exception where a collection will be taken up at the door.

**Variety Show:** Please make plans to participate in our fun show on Thursday October 8

**Choir and Music:** anyone interested in joining the St. John's choir or doing vocal or instrumental music is asked to please contact Garry Lucas at [glucas@rogers.com](mailto:glucas@rogers.com)

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## ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND BAPTISM



In the evening of August 20 we baptized Philip Tobin in a pond just a short distance from our house. It was a beautiful evening for it. Philip was very excited, and we were too. It's a joy to find someone with a zeal to do God's will like he has. David Smith, NL elder is pictured on the left with Philip on the right.

David Smith – St. John's, NL



## MONTREAL FRENCH LECTURE AND OVERVIEW OF UCG FRENCH WORK



The pictures were taken from the slide presentation of the French language work in Africa. Above right is Joel Meeker during the morning French language sermon. His sermon considered the end time scenarios of Matthew 24 along with several recent French language books that alert the public to current dangers for our planet.



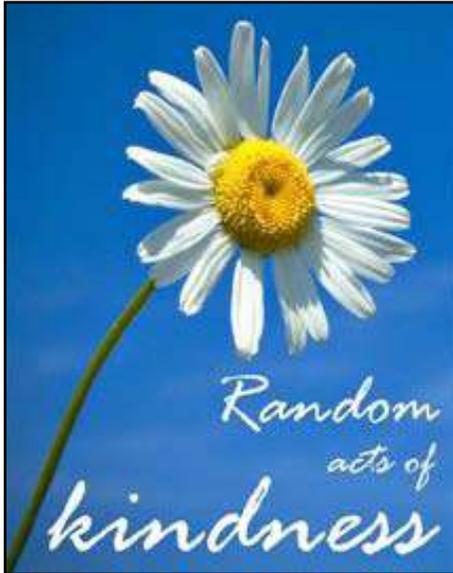
Senior Pastor for the French language work of the *United Church of God*, Mr. Joel Meeker, was in Montreal for a special Sabbath for Good News subscribers and church members. Forty-five people were in attendance with five visitors.

The all day meeting began at 11:00 am with a service in French. Mrs. Marjolaine Meeker kindly provided translation into English for the Anglophones in the audience. An excellent luncheon was provided for everyone at noon.

The afternoon service was a slide power-point presentation featuring African members of the French language work. Church members deeply appreciated being made aware of the difficult living conditions endured by those in Africa.

In a question and answer period about conditions members face in Africa, some visiting US members commented they felt this slide presentation would be of great value to be shown throughout US churches. Mr. Meeker responded that he tries to go and do this when it is requested, or when he is invited. Mr. Meeker comes to Montreal as an ongoing invitation to conduct public lectures in the French language, as well as showing UCG's work in Africa in English. He will visit again in 2010.

*gm photos*



**RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS IDEAS!  
for during the Feast!**

Lend a Hand to Parents With Children: Offer to baby sit. Deliver a meal for the entire family. Let their children spend the day with you.

Reach Out to Those on Their Own: seniors, ill or incapacitated.

Be Generous to Someone: Give a gift. Spark their curiosity by being anonymous.

Express Kindness to the Sick: Leave a stuffed animal for a child.

Reach Out to Far Away Lands: Phone with long distance kindness.

Be Kind Towards the Environment: Clean up trash when you see it.

Show Gratitude: Appreciate someone who has done something kind for you. Send a 'Thank You' card.

Appreciate a Community Worker: Say thanks to a bus driver, shop assistant, or your room cleaner.

Do Something Kind for those closest to you. Give compliments for no reason.

Lend An Ear: Sometimes kindness is as simple as listening. Lend an ear to someone who wants to talk to you.

Surprise Your Family with an act of kindness. Send flowers. Never underestimate the power of books to expand minds. Give an inspiring book to a friend in need.

Volunteer Service: This often provides a good opportunity to be exposed to others from whom you can learn.

Remember Small Things: If it is raining, share your umbrella with someone who

doesn't have one.

Express positive words to others. Restrain from saying anything negative to anyone for Festival week.

Feast New Year Resolutions: Make a fresh start with personal resolves to do better.

Give of Yourself: It is more blessed to give than receive, so happily do something for someone else.

Smile More: Smile at a stranger. Smile at yourself in the mirror. Smile as you go out to the world.

Graemme Marshall - Ottawa

*google image.com*

## THE SHEEP - and - THE GOATS

Have you ever wondered what Jesus Christ will say to you when you meet Him for the very first time? All kinds of possibilities may occur to you, based on different scriptures. Some, remembering the parables of the talents and the pounds, may think it likely that the King of kings will simply make a brief reference to their new duties in the Kingdom of God. Others may hope to receive also a commendation of the order of: *“Well done, good and faithful servant”*.

Some may think it unlikely that they would be addressed personally, but would probably be included as part of a large assembled group of newly-resurrected saints.

Have you ever considered a somewhat different possibility, based on the well-known parable of ‘The Sheep and the Goats’?

In this account, found in Matthew 25, we read of a separation of humanity that is to take place, with some, called the “sheep”, to be placed on Jesus Christ’s right hand, and the others, the “goats”, on his left. The separation, it should be noted, is decided not by ethnic origin, or by the extent of their Bible knowledge, or by any number of other criteria that might be considered important by some, but to the degree they have practiced basic human love and kindness in their lives. But what is also noteworthy are the words that Christ addresses to these groups.

To the righteous, the ‘sheep’, Christ says: *“Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in.....”* (verses 34-35). A conversation then follows, with the righteous, astonished by His words, responding with embarrassment that they had never performed such acts of kindness for their Saviour.

Let’s return to the question we asked at the beginning. Is it conceivable, based on what we have just read, that Christ might actually say something like this to you?

“Thank you for all the times you phoned me when I was lonely and depressed”; or “Thank you for going out of your way every Sabbath to give me a ride to church”; or “Thank you for the hot meals you

brought round to me that time I was discharged from hospital”; or

“Thank you for the many times you went down on those arthritic knees to wash my feet at the Passover”; or even, with a twinkle in His eye,

“Thank you for that time when I lost my temper and said those cruel things, and afterwards, when I came to apologize, you didn’t even wait for me to finish, but just reached out and hugged me”.

Just imagine it ! And like the individuals in the parable, wouldn’t you, too, mumble in embarrassment, “But Lord, you know I never actually did any of those things for you”. And Jesus Christ will likely respond, “Yes, of course I realize that! But you did them for many of your brothers and sisters in the church, and whatever you did for them I took VERY, VERY PERSONALLY!”

There is nothing here that we really don’t know already, but it’s vitally important that we learn and never forget the lesson of this parable, because it can transform the way we think of our brethren. It has been observed that we Christians have been brought together in a rather curious way. If it were not for our calling, it is unlikely that we would ever have come to know the other members of our local congregation. But now we do know them, they are our brothers and sisters, and they are much more than that, because each one in a very real sense is a physical manifestation of Jesus Christ in our lives. And if we do not treat them as we should, He will not simply come to us and say, “Why have you treated them this way?” He will say: **“WHY DID YOU TREAT ME THIS WAY?”**

Some fifteen years ago, I heard a minister relate an incident that had taken place in a congregation of God’s Church in the U.S.

A young man was called into the truth and began attending this congregation. Now, he suffered from acute shyness, not just in the usual sense, but to a pathological degree that made it almost impossible for him to talk to anyone. Because of this, he would arrive just as the service was due to begin and take a seat at the back. After the service concluded, he could have left immediately, but he really did want to be with God’s people, so he stood at the back of the hall

by himself, still unable to approach people. Sometimes someone would attempt a conversation with him, but mostly he was ignored. After a few weeks the pastor came to him and asked him to stop coming to church because he was “making people feel uncomfortable”. Perhaps we can imagine the terrible question that might be asked by Jesus Christ on the day when He separates the Sheep from the Goats.

Lev Tolstoy, the celebrated Russian author, once wrote a short story of some fourteen pages entitled “Where Love Is, God Is”. In this story, a poor cobbler called Martin Avdéch hears a voice one night that he understands to be the voice of Christ, telling him that his Saviour will visit him next day. Martin is excited, and next morning he carefully prepares his little basement dwelling for this momentous occasion and watches from the window. A figure standing with his back to the window causes him momentary excitement, but it turns out to be only old Stepánich, a neighbour employed to clear snow off the streets. He notices, though, that Stepánich looks cold and exhausted, so he brings him in to warm up and have some tea. Then, a little later, he sees a woman with a baby outside his window. He invites her in and learns that her husband, a soldier, has been sent to the front, and because she has no money for food, she cannot produce milk for her baby. Martin gives her food, and a spare coat. Still later, a woman selling fruit has an apple stolen by a hungry boy. She seizes the boy, and wants to take him to the police to be punished, but Martin intervenes and tells her that he will pay for the apple. He asks the boy to apologize and the woman to forgive him. Finally they leave together, the boy offering to help the woman carry her heavy sack.

That night, as he prepares to light his lamp, he realizes that his Saviour has still not come as promised, but then he seems to see figures in a dark corner of his room, and a voice whispers in his ear, “Martin, Martin, don’t you know me?”. “Who is it?”, he asks. Then old Stepánich appears, says “It is I”, smiles and disappears. Then the soldier’s wife and her baby appear, she smiles and the baby laughs, and they both vanish. Finally the woman and the boy, and they too smile and vanish. Martin then

## Sheep and Goats

notices that his Bible, instead of opening to the last page he had been reading, is open at a different place, and at the top of the page he reads: "*I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in*".

And at the bottom of the page, he reads: "*Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me*".

Tolstoy then concludes his story with the words: "And Martin understood that his dream had come true, and that the Saviour had really come to him that day, *and he had welcomed Him!*"

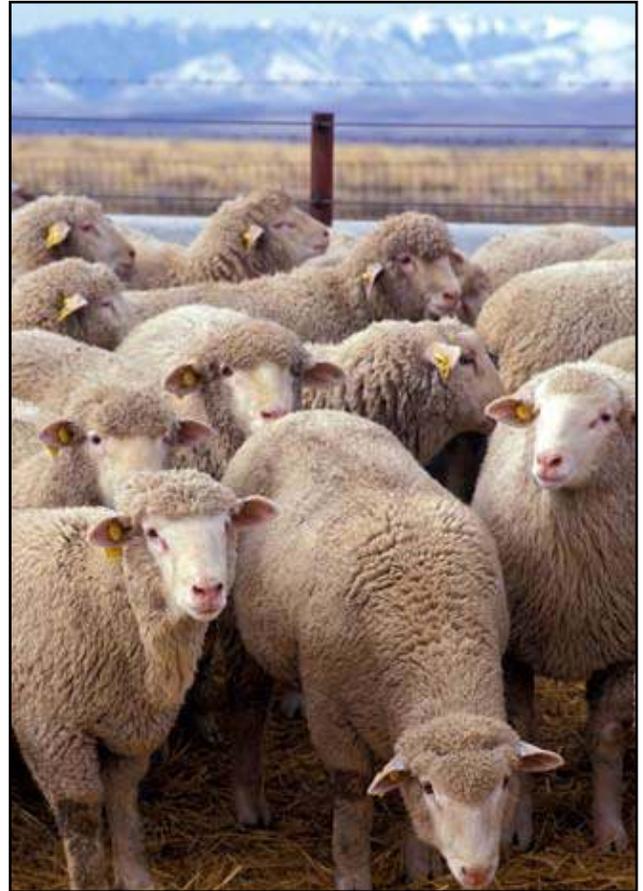
Kevin Ford

Toronto

**SHEEP:** Greek *probaton* - metaphorically of those who belong to the Lord; those under the care of the Good Shepherd; true followers of Christ in general.

**GOATS:** Greek *eriphos* - suggests the contempt which those so described bring upon themselves by their refusal to assist the needy.

Vines Dictionary of the Bible



## CHALLENGES for the BOOMER and MILLENNIAL GENERATIONS

### Part One

Reginald Bibby's latest survey, *Project Teen Canada*, had the largest number of participants of any of the eleven surveys he has conducted over thirty-three years of tracking adult and young people trends. This survey encompassed 5,564 teenagers, including more than 818 young people who attend Aboriginal schools. His 2009 book is entitled, *The EMERGING MILLENNIALS: HOW CANADA'S NEWEST GENERATION IS RESPONDING TO CHANGE & CHOICE*. His insights provide a valuable resource to help understand the unique challenges facing youth coming into in God's Church today. (Reginald W. Bibby Ph.D. holds the Board of Governor Research Chair in Sociology at the University of Lethbridge. For the past three decades he has been monitoring social trends in Canada. In 2006, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the nation, the Governor General appointed him an *Officer of the Order of Canada*).

Bibby links the Boomers (born between 1946 and 1965) as setting the stage for much of today's influences upon our emerging young people. He explains that it was Baby Boomer founders of *Microsoft*, Bill Gates (b.1955) and Paul Allen (b.1953) that led the way in providing the millennial generation with endless communication and information possibilities. Boomers have played significant roles in Bell Canada, Shaw Communications, along with Research in Motion, creator of the BlackBerry (Jim Balsillie and Mike Lazaridis both b.1961). This provided the foundation for the Post-Boomers such as *Yahoo* co-founders Jerry Yang (b.1968) and David Filo (b.1966), *Google's* Lawrence Page (b.1973) and Sergey Brin (b.1973), and *Facebook's* Mark Zuckerberg (b.1984). And so the world of today with laptops, cell phones, iPods, Skype, YouTube, and Twitter.

Several chapters in his book provide excellent insight into the generational struggle young Church members contend with in having grown up under this cultural influence. For example:

*Everything's Relative* – So what do teens value?

*Friendship Is Everything* – So how is it being experienced?

*Life Is Sometimes Difficult* – So what troubles teens most?

*There's Never Been So Much Information* – So what are they doing with it all?

The following is how Reginald Bibby states the challenge: *Never in our 150-year-old history have we had an emerging generation that has been exposed to such an explosion of change and choice. We really don't know what to expect; we really don't know how they will "turn out."*

The following highlights from his book (in his own words) are presented here in the hope of strengthening the young generation of God's Church as they strive for the Mind of God over an increasingly confused society.

*Everything's Relative* – So what do teens value?

*"I have no idea what's good or bad anymore."* – Kelly Hrudehy, Hockey Night in Canada, CBC November 17, 2007.

Kelly Hrudehy's comment on trash-talking in hockey sums up a prevailing view of behavior in Canada. As recently as the 1950's and 60's, Canadians frequently could be heard to say things like, "But that isn't right" or "That's wrong." Today those kinds of phrases sound extremely foreign. Who thinks in terms of 'right and wrong' or 'good and bad' anymore?

The pervasive extension of *pluralism* into all sectors of Canadian life has been made possible by an unspoken, yet widely assumed decree: "Everything's relative." The acceptance of the concept of relativism is what makes pluralism possible in practice. If it is written in the stars that some things are 'right' and other things are 'wrong,' diversity is in trouble. However, if there is no 'right' culture or lifestyle or family form or religion or morality, then there is no need for a society to advocate one possibility over another. If everything is understood to be relative, to be a matter of personal choice or preference, then the way that a society achieves harmony is by ensuring that diverse people with diverse inclinations are accommodated. So it is that *pluralism* and *relativism* have come to characterize life in Canada.

Growing up in such a social environment, the majority of today's emerging millennial generation – like previous Canadian teenagers who grew up in the 1970s, 80s, 90s – are inclined to see things in relativistic terms. Some 7 in 10 explicitly endorse the common two-word cliché that 'everything's relative' (females 70%, males 71%). No, it's not that most even know what the phrase means; what's telling is that many simply endorse it. In fact, in repeating it, many teenagers and adults exclaim, "Everything's relevant"! They can't even get the phrase right.....

Consistent with the endorsement of relativism, close to the same proportion of teens agree with the more specific statement: "What's right or wrong is a matter of personal opinion."

The dominant response for half of Canada's teenagers? *How they feel* at the time (43%) or a subjective, *personal decision* (7%). For around 20%, the views of *parents, friends, and others* are important. Only 10% say that *religion* is a primary basis for

their moral decisions....When rules are no longer seen as coming from the gods, why should anyone feel guilt? The answer? They don't.

Where the relativism comes in is not with respect to the value itself, but in how it is applied. In one situation one chooses to be honest; in another, one chooses to be dishonest. Clearly honesty is widely valued but selectively applied. English singer-songwriter Lily Allen perhaps speaks for many young people when she writes, "I don't know what's right and what's real anymore."

People are frequently anonymous, and with that anonymity comes a certain loss of accountability.

*Friendship Is Everything* – So how is it being experienced?

*"When I have a serious problem. I turn to my boyfriend, my best friend, or the internet."*

– a 17-year-old female who attends a rural school in Nova Scotia.

### The Supremacy of Friendship...and Freedom

The value teens place on friendships is matched only by the importance they give to *freedom*. Almost 9 in 10 say both are 'very important' to them. ...young people give premier value to having good relationships, while simultaneously wanting to have the freedom to live out life as they see fit.

Around 40% feel *television* and the *Internet* influence their lives – a level on a par with *God* and *luck*. Only 1 in 4 regards *advertising* as having a high level of influence on them. Clearly many observers would debate the rankings of such perception. What about the alleged impact on teenage lives of music and TV, and the celebrities and lifestyles associated with entertainment generally? Aren't they also underestimating the influence that reading and teachers have on their lives? What about the power that politicians and financial and business leaders have in controlling the larger social context in

which they live? Are they not aware of the mega-millions advertisers are spending on targeting them – trying to keep up when they are being told by researchers that the next five years will involve more changes in advertising than the previous fifty did? Surely the Internet has more influence on their lives than God, advertising a greater impact than luck.

Graemme Marshall - UNC

(Two more chapter reviews will be presented in the next issue.)



\* \* \*

A suggested personal Bible study for readers: Consider this statement in Bibby's survey:

*"When I have a serious problem. I turn to my boyfriend, my best friend, or the internet."*

- a 17-year-old female who attends a rural school in Nova Scotia.

Q - What would the Bible instruct about getting wise counsel?

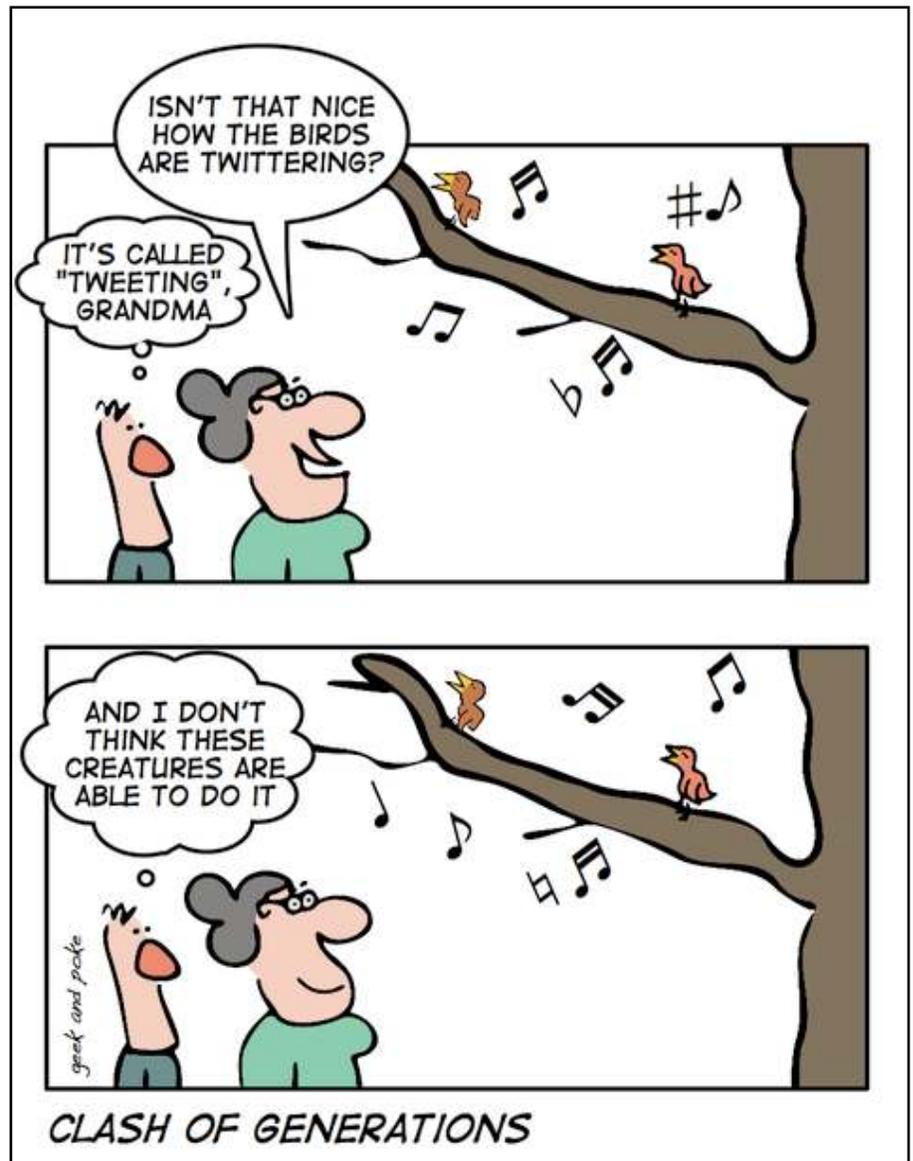
Q - Is there a cultural struggle in preferring unfiltered Internet sources over gaining the advice of experienced men and women of faith?

Suggested Scriptural references:  
Titus 2:3; 1 Peter 5:5; 2 Timothy 2:2, 24.

Here is an interesting example from past Church history:

Ambassador College students in their mid to late 20's who sat in classes in 1965 were taught by Mr. Herbert Armstrong who was then 72 years of age. He had by then 50 years of adult experience along with some 30 years of Biblical wisdom led by God's Holy Spirit.

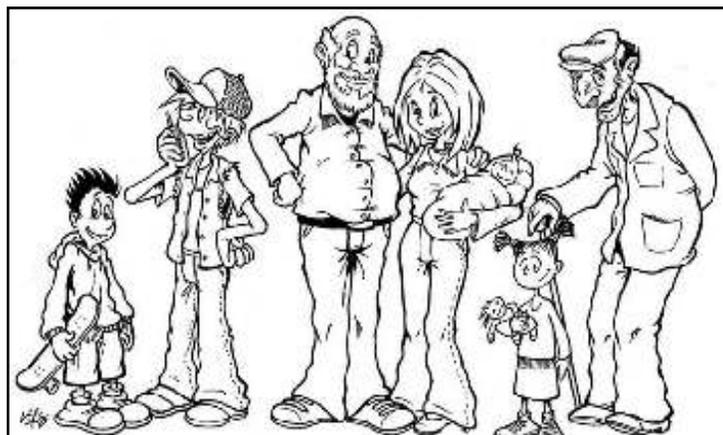
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Part one charts

<b>Table 2.1 What Teenagers Want:2008</b>			
% Viewing as "Very Important"			
		Males	Females
Nationally			
<b>Friendship</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Freedom</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>
Being loved	79	65	87
A comfortable life	75	75	76
Having choices	74	71	77
Getting a good education	73	67	79
Success in what you do	73	70	75
Family life	67	60	74
Excitement	64	65	62
What your parents think of you	48	43	54
Money	44	51	38
Your looks	40	40	40
Recognition	35	38	32
Spirituality	27	26	28
Your cultural group background	22	22	22
Being popular	16	21	11
Religious group involvement	13	14	13

<b>Table 2.5 Perceived Sources of Influence</b>		
% Seeing as Influencing their Lives		
'A Great Deal' or 'Quite a Bit'		
	2008	1984
The way you were brought up	92	85
Your own willpower	89	82
Your mother specifically	89	80
<b>Your friends(s)</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>73</b>
Your father specifically	82	73
The characteristics born with	76	60
Another adult(s) you respect	65	--
Music	64	--
What you read	49	--
Your teacher(s)	45	41
Television	41	34
God/some other supernatural force	40	36
Luck	39	21
The Internet	39	--
What people in power decide	36	39
Advertising	27	--



Illustrating the Generations

google image.com

## LEADERSHIP SABBATHS IN MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK.

On the Sabbaths of August 15th and 22nd, Pastor Graemme Marshall travelled from Ontario to conduct special Leadership topics for our two groups of Maritime members. As they are separated from the north and south, Moncton was a central location for the 23 who attended. Leadership Manuals from the ongoing Leadership Training Program were made available.

Mrs. Chantal Vautour, on the flute, presented an uplifting piece of special music. The meetings began at 11:00 am and concluded around 3:00 pm. A luncheon was enjoyed at the noon break. Due to budget constraints the Maritime members usually only receive two Pastoral visits a year and conduct local services with DVD's sent from the Toronto office. They receive regular updates from the Pastor in Chesterville, Ontario.



Pictured above is Rejean Simard song leading. At right is a photo of the assembled group. Below is Mr. Keith Freeze holding one of the Leadership Manuals.

The Acadian coast group meet regularly in the area of St. Louis de Kent and Richibucto on the northern coast. The group towards Saint John meet at a home in Nauwigewauk.

*gm photos*



## TIPS in writing for *United News-Canada* & COMMON REVIEW NEEDS

Every publication, from the simplest one-page bulletin to *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* has at least one thing in common – a need for editorial review - and our bi-monthly magazine *United News Canada* is no exception. To this end, every article submitted for the magazine is subject to a review process prior to being accepted for publication, and a further review *after* inclusion. What are the reviewers looking for?

The review process is much more than just proof-reading. The first consideration is whether the article is relevant for our magazine. *United News Canada* is targeted to a special readership, and the following questions need to be addressed:

- (1) Is the subject of interest to the UCG – Canada membership?
- (2) Is the article factually correct and doctrinally sound (where applicable)?
- (3) Is the article well organized and does it display good English style?

If these points are satisfactory, the reviewer will proof-read the article by correcting spelling, punctuation, and changing awkward phraseology where necessary. The changes are generally inserted as colour-coded additions to the text for consideration by the editor, Graemme Marshall, who can then compare the original to the suggested changes and make the final decision. There is always a temptation on the part of a reviewer or editor to “rewrite” an article according to his or her own taste and style, but we always try to resist this and allow the writer’s own unique writing style to shine through, making only those changes that are really necessary.

What editing changes may need to be made? These are too numerous to list fully, but may include adjectives used instead of adverbs (‘good’ for ‘well’), incorrect tenses (‘have taken’ for ‘had taken’), the more subtle kinds of spelling mistakes (‘it’s’ for ‘its’; ‘grand-children’ instead of ‘grandchildren’, or ‘every day’ instead of ‘everyday’), and the incorrect use of

lower-case and upper-case in words. It is also common for writers to use words that are close in meaning to, but not exactly what was intended in the particular context (definition/concept or grasp/determine). And even the humble comma (,) must be used with care. Its incorrect placing or omission can hamper comprehension, or even, as Veronica has noted in her article, actually change the meaning of a sentence.

However, none of this need discourage any of you from trying your hand at an article for UNC. You write the article, we’ll do our best to smooth out any difficulties, and if, after all our efforts, a few flaws still appear in the printed copy, you’ll know we’re still human!

Kevin Ford

Toronto Office Proofreader

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### DRAFT/WRITE/REVIEW - An Editor’s Guide to Proofreading.

TIPS from the Winter Weekend Writing Workshop.

Action verbs, homophones, and of course the facts. There’s so much more to proof reading than crossing your T’s and dotting your I’s.

Though everyone has their own system for proofreading, there are some general strategies that can be helpful to most writers.

Never proof read for every type of mistake at once. Go through your piece with a focus each time. Work in whichever order works for you, but don’t get distracted.

Here are some tips that I have learned as a journalist out in the field.

#### **Proof For Writing and Content**

- Lure your audience in with a snappy and informative title. Follow this by what journalists call the lead. The most common lead is a sentence that provides your reader with the basic angle of the story.

- Less is more! If there’s room to cut-do it. The easiest way to get your ideas across is with clear and simple sentences.

- Read through your article and make sure that it is written to excite your audience.

- Start where your readers are. Don’t assume they know more information than

you are providing them.

- Remember what you’re trying to say. Sometimes writers tend to stray and get sidetracked. Stay organized around your topic.

- Check the spelling of people’s names... over and over again. When I’m out at an interview I always ask for a business card. This way I have the spelling of their name and a contact number in case I need to follow up before my story is published. This bring me to...

-Check your facts! Make phone calls if you need to and always make sure you are using your quotes in the right context.

-Start a rhythm and you’ll keep their attention. As you become an experienced writer you will develop your own rhythm and flow that could develop a loyal readership.

#### **Proof For Grammar and Word Usage**

The easiest way to be successful in this step is to go word by word when checking spelling, and then sentence by sentence for punctuation.

- Beware of the little words. These are easy to overlook.

- Remember your homophones. To, two or too?

- Punctuation is key! A comma in the wrong place can change your sentence and angle completely.

- Action verbs + descriptive nouns= good grammar.

Remember K.I.S.S. = Keep it sweet and simple.

#### **Writing For The Church**

- Pray first.

- Make sure that the scriptural references that you choose to use are accurately quoted.

- Note the version if you’re not using the NKJV.

Remember that the goal in writing is for someone to read your work. Keep your audience in mind throughout the process. Consider the audience’s needs and wants, and then give it to them.

Veronica Delfino – Montreal, QC

(Veronica is Promotions Coordinator for *WatchMojo.com*).

## WINNIPEG MEMBER FOCUS

### FROM CHILE TO ISRAEL TO WINNIPEG, Manitoba

We have a member here in the Winnipeg Church that I really admire. Her native language is Spanish and she also speaks Hebrew but very little English. Her children previously attended the Worldwide Church of God with her and her husband. But when she and her husband began attending the *United Church of God* the children didn't follow them. She now attends alone (her husband died a few years ago).

She has to take two buses to and from church, and only sickness keeps her away from a service. Here is her story as she told it, in Spanish, to her one granddaughter, who then translated it into English. I have just changed the sentence construction and tenses a little bit.

Marianna Simons - Killarney, Manitoba.



HADASSA IKAR

“My parents lived in Temuco, a city in Chile. I was born after they moved to Santiago, the capital of Chile and I have a sister, Myriam, and three brothers: Israel, Yeuda and Tzvi. When I was 16 years-old I met Arie and we were married on January 25, 1950. We have four children: David, Tamara, Ester and Aharon. My father got cancer, but before his death he asked my mother to send the children to Israel. They all left for Tel Aviv but my husband and I, our children, my grandmother and mother stayed in Chile. My husband had a shoe factory and we owned some land and we felt we were in a very stable situation. It changed drastically in Chile when the military government came into power. There were lots of political and religious problems. At about this time a couple of my brothers came to visit us in Chile from Israel and they encouraged us to move to Israel to escape the problems in Chile. We traveled from the port of Valparaiso to Italy by boat and from there to Israel. It took us a month, but we stopped at different countries along the way and had the opportunity to see different places.

Our eldest son, David, was married in Chile. Our daughter Tamara was engaged in Chile to Gabriel and she wanted to stay behind in Chile with him but her dad refused and said that if they wanted to get married they had to move to Israel. Tamara moved with us to Israel but Gabriel moved to Canada. He was in Winnipeg, Canada, for four years before he traveled to Israel to be with her. They wanted to get married in Israel but according to the Israeli law they couldn't get married there and they left for Winnipeg.

During our time in Israel my mother and grandmother both passed away. We were in Israel for eight years when our daughter, Tamara, invited us to join them in Winnipeg. Our son David and his family stayed behind in Israel. Our other daughter was married to a Canadian named David as well, and they have a son. Our other son Aharon lives in Calgary. Tamara and Gabriel now have two daughters.

While here in Winnipeg we subscribed to the Spanish *Plain Truth* magazine and our whole family was baptized and became members of the Worldwide Church of

God in 1987. We have had the opportunity to go to the Feast of Tabernacles in different countries. We later became Canadian citizens.

In January 2000, my husband and I celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and that same year my son David, his wife and five children all left Israel to live in Honduras because he didn't want his children to enlist in the Israeli army. We had the chance to go to the Feast of Tabernacles in Honduras and to spend some time with David and his family. Unfortunately during this trip my husband had a severe heart attack and passed away.

I speak Spanish at home and have sermons in Spanish to listen to. I like to knit and travel and still attend the Feast in Chile with my son and his family, and I also recently had the opportunity to visit my relatives who are still living in Israel.”

## BIRTHS



Hello everybody! We just wanted to let you know that we finally welcomed our beautiful Elijah on July 29th. He was 8 pounds 8 ounces and is 21 inches long.

Everything happened so quickly which made the birth all natural, no medication.

Elijah is a wonderful baby; practically sleeps through the night and eats really well.

And adding to our blessing is our Ezra who is a great big brother.

So far, he hasn't shown any jealousy and is always

kissing "baby Lijah" and helping Natasa with him.

Thank you everyone for your prayers and wishes and we hope we get to share him with you very soon.

The Bustillos - Montreal, QC

(Alex and Natasa).

*gm photo*



Hello everyone.

Not sure if you heard it yet or not, but we (Pat and JoAnne Read) are now the grandparents of a little angel called Edie Rangel. She was born Wednesday July 29th weighing in at 11 lb. 14 oz. and 22 and 1/2 inches long.

We were able to be there and spend the remainder of the week and weekend with them, returning home the next

Monday, a little sad but yet happy to have another little one added to the family.

Just thought that you would like to know.

Patrick Read - Listowel, Ontario.

## OBITUARY

The picture at the right is of LaVerne Petrisor who died July 19, 2009. LaVerne was baptized March 21/2001. He came for a while to the Worldwide Church of God but became serious when the *United Church of God* started here in Regina. He did not come to church very much the last couple of years due to poor health.

Lloyd and Helen Teetaert - Regina, SK

*In Loving Memory*



*LaVerne Petrisor  
1934 - 2009*

## 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Greetings from Vancouver, Washington USA. My name is David Hofer Jr. from the Portland OR congregation of UCG . My mom and dad are from the UCG Winnipeg congregation...Dave and Sarah Hofer. They celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on September 13/09.

*“Dave Hofer Jr., friends and family extend congratulations and best wishes to David and Sarah Hofer from*

*Winnipeg, Manitoba on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.*

*They were married on September 13, 1959 and have raised five children who live in Winnipeg Canada, Des Moines, Iowa and Portland Oregon.”*



## PENTECOST, CALGARY, Alberta

Lake Sundance, in south-east Calgary, provided a beautiful setting for the combined Churches of Calgary and Lethbridge to meet for Pentecost, May 31, 2009.

It was the celebration of when God established His New Testament Church and made available the gift of the Holy Spirit. Inspired messages, special music, fellowship and a delicious noon meal added to everyone's enjoyment.

Gail Wallace – Okotoks, Alberta

(Photos supplied by Gail Wallace)

Photos: At bottom left is Jennifer Poffenroth along with Guenter Brauer enjoying sunshine and fellowship. At right music director Jim Brandenburg leads the choir in special music.





# Reflections



David Palmer has been Chairman of the Media committee the past 10 years. David Pastors Vancouver, and Vancouver Island congregations.

He and his wife Ghyslaine live in Mission BC. They have four adult children and three grandchildren.

The media committee is comprised of Dennis Horlick, Anthony Wasilkoff, Graemme Marshall and Edwin van Pelt.

At left David is pictured in his office at home in Vancouver.

## MEDIA UCG-Canada

In the world of modern media almost all advertising is aimed at a ‘target audience’. Television, radio, internet, or print advertisers often select a specific age group and create ads that are designed to target that particular audience. When I worked in radio, we were labeled a contemporary music station. The station’s demographic showed that we rated higher among women than any other group. So, most of our advertising was targeted specifically at an older female audience. This method of media target selection has proven to be quite successful in the many facets of today’s media.

But what if the audience you target is *everybody!* When our UCG Canada media team considers an ad campaign for one or more of our publications, including the *Good News* magazine, we do not have the luxury of hiring an outside advertising agency to create ads for the specific target audience we want to attract. Instead we look at our ad campaigns from an overall audience perspective, regardless of whether our ad appeals to an older individual or a younger person, and we always remember it is God who ultimately leads individuals to understanding His marvelous truth (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Over the last ten years our media team has tested the marketplace with a variety of ad campaigns. Some worked well, others did not.

In our early efforts we began with newspaper advertising, which proved

to be rather unproductive. We tested the radio market with ad campaigns in smaller markets (the cost in large markets like Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary & Vancouver was prohibitive) and that didn’t work very well either. Yet at the same time, little by little the income grew, and we were finally able to afford an ad campaign in the widely read magazine *READERS DIGEST*. The first ad produced some of the best results we’d ever had. We soon recognized that God was opening new doors for the Canadian work.

We also recognized the need to choose an alternative publication, so for the next major campaign we chose a health magazine called *ALIVE*, also with good results. We then switched gears to test a new market. Ads were produced to run in coupon packets and the initial campaigns did very well.

At the same time we began running what is called a ‘keyword’ campaign on the internet. We provide a search engine like “Google” with a specific set of key words and when an individual is looking for a word like “prophecy” for example, our ad comes up, allowing them to go to our website for additional information, order booklets and receive a year’s subscription to our flagship publication *The Good News*.

This method of reaching a general audience, and especially a younger demographic, has proven to be very effective. The majority of requests for our National Office come through the internet.

But we saw the largest increase in responses and subscriptions when the door opened for the TV program, *Beyond*

*Today*, produced by the Home Office in Cincinnati. It is viewed on both the Vision television network coast to coast, and on the Christian Channel in selected areas, via satellite television.

Our first programs on Vision aired at the only available time of 2:00 a.m ET. Yet the response rate was strong for being on TV coast to coast, week after week. It gave us a presence in Canada we didn’t previously have. When an opportunity was presented for an improved time slot (10 p.m. ET-7 p.m.PT) Sunday evenings, although at a higher rate, we were certain the consistency of a TV presence each week would be well worth the additional cost. With God’s blessing we see a sharp increase in weekly responses for our publications. After three years on television the number of responses to the *Beyond Today* TV program has topped 8,000 and continues to climb.

When we consider the mission of UCG around the world, of preaching the Gospel and preparing a people, God has blessed His work in Canada. And we are privileged to have our small part in it.

David Palmer Vancouver