



# United News Canada

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Ottawa Winter Picnic had a 3-month-old lamb come to play! Josie (at right) and Jaden Morasse are pictured on a snow sled. There was a pot luck lunch, horse sleigh rides, and an attempt at ice fishing. See more pictures on page 12.

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EDMONTON 2010 Anniversary featured a children's cast for "Noah's Ark" along with costumes and hats. Above are Cody and Elsa Schafers wearing the hats. At right the children are from left: Ashley Davis, Naomi Lenkenhoff, Katyln Davis, and Susan and Natasha Davis. See article on page 10.





## CANADIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL NEW MEMBERS

At the Annual General Conference conducted in March two new men were added to the Canadian Council.

Mr. Garry Lucas, a UCG elder attending Toronto and living in Barrie, Ontario. Garry is retired and is an enthusiastic pianist for church services.

Mr. Ellsworth Stanley is from St. Johns, Newfoundland. He is a retired teacher who has spent challenging assignments at Sachs Harbour in the Arctic. He is pictured above in one of those local challenges - making an igloo.

## United News Canada

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## NATIONAL CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the National Conference was conducted by teleconference on March 7. The majority of Conference members were on-line for the meeting and all participated in the balloting.

The Director of Operations gave an address entitled “*Going Forward Even in Tough Times*” using Exodus 14 to show how, when God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, they had a great deal of adversity but were still able to go forward and cross the Red Sea. He rehearsed how the *World Tomorrow* was first broadcast in 1933 during the Great Depression. While the cost may seem small to us, the \$2.50 rate per week was a great deal for a small group of people to come up with during tough economic times. A portion of that amount was pledged by the brethren, but in the end, they had to go forward in faith trusting God to provide the rest – which He did, through the depths of the Great Depression. During our current recessionary times we are confident that God will open doors to preach the Gospel even more widely. The Israelites saw the great work that the Lord did for them. The work that God did through Mr. Armstrong reached many. As we plan for growth we must utilize the principle practiced by George Mueller: “pray and the money will come.” We must beseech our Heavenly Father to grant the income needed at this time and to bless the outgo – so that what He provides is used to good effect.

David Palmer and Dennis Horlick gave an update on our media efforts. The Home Office is in the process of improving the *Beyond Today* television program which likely is great news for us.

Anthony Wasilkoff gave an update for Ministerial Services. Average Sabbath and Holy Day attendance has increased at a steady rate since UCG began in Canada. He mentioned that the National Office has a copy of the Pastor’s Manual which will be “Canadianized” over the next few months. The target for distribution is next December when we hope to have a ministerial conference. He then read some encouraging excerpts from letters written recently by appreciative subscribers.

The Treasurer’s address was given by Edwin van Pelt who reviewed some statistics noting several records set during 2009 and then read last year’s auditor’s report.

The Chairman’s Address was entitled, “*Keep The Big Picture In Mind*”. He talked about two participants of the Winter Olympics who inspired him. One was Joannie Rochette, who won a bronze medal after performing during the grief-stricken days following her mother’s death. The other was Petra Majdic from Slovenia who had fallen during a warm-up and ended up competing with five broken ribs and a punctured lung. Petra kept going because she wanted to honor the people who sent her there. These two Olympic heroes did not get focused on their own personal problems but kept the big picture in mind – to represent their countries and to follow their own dreams. Mr. Salomaa referred to Ezekiel 24:15-18 and asked participants to imagine what it would be like to have a spouse die and then be told to continue working, not showing any grief. He said that the lesson seems to be that, in spite of traumas we go through, we need to keep the big picture in mind. It is easy to

become cloistered in a local congregation and get overly focused on petty issues, but we need to keep the big picture in mind.

The Secretary read the ballot results. The 2009 National Conference Minutes, Audit Report and appointment of auditors were approved. A Budget Resolution, the Strategic Plan, Operations Plan and Budget were approved. A Proposed Amendment to Bylaw 8.6.2 was approved. Three council members were selected to a three-year term starting April 1, 2010: Garry Lucas, Rainer Salomaa and Ellsworth Stanley.

At the end of the meeting, conference members were given time to ask questions and make comments. Shortly after the National Conference meeting concluded, the National Council met briefly, also by teleconference, and approved a procedure for selecting a chairman. The ballot results were announced by the Secretary via e-mail the next day. Rainer Salomaa had been selected for another three-year term to be chairman.

Linda Wasilkoff  
National Council Secretary

(Picture below shows the Council at work last November. At the far end of the table is Chairman Ray Salomaa with Council Secretary Linda Wasilkoff).



### LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP SESSION 3



In mid February 2010 the third round of the Leadership Workshop weekend was held at the National Office in Toronto. This workshop is derived from a program that began in 2001 as the Labor Day Leadership Workshop at the Home Office in Cincinnati. In July 2005, Mr. Kilough asked Richard Pinelli to oversee the Ministerial Development Program. A number of international areas asked Mr. Pinelli to conduct these classes for leadership development in their regions. The Home Office started with the Philippines and followed up with pastoral training in 10 U.S. regions on the topic of Find-Train-Ordain from which a 40 page document was developed. The Find-Train-Ordain leadership program was taken to Canada at that time as well. Later, the Labor Day leadership program was taken to Chile, England, South Africa, Australia, and Guatemala. The program finally came back to Canada with half the program each year in both Toronto and Calgary in 2008 and 2009. This year, sessions from the Home Office's six-week pastoral training classes were brought to Toronto. They were all recorded by video cam

for distribution to all pastors in Canada. Lyle Welty travelled as an added instructor in all the international areas and the Find-Train-Ordain classes in Canada. Then Greg Sargent similarly was asked to help out in Australia. Some of the local pastors were invited to help give material from these training classes wherever they reside internationally. This has resulted in a very good mix and the classes were also sent to other countries where the internationals were working. For instance, South Africa also helped in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. The material has also been offered to the senior pastors who care for Southeast Asia, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and Eastern Europe as they have need.

There were 24 leadership attendees in February on both the Sabbath and Sunday, along with four instructors and their wives. Both days were filled to the brim with consecutive sessions – 12 ½ hours of classes, not counting the church service. Most meals were catered by the local hostesses and shared by all attendees and instructors, thus providing additional time for discussion and dialogue. Each person/couple received a sizeable three-

ring binder chock full of handouts and power point material to facilitate note taking and help with concentration. After hours and hours of classes the mind tends to wander a bit at times!

Because of significantly higher costs in Calgary and because of the current recessionary times, a June session will not be held this year. To maintain the momentum of the program a complete set of DVDs and handouts will have been sent to each of the pastors so that they can host similar workshops in their respective areas. The intent is to provide all congregations in Canada with an opportunity for interested members to view all the sessions incrementally in group settings with the pastor moderating and providing ample opportunity for discussion and dialogue. We are looking forward to the return of Mr. Pinelli in November 2011 to conduct round four of this ongoing Leadership Workshop program.

Anthony Wasilkoff  
Director of Operations for Canada.

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All of the attendees were given exit surveys. Below are excerpts from the completed surveys that were received.

*"The speakers provided a variety of timely topics with more emphasis on the soft skills. With society ever changing, more is required in dealing with people, especially in sensitive areas."*

*"The information serves to help us to get to know ourselves better so that we can develop our character by finding and making improvements on our weaknesses and take advantage of our strengths and gifts to be of better service to others."*

*"This workshop provided material that will enable me to better understand myself and others in a way that, I hope, will be of benefit to the body of Christ. Especially helpful was the topic on talents, gifts and fruits. Extremely valuable for review, study and meditation."*

*"The sessions seemed to be designed to create interest, and the materials will allow for further study for those interested. My opinion is the tools were given to assist in knowing one's self and sanely estimating one's role in the church."*

*"Professionally thought out and presented. Statistics were good."*

*"Topics were very helpful in gaining insights on a lot of areas about ourselves and opened up some new knowledge on how best we can improve in our daily spiritual journey."*

*"Mr. Pinelli certainly was a major factor in this, keeping my attention, he has a very interesting and efficient way of speaking on important leadership principles. The use of personal life experiences also added to my understanding"*

*"The topics that were covered were all ones I found very helpful because many of them were ones that pertained to certain areas in my life that I would like to put more effort into; such as, time management skills, stress management skills, and dealing with your strengths and weaknesses."*

LEADERSHIP	<b>WORKSHOP WEEKEND, Toronto February 13-14, 2010</b> <i>Brief excerpts from two day, 12 hour presentations</i>
<b>Sabbath</b> 9:00 – 10:00	<p><b>Developing the Environment – Your Part</b> (Richard Pinelli).            To ‘know yourself’ is to know who and what you are. The Ephesians 4:12-15 objective is to become more Christ-like; to move from carnal to spiritual. How? Godly leadership in husbands and wives is the key. Leadership is where someone has invested in us, saw potential for growth, then trusted us with responsibility. Five qualities of leadership: Influence – potential leaders exert influence, often from childhood. Character – to use influence in a Christian way. People skills – sensitivity to others. Drive – comfortable in taking initiative. Intelligence – mental quickness, savvy, eager, curious mind.</p>
10:00 – 11:30	<p><b>Discovering &amp; Blending Your Natural Abilities with your Spiritual Gifts</b> (Richard Pinelli) .            You don’t live in your past. Have to come to a true assessment of yourself. Need to be humble to receive a Holy Spirit gift. A key to discovering gifts is to be exposed to a variety of service opportunities. May have to dig to find them. Remember that the purpose of our gifts is to strengthen and build up the body (1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:16).</p>
1:30 – 3:30	<p><b>Lunch at church office</b>  <b>Church service with Toronto church</b> - 124 attendance.            Split sermon: <i>Dead Seeds to New Life</i> – Graemme Marshall.            Christ said unless a grain of wheat dies it can’t produce fruit again (John 12:24). God’s plan involves humans to die first and to bear fruit in the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:35-36). With this great truth true Christians do not fear death. Paul was bound to the world like a ship moored and death would be a release. He would then spread his sails on the sea of ETERNITY.            Split sermon: <i>Finding the Sharp Edge of Success</i> – Richard Pinelli.            Luke 17:5 and Luke 16:10 – going above and beyond principle along with being faithful in least. Being just a little bit better gives you the edge. One small step at a time sets up the next step. Deuteronomy 7:21-22 – God allowed Israel to settle the Promised Land ‘<i>little by little.</i>’ A realistic goal is to choose doing 10% more rather than having too high a goal that fails.</p>
6:00 – 7:00	<p><b>Dinner at church office</b>  <b>People Skills &amp; Conflict Resolution</b> (Richard Pinelli)            Cannot solve every last thing, but have to be a peacemaker to be in the Kingdom of God. There will be conflict because all of us are different. A focus on the self will always prevent peace. We must examine our own motives first; we must want peace; we must have an obligation to seek resolution, even peaceful co-existence. We can choose to be defrauded, be willing to take the loss, lose face, and not feel we must get our pound of flesh. Sometimes we can’t win. Romans 12:18 – ‘<i>if it is possible, as much as depends on you.</i>’ Don’t be the cause of conflict.</p>
7:00 – 8:00	<p><b>Time Management Skills</b> (Dennis Horlick)            Steps to mastering time: You can only do one thing at a time; How much is your time worth; Remove distractions from your work area; discourage interruptions; Learn to say ‘no.’            Leading Time Wasters: Telephone interruptions, visitors dropping in without appointments, meetings both scheduled and unscheduled; crisis situations for which no plans are possible, cluttered desk and personal disorganization, involvement in routine that should be delegated to others.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>

8:00 – 9:00	<p><b>Stress Management Skills</b> (Graemme Marshall)</p> <p>A survey of 19 U.S. Coast Guard helicopter pilots in 2000 found that as stress at home increased, so did stress on the job. Must never underrate the invisible evil influence. Effect of ‘hope deferred’ in our lives and church life (Proverbs 13:12). <i>“Unrelenting disappointment leaves you heartsick, but a sudden good break can turn life around”</i> (The Message). Reduce stimulant dependence: rest, sleep, exercise, limit caffeine, alcohol and sugar. The need for trusted mentors and friends (Proverbs 27:9) <i>“Oil and perfume make glad the heart, and the wise suggestion of a friend is sweet to the soul.”</i> Bible in Basic English.</p>
<b>Sunday</b>	
9:00 – 10:00	<p><b>Activating Active Listening</b> (Anthony Wasilkoff)</p> <p>Only 10% of our communication is by words, 30% is by sounds and 60% by body language. The onion skin method is to patiently peel off the layers until the core of a problem presents itself. Active listening is to help people help themselves. A listening tip is to be respectful of the person without giving up your own position or agreeing with his/her view.</p> <p>What good listeners don’t do: Interrupt; Respond too soon; Editorialize in midstream; Jump to conclusions; Judge the speaker; Try to solve the problem too quickly; Take calls or interruptions.</p>
10:00 – 11:00	<p><b>Seven Pillars of Wisdom</b> (Richard Pinelli)</p> <p>Proverbs 9 introduces the seven pillars and a comparison of a wise and foolish woman. A ‘fool’ is considered deficient in judgment and understanding, inept, pathetic. The seven pillars are represented by: 1. Fear of the Lord – a fear to bring shame to God. 2. Knowledge and understanding – ‘know how’, discernments; 3. Getting good counsel and advice - gaining information and how to use it. 4. Foresight – look beyond the suffering, experience teaches. 5. Accepting correction. Avoiding the spirit of the age where no one wants correction. It is an important part of character and we have to learn to accept it. 6. Self discipline: - self control, subjecting thoughts to Holy Spirit power. A sound mind is one of self control. 7. Good relationships: In the Church of God there are dozens of different personalities and we have to try and get along with many. We can please most, most of the time.</p>
11:00 – 12:00	<p><b>Assisting the Aging Process – Awareness of Elderly Concerns</b> (Graemme Marshall)</p> <p>“A person is always startled when he hears himself seriously called an old man for the first time.” Aging is inevitable. “Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened.” “The years between fifty and seventy are the hardest. You are always being asked to do more, and you are not yet decrepit enough to turn them down.”</p> <p>Case study of Barzillai as a very aged man at 80 (2 Samuel 19:31-37).</p> <p>The elderly are concerned with falls, hearing loss, eye and teeth problems, arthritis in the joints. At church services they can have concerns over hearing, sitting, long distance driving, arthritic hands.</p>
1:00 – 2:00	<p><b>Dealing with your Strengths &amp; Weaknesses</b> (Richard Pinelli)</p> <p>Know yourself, maximize your strengths and minimize your weaknesses. “The most common sort of lie is the one uttered to one’s self” Nietzsche.</p> <p>“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9.</p> <p>“The first principle is that you must not fool yourself – and you are the easiest person to fool” Richard Feynman.</p> <p>God tests the mind and gives understanding of self – Jeremiah 17:10.</p>



2:00 – 3:00	<p><b>Culture Wars &amp; Post Modernism</b> (Anthony Wasilkoff)</p> <p>What is “Historical Drift?” <i>“The inherent tendency of human organizations to depart over time from their original beliefs, purposes and practices, which in the Christian context results in the loss of spiritual vitality.”</i> – Arnold Cook.</p> <p><i>“The second generation holds its convictions less fervently than the pioneers of the sects...with each succeeding generation, isolation from the world becomes more difficult”</i> Richard Niebuhr.</p> <p>Post modern view: No such thing as absolutes and “truth”.</p> <p>Truth is what we make it, whatever works for me. I create “truth” based on my feelings and experience.</p> <p>Relativism, situation ethics, and political correctness are the norm.</p> <p>How do we overcome our post modern culture? The truth of God is timeless and relevant. Develop a Biblical world view. Be examples of living and thinking God’s way. Grow in grace and knowledge of God by using the tools God has given us (learn to think the way God thinks). Tools to survive as a Christian in our post modern world: Prayer (contact with God); Bible study (knowing God’s mind); Meditation (critical thinking); Fasting (relationship); Fellowship (feedback).</p>
3:00 – 4:00	<p><b>Character Building</b> (Richard Pinelli)</p> <p><i>“In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock”</i> Thomas Jefferson.</p> <p>Character stands alone. Spiritual leaders have a higher level of accountability. They are to be blameless, beyond reproach, to have integrity. A leadership workshop objective is to raise the level of competence in everyone.</p> <p>We are to walk with integrity (Proverbs 10:9; 20:7. And we are to love the Truth (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:10/13).</p> <p>The book, <i>Why Johnny Can’t Tell Right from Wrong</i>, helps us understand the common enemies of integrity: If it’s necessary, it’s ethical; If it’s legal and permissible, it’s proper; I was just doing it for you; It doesn’t hurt anyone; Everyone’s doing it; It’s okay provided I don’t gain personally; I’ve got it coming; I can still be objective.</p>
4:00 – 4:30	<p>Final discussion and blessing of Numbers 6:22-26 for all participants to grow and prosper with developing leadership.</p>





Toronto church choir sings during leadership weekend. Directed by Lillie Robinson.

### TORONTO WEDDING LORA YAP and REUBEN WHITE

Sixto and Jocelyn Yap of Toronto are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter Lorilyn to Reuben White, son of James White and the late Keiko White. They were married in Mississauga on December 20th, 2009.

Charlie Larkin and Raymond Gwinn Jr., friends of the groom from Virginia, served as best men while Eric, Jonathan and Michael Yap, brothers of the bride, served as groomsmen. Rose Voorwinden and Rose St. Thomas, friends of the bride, served as maids of honour. Joanne Theriault, Rosemary Tulotti and Charlotte Guzman, friends of the bride, served as bridesmaids. Evan Lucas and his brother Daniel were

adorable ring bearers (see photo on the back cover).

Mr. Anthony Wasilkoff performed the wedding before friends and family.

Reuben will receive his Bachelors in Science degree this spring, and will begin a career as a shift refueling engineer at the Newport News Shipyard after graduation. Lorilyn plans to work as an elementary school teacher. The newlyweds now reside in Portsmouth, Virginia and attend the Williamsburg congregation.

Sixto Yap  
Toronto



The Vancouver Island church enjoyed their first wedding held on the Island in many years. The Henderson family, church members for many years, gave away their daughter Cheena in marriage to Jeffrey Werk. Jeffrey is a heavy equipment operator currently employed in the Alberta oil sands area. He will be relocating to Vancouver Island in the spring. Cheena is presently enjoying a career with a large golfing resort in the Courtenay area.

To celebrate their marriage on January 3rd, Cheena and Jeff invited their families and church brethren to the Nanoose Bay Community Centre for the ceremony. Elder Joseph Sheperd officiated.

The bride was given away by her

### VANCOUVER ISLAND WEDDING

uncles, Roan and Shane Henderson, both church members. Witnesses were Denise Henderson, the bride's mother, and Brad Werk, the groom's father.

Following the ceremony everyone enjoyed a delicious buffet catered by Audrey Henderson, the bride's grandmother. The weather was mild and dry and the happy couple were given a warm send-off for a downtown Vancouver honeymoon. They will be making their home with Cheena's family in Merville, some twenty kilometers north of the city of Courtenay, BC.

Wendy Culff and Joe Sheperd



## EYE HATH NOT SEEN.....

We all have favourite scriptures, or perhaps they are scriptures that for some reason have made a particular impact on us. From my youngest days, I remember being impressed by the Apostle Paul's declaration in 1 Corinthians 2: 9:

*"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him".*

Although Paul, as the next verse clarifies (*But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit*), was not saying that God intended to hold back this understanding from us, this scripture carries the inference that the human mind simply cannot fully comprehend just how awesome a future awaits us in God's Kingdom.

Conversely, Isaiah asserts that when the new heavens and earth are finally established, it will be this present evil world that will be difficult for us to visualize:

*"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind."*  
(Isaiah 65:17)

Some years ago, a science-fiction movie called "The Matrix" came out with an intriguing storyline. Our world, everything human beings see and experience, was actually just a computer program, from which the hero of the movie was offered escape to the "real world". Once released, he and his liberators were able to re-enter and leave the computer world (the Matrix) whenever they chose. Ironically, this fantastic storyline is somewhat analogous with the divine promise of our inheritance into the spirit realm.

The Bible reveals that our world, a small planet seemingly lost in the depths of a limitless universe, is actually a *matrix*, a *womb*, specially created by God for the developing and perfecting of His human family.

"The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's, but the earth He has given to the children of men" (Psalm 115:16).

Scientists even claim to have evidence of



a "Big Bang" which took place at a point in time, billions of years ago, when the universe suddenly came into existence.

What appears to us as reality, the physical universe we live in, is not the total reality that God exists in – a magnificent spirit realm of which we get tantalizing glimpses in Bible passages such as Revelation 4 and Ezekiel 1.

Our most powerful telescopes probe the furthest reaches of space without seeing any evidence of that realm, although it



existed before the universe was made. Our world seems so real to us, and yet even the chair you are sitting on is not as solid as it appears. According to physicists, the atoms of which it is composed consist of a tiny nucleus surrounded by orbiting

electrons at comparatively great distances, so that this apparently solid object consists mostly of empty space! Planet Earth in its entirety consists of such atoms, an immense assembly of protons, neutrons and electrons, together forming the familiar sights and shapes of our world, a *matrix* into which God and His angels can enter and leave at will. And He has promised that one day, if we faithfully fulfill the purpose for which we were born, He will give us the power to step out of this physical creation into the eternity that He inhabits (Isaiah 57:15)

Theologian C.S. Lewis once gave a striking analogy regarding these promises of God. Imagine, he wrote, that you are locked in a closet - for years and years - not knowing when you will get out. While locked in this closet, a child is born to you who has to grow up never having seen the outside world. So, to give your child hope, you begin to draw him pictures of trees, birds, dogs, houses, all the wonderful and familiar sights of the real world outside. One day your child comes to you and says: "You know, these things you drew for me – they all look so small and so flat!" It is then you realize that however you try to describe the world to him, he will never be able to understand the reality until he experiences it for himself. So what can you do? All you can do, Lewis suggests, is to tell your child that you love him, *and you want him to trust you!*

Isn't this what God is telling us in scriptures such as 1 Corinthians 2:9? Our Creator has planned a stupendous destiny for us, one that is beyond the power of our limited human minds to fully grasp.

What is needed is love and trust. The love has already come from God – in a thousand different ways.

The trust has to come from us.

Kevin Ford

## EDMONTON UCG 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

“Company, Forward, March!” – Noah’s Forest Rangers, played by Wayne and Cathy Ward, led the way for the variety show as Edmonton celebrated their 14<sup>th</sup> UCG Anniversary. The theme was “Noah’s Ark”. Members of the audience donned animal hats and children dressed their part in a play called “Noah’s Ark”.

Wayne Ward, the MC, “kept the animals in line” with jokes, as Cathy managed the stage. Performances included: “Noah’s Ark” (a play), poetry readings, a short story, piano solos, a piano duet, and singing and vocal solos with accompaniment.

A potluck meal was provided before the show that included a special anniversary cake. Appreciation is due to the ladies for providing the food and beverages, as well as to all the variety show participants, the “techies”, the Ark construction crew, and the directors.

The unity and warmth of the congregation was well expressed as we look forward to another year!!

Cathy Ward – Edmonton



Esabelle Hine “fitting in.”



Cast of ‘Noah’s Ark’ with the Ark in the background.

The children shown on the front cover sang “All God’s Creatures Got A Place In The Choir.” Above is the cast. From the left at rear are: Tessa Gregory (Shem), Tyrsa Gregory (Mrs Shem), Max Berendt (Noah), Carolyn Berendt (Mrs Noah), Kim Eckert (animal handler) holding Michael Eckert (animal).

Left to right in the front row: Talea Gregory (Japheth), Savannah Jongerius (Mrs Japheth), Ashley Davis (Ham), Nastasha Davis (Mrs Ham). Naomi and Sophia Lenkenhoff, Kaitlyn and Joel Davis, and Joshua Eckert all played the animals.



Above from left is Garry Poffenroth (Calgary) with Dan and Fern Berendt.

## OBITUARY: JIM BRANDENBURG

February 3, 1933 - February 24, 2010

Jim Brandenburg from Calgary, Alberta died on February 24, 2010 after a courageous battle with liver cancer. He fought with dignity and optimism. He is lovingly remembered by his wife of 42 years, Myrna, and children Keren Brandenburg, Sean (Michelle) Brandenburg, Marney Bugg, Tracey (Garry) Naylor, Darcy (Murray) Flett, and six grandchildren.

Jim was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. His family moved to Neepawa, Manitoba in 1934 where he spent his childhood playing hockey, swimming and teaching himself music – his lifelong passion. After high school, Jim moved to Moose Jaw where he attended college and joined several “big bands”. There he married and had three beautiful daughters. Years later, Jim’s path led him to Calgary, Alberta where he met Myrna, remarried in 1967 and had two children. Jim became a Canadian citizen in 1974.

Jim started to attend the Church of God in 1973 and was baptized in May, 1974

after having watched the World Tomorrow television program since 1972, where he discovered many differences from what he had been taught previously. He started to read and study the Bible and found that the teachings of the church were in harmony with what the Scriptures taught. His daughter Keren said, *“Jim was a deeply spiritual person and will always be remembered for his courage, sense of humour, musical talent and the love he shared with his family and friends. His fearless courage facing his illness set a standard those who loved him can only strive to attain. His forthright adherence to what he believed will comfort and guide us who remain throughout the rest of our lives.”*

Funeral services were held for him on March 4<sup>th</sup>, by his pastor, Rainer Salomaa. Tributes to him were paid by his brother-in-law Carl Berdahl (who has known Jim since 1969), and by Ron Langlo (who has played music with Jim for decades). Carl

talked about the family side of Jim’s life. Ron talked about his musical side. His daughter-in-law Michelle introduced a slide show with musical accompaniment by some former band members, leading to an exit, after a closing prayer, as the band played “When The Saints Go Marching In.”

It was noted that when Jim was involved in developing the new hymnal for the *United Church of God*, he would go through each note, hour by hour, day by day, months on end, and never complain about the tediousness of the task. He carried through his final assignment as music coordinator at the feast in Kelowna, where he was given a standing ovation on the Last Great Day of the Feast after the choir sang their final number. As they dispersed, he told the choir members, *“I’ll see you in the kingdom!”*

Keren Brandenburg  
and Rainer Salomaa



Jim was an avid musician for the church.

In the early nineties he was instrumental in a Calgary church production of *“Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.”*

At left Jim is pictured playing in a Calgary city big band, the Summit. He is second from the left in the front row.

## OTTAWA WINTER SOCIAL



A three-month-old bottle-fed lamb was a favourite at the Sunday social. Josie and Jaden Morasse have the lamb walking all over them. And there was still enough snow for a snowman for Jaden to play with.

There were sleigh rides aplenty with a pony and sleigh and two black percheron 'gentle giants' with a hay wagon. At left the hay wagon is disappearing down the woodland trail. At bottom left is the inside of the cabin where a pot luck meal of chili, lasagna, stew, salads, and various desserts was served. At right a hopeful angler tries ice fishing from a jetty. At bottom right the black percheron hay wagon ride arrives. Some 30 people enjoyed the gorgeous sunny day.



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## MONTREAL FLOOR HOCKEY EVENING



The group picture is of the enthusiastic participants of Montreal UCG's floor hockey evenings.



Pictured above are some of the spectators who cheered on the sporting endeavour.

## OBITUARY: ALBERT BRAU (1922-2009)

Albert Brau, of Kelowna, BC, died on December 30, 2009 of a massive heart attack. He was born in Grand Forks, BC on October 17, 1922 and grew up in Burnaby, BC. In 1930 his father left the family, leaving Albert's mother to raise seven girls and four boys. In 1943 he joined the army for 3 ½ years, ending up being a part of the biological and chemical warfare testing in Alberta, and was discharged with disability in 1946, as marching had taken a toll on his feet.

In 1946 he married his first wife Pearl Thompson, born in Moosomin, SK, and their daughter Marjorie was born in North Vancouver later that year. From 1950 the family lived in various places, before settling in Kelowna in 1986. In 1990 his wife Pearl, the love of his life for 44 years, died of cancer at age 74. In 1992 Albert married Nellie Popp, who died on October 9, 2009 of complications due to Alzheimer's.

Al has been a carpenter and general contractor, logger, fisherman, rancher, orchardist and builder. While living on Maine Island he worked as a self-employed carpenter, building many homes and renovations. He built a boat to ferry school children from Galiano Island to the junior high school on Mayne Island. It was when he lived in the Gulf Islands that he was baptized and became a member of the Church of God.

His hobbies included rock polishing, making jewellery, and gardening, especially to make his grape, cherry and blackberry wine. He liked to share his tree fruits, vegetables and wine. Al achieved a Bachelor's Degree in wood carving. He also had model trains and just loved the DVDs and videos of old locomotives. He had a great joy for camping, and looked forward every year to his trip up north to Kitimat and Babine Lake to catch salmon, which he loved to smoke.

Al's greatest love was God's truth. He watched and listened to sermons daily. He helped lead songs and along with Nellie always greeted and welcomed everyone to their home. Nellie was his second love and he missed her enormously after her death. Al loved country music and gospel and of the many hymns he liked, his favourite was "How Great Thou Art".

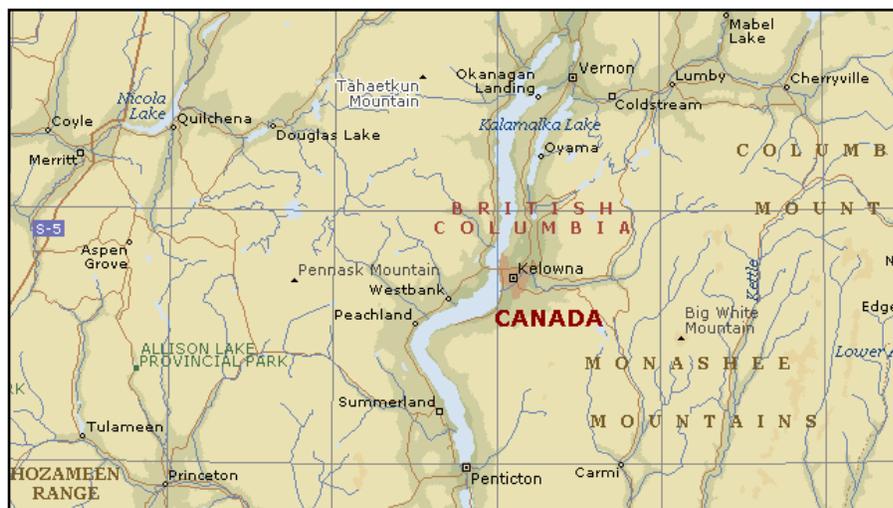
Al is survived by daughters Marjorie Hopkins (George), Judy Hughes (Pal), grandson Gordon Wittner (Ursula), five other grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Albert was a very calm, patient man – loyal and devout. Funeral services for him

were conducted in Kelowna on January 12, 2010 by Rainer Salomaa, with obituaries by his grandson Gordon Wittner, and his friend, Robert Moore.

Rainer Salomaa, Calgary



Albert Brau



**ANNIE FEDIRCHUK - Manitoba Church Member - 100 years old.**

I had heard about an elderly member of the church, Annie Fedirchuk, who lived in Ethelbert, when Winnipeg members, Claude and Betty Bonnefoy spoke of her. They have known Mrs. Fedirchuk for some time and have visited her when they can. Claude and Betty have also helped her several times with observing the in-home Passover service. I hoped to eventually make the journey to her area and get acquainted with her. That opportunity worked out on a Sunday, August 23, 2009. The Bonnefoys invited me to spend the night at their place just east of the scenic Riding Mountain National Park. They also invited Annie for dinner on the Sunday afternoon and her daughter Stella, and Stella's husband Tony Drebnisky, with whom Annie resides. Tony's sister Jean Monita also came with them. Betty fixed a wonderful meal and we all enjoyed some good eating and friendly conversation. While some of the group went out to look over Claude's garden, I chatted with Annie for a while after the meal. I asked Stella to take a picture of me with Annie, which accompanies this article.

I know many will enjoy getting to know this centenarian member of the church through this article. Annie Zubrecki was born on May 28, 1909 at Garland MB. She was a part of a family of seven children. Annie learned to accept very hard physical work,

beginning with her childhood. Her mother passed away when Annie was about eight years old. She had a father and brothers to bake, clean and cook for at her tender age. She took care of the cows and had the task of washing clothes with a wash board. She did not have the luxury of electricity. Later on in life, she made two outside clay ovens and baked bread in them. The first



one, she says, was destroyed by the bull, so she made another one. She also put clay on walls of the buildings and whitewashed them. When Annie wanted to go to town, she would walk the seven miles each way.

At age 17 Annie married Nick Fedirchuk, on November 7, 1926 at Garland. Annie gave birth to nine children, six boys and

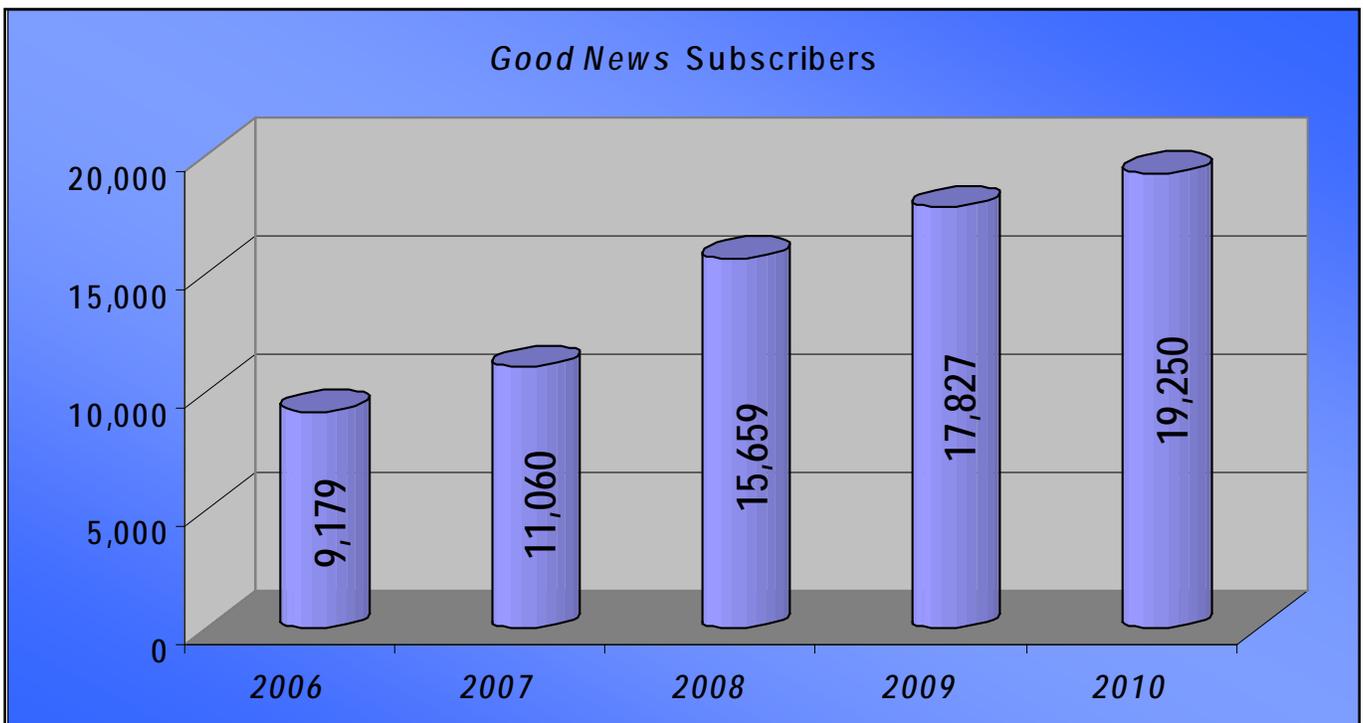
three girls. The family lived on a farm at Garland for some time and eventually she and her husband moved to Ethelbert. She helped with the stacking of grain and enjoyed picking berries. Her husband died in 1980 and she continued to live there alone. At age 95 she was still planting her garden and pulling weeds. In 2004, she moved in with her daughter Stella and son-in-law Tony Drebnisky in Dauphin and still lives with them today. Annie has 40-plus grandchildren and great-grand children, and one great-great-grandchild.

Annie has enjoyed hobbies and interests such as gardening, knitting, crocheting and reading. As recently as a few years ago, Annie was still knitting beautiful afghans and scarves.

She came in contact with the church of God in 1945 through Herbert Armstrong's radio broadcast from North Dakota. She was baptized in early 1960 at Moosomin, Saskatchewan. She attended services in Dauphin for a number of years.

Annie is an amazing person who has remarkably good health for her years, a sharp mind and a good sense of humor. Annie is a real blessing to her family and the friends who know her.

Herb Teitgen (Pastor)  
and Betty Bonnefoy, Winnipeg.



Graph of Good News subscriber growth supplied by courtesy of Edwin van Pelt - Toronto.

## VARIETY SHOW: *It's Raining Food and Pouring Talent!*

In Toronto on February 27th, 2010 a thunder of talent was rumbling, ready to burst out -- or perhaps that was just the congregation's stomach's getting ready to eat some fine cuisine provided by our very kind and hospitable members here in Toronto.

Following the fine dining, a variety show struck! Yes, talent is definitely in the air and showered Etobicoke with exceptional

performances anywhere from hilarious standup comedy to intriguing history lessons and eloquent poetry, fun and whimsical sing-a-long songs to beautiful 'a capella' and unique performances such as sign-singing (singing in sign language).

This night certainly stands as a great memory among UCG members in Toronto, and of course it couldn't have

happened without the thoughtful and brilliant planning behind this entertaining occasion: our event co-coordinator, Pat Braithwaite.

McKayla Crawford - Toronto



Pictured above are Garry and Jim Lucas singing a comical father and son skit.



Some of the buffet food.



Photos are courtesy of Amy van Zant and Ezra Martin.



At left are church members singing along to some of the church hymns. Above pictures members enjoying the variety show performances.

## DELIVER US FROM EVIL...

There is one *pressure* we all live with throughout our life, and that is from the influence of Satan. As we do not see him we don't normally know when it is his pressure. We have no actual knowledge of how life would be without him, though God has provided details in His word about Satan's tactics. God has also given us insights into what the Kingdom of God will be like, when Satan is removed from any influence over humanity. Unfortunately for today, our moods, our attitudes, our various interactions with other people, and even our peace of mind can be impacted by this evil being.

### True Freedom

Jesus in a discourse with the Jews revealed the situation all humanity faces, even we Christians. In this dialogue, it is apparent these people had little insight into the forces that drove them. This was one of those events where the people Christ addressed had completely opposite, and strongly polarized points of view. Understanding this contrast gives insight into what goes on behind the scenes that can affect our minds and attitudes, if we are not on guard.

In John 8:31-59 Jesus made a number of statements to this Jewish group with which they completely disagreed. Jesus claimed they were *'slaves'* because they continued to practice sin, and that they could only achieve freedom through Him. The Jews on the other hand claimed that they were free. Jesus also told them that they were of their father the devil, for they were fulfilling the devil's impulses and desires. The people instead claimed that their Father was God. Jesus said that if God was truly their Father, then they would not be seeking to kill Him. They then claimed that they were not seeking to kill Jesus and asserted that He must even be demon-possessed for making such a charge. Ironically, at the end of the discourse, these Jews picked up stones to kill Jesus, just as He said they wanted to do. The understanding of true slavery versus true freedom, is a vital element in making Christians truly separate and distinct from the rest of the world.

Revelation 12:9 states, "*And the great dragon was cast out, the old serpent called the Devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world.*" This is a rather disturbing statement. It indicates that the entire world has been under Satan's influence and

deception. Even though the church has been called out of this world, it is not immune or completely separate from Satanic deception and influence. Therefore the church is on a constant journey to overcome sin and replace deception with truth.

### Finding A Solution

In the beginning Adam and Eve became influenced by the Devil (Genesis 3). Subsequent generations of humanity have been equally influenced. And they have never known a world when Satan was not present in some manner. It is hard for us to appreciate the nature of this underlying problem, until God has opened our mind and focused our attention on it.

When we understand this wrong influence, it really makes us want to study deeply into what truly makes us function, and to grasp what drives our feelings and influences our decisions. The only workable solution for a Christian is to rely on God's Holy Spirit and His Word to assess the godliness and validity of our decisions.

The Jews thought they had an understanding of freedom and slavery, but Christ exposed their definitions as faulty.

The apostle Paul indicated that in order for us to break free from the slavery that Christ was identifying, we need to adopt a different approach, which means applying God's standards in our lives ("For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, pulling down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5, MKJV).

What does *'captivity'* mean in reference to our thoughts? Captivity means we maintain control such that our thoughts do not randomly go anywhere. We may not realize the danger of our imaginations which may include thinking evil of people, but this action of control must be done. Unfortunately the Jews who argued with Jesus claimed that they were not in slavery. But they were still under a form of national slavery due to being under the domain of the Roman Empire. They did not see themselves in slavery through their thoughts and emotions, and did not comprehend they were driven by forces

that were outside of their control. True freedom comes from knowing God's truth. Knowing we are fighting negative spiritual influences, we need the power of God's Holy Spirit, which involves getting as close to Him as possible: "*Be sensible and vigilant, because your adversary the Devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking someone he may devour; whom firmly resist in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions in the world are being completed in your brotherhood*" 1 Peter 5:8-9).

### Winning Over Evil

Jesus instructed us to pray, "*lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil*" (Matthew 6:13). We are all tempted, and occasionally exposed to temptation where we are confronted with a choice. With human nature, we tend to look for an easy way out or seek to satisfy a desire. We therefore have the need to pray to be aware of the evil influences in our Christian walk.

A good example is Peter when he was a disciple. Peter denied Christ three times. Prior to this, Jesus had instructed Peter to pray that he not enter into temptation (Matthew 26:41). Jesus even warned Peter that Satan was after him, wanting to sift him like wheat (Luke 22:31). Peter confidently said he would never betray Jesus Christ, for Peter perhaps didn't see that he would ever get caught in such a dilemma. Peter was at this stage still quite self-reliant and self-willed. And he eventually got caught in Satan's trap, and later wept bitterly over his denial of Christ.

The devil works through emotions, moods, feelings, attitudes, by thoughts and even by circumstances. We at times must slow ourselves down and seek to see what Satan, or our thoughts, are really saying. For example, Satan can make us feel as though God does not really care about our personal situation, or that our sins are so bad that God will not bother with us. Even though it was a battle predominantly over matters of the mind, Jesus did prevail by relying on the word of God as His defence, rather than relying on His personal feelings. When Jesus was tempted with an idea, He countered it with the word of God. Jesus in a final act of self control eventually told the devil to depart (Matthew 4:10).

*Continued on page 18*

Pure Evil continued...

## Dealing with Pure Evil – Pictured By the Day of Atonement

If you have ever been confronted with pure evil, you would realize that you cannot be nice to it, negotiate with it, or reason with it. You simply have to get rid of it or depart from its presence. It is therefore no surprise that God will put the devil in a place of confinement to prevent his influence from



continuing (Revelation 20: 3, 10). Only God has the power to do this, which is why Christ told us to pray *'But deliver us from the evil one'* (Matthew 6:13 NKJV).

Interestingly, in the Old Testament Atonement ceremony lots were cast in order to determine which goat represented Christ and which one represented the devil. The fact that these two goats were hard to tell apart highlights what we are faced with

The unseen evil spirit that manipulates mankind will eventually be confined and imprisoned himself.

googleimages.com

about Satan's influences at times. We need to rely on God through His word, through prayer and by the indwelling of His Holy Spirit, to make the appropriate distinction.

We need be on constant guard over our actions and our thoughts. God's Word is our saving guide in this.

Nino Boezio Toronto



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## WINNIPEG CHURCH MEMBER PROFILE: MARY HOFER

Here in the Winnipeg church we are very blessed to have Mary Hofer as a member. She is such a great example of service to others. When someone is visiting church services Mary will often be the one offering them something to drink or eat. And every so often she hands out a card with a very positive message to someone, and you might also find a hand knitted item left on your chair.

Mary was born in a Hutterite Colony in Manitoba. She is related to the Hofer brothers, Joe, Dave and Mike. As a child there never was a dull moment on the colony, she says. During summer they spent a lot of time in the Assiniboine River swimming, and in winter they had a lot of fun sledding down the river bank on the snow. But all of these activities were only allowed after their home work was done. The children did have chores to do as well. In summer they had to pick plums, choke cherries, grapes, hazel nuts, while the girls had to do a lot of baby-sitting when the moms were working in the kitchens.

As Mary grew older she married Jonathan Hofer and left her colony to live on his. Later four boys and five girls were born to them. As an adult, she says, they had to do anything possible: gardening, baking, milking cows, sewing, knitting, spinning wool and embroidery.

God opened their eyes to the Truth and they had to leave the colony with virtually only the clothes on their back. She says that God was the provider. All the people

who left the colony worked together and they planted a huge garden. They also obtained work at farms where they helped with the gathering of potatoes and the money they earned from the farms was used to buy school supplies, clothes, and new shoes. She says they had a good enough vehicle, a roof over their heads and clothing to wear, and they were never hungry.

Mary and Jonathan were baptized in 1965 and a big plus for her was the teaching they received from their first minister, Glen White. She also fondly remembers Cecil



Maranville and some of the other ministers who were all pastors of the Winnipeg church.

A few years ago Jonathan had to go on dialysis due to health problems and eventually had to have one leg amputated before he passed away. She recalls that they had their ups and downs and through it all

they knew that God was always present and they could always call on Him. She also greatly appreciated all the encouragement and visits from the brethren and also all the cards they received from all over the world. Some of those cards arrived at just the right time. She remembers one card that was sent to them from a lady from Texas and both she and Jonathan cried and laughed at the same time when they read the encouraging message in it.

When asked what advice she has for other caregivers, Mary said to just do the best you can. Now at 81 years of age Mary lives in a senior apartment complex and keeps busy with knitting and sewing for some of the residents there and playing games with some of her friends. She says keeping busy is her way of having fun and giving to others is to her a part of life. She likes to help others and believes that when we give to others it comes back double to us. One of Mary's favourite scriptures is John 15:17 *"These things I command you, that you love on another."* And Mary truly is a great example of loving others.

Mariana Simons  
Killarney, Manitoba

# Reflections

.....from a young mother for the prayer of the 'BLESSING OF CHILDREN.'

Whether or not to have children was a difficult decision for me. Intellectually I knew that I wanted to have children, it was the natural progression of my life. But my heart was conflicted – I was scared to bring them into this world knowing how hard it can be. How would I protect them and how would I keep them safe?

My husband and I took a leap of faith and decided to start a family. We realized that not only would we bring physical life into this world, but we would also give these little beings the potential of inheriting eternal life.

## **I anticipated having children would bring many blessings and rewards - and it has.**

An unexpected reward has been how my children have deepened my relationship with God and built my faith and trust in Him. I have seen first hand God's intervention with my children. When our children were blessed, a lady in the church took me aside and told me "This is real – this is not just a ceremony, a tradition or a ritual – this is real". Her comments had always stuck with me.

Our youngest son Daniel was born with respiratory/congestion problems. At three months we had a pneumonia scare – but were told to go home and watch him. At 3 ½ months, I was in the van with my two boys and was about to leave the grocery store parking lot, when I just felt something was wrong. Then I thought I heard something. I did what I've never done before – listened to my instinct, pulled the van over and checked on my son. He wasn't breathing. He was trying to breathe, but couldn't get any air. His lips were already turning blue. I took him out of the car seat so he could stretch and drove in desperation to the hospital several minutes away. I ran red lights, cut through parking lots and laid on my horn at intersections. The entire time I was praying and pleading for Daniel's life.

As I ran into the emergency department, they grabbed him from my arms while I

dragged my two-year-old son Evan along. By the time I caught up with them down the hall, seven doctors and nurses had appeared and were working on him and got him breathing. I will never forget the sound of that cry and the look of fear in his eyes. They determined that he had a mucus plug in his airways and he was hospitalized for five days with bronchitis. Later I learned that we were seconds to minutes from losing him since his extremities were already shut down due to lack of oxygen.

I have never been so terrified in all my life.



I was pleading to God for His intervention. I remembered the *Blessing of Little Children* and I asked God to make it real. My first call from the hospital was to my husband and the next was to my father-in-law, an elder, for an anointing. As they were still attempting to get IV's into Daniel's little body, I asked the doctors to let him in so that Daniel could be anointed. I was brought to my knees like never before.

After the fear faded and I knew Daniel would be fine, I saw God's hand at work in every way. Traffic had been much lighter than normal which allowed me to get to the hospital. I was able to get through every intersection without waiting. The doctors appeared immediately and were with Daniel while the nurse was still running down the hall with him. A pediatric specialist was on hand at the emergency department. The fact that I heard or felt something wrong

in the van was God tapping me on the shoulder. Later when I tried to hear Daniel in the van, I could not hear anything above the engine and road noises. There was no doubt that God had His hand in everything that happened.

## **I still don't understand why God let it happen – perhaps it was to remind me that life is precious.**

Perhaps to ensure that I took Daniel's condition seriously to properly monitor his health. Perhaps it was God's way of telling me – "I'm here". Whatever the reason, God showed me that He loves His little ones and will protect them. To this day Daniel still has respiratory episodes that send us to the hospital due to small airways that get inflamed and restricted when he catches a cold. These episodes are a constant reminder of how much we rely on God for His mercy and healing.

Despite this powerful lesson of how God intervenes in our lives, at times I still struggle with putting my faith in God. I still lay awake at night worrying about my boys' safety, well-being, disappointments and heartaches. I have to remind myself that God is their Protector and I pray for God to protect their bodies, minds, and hearts as they go through this life. My boys have taught me to bring my fears to God and to go to Him for rejuvenation and strength. When I do, I leave feeling refreshed and relieved with the reminder that God is in control and my children will be all right.

## **Having children has taught me how little I really know.**

God tells us to not lean on our own understanding. I find myself going to God and asking for wisdom for everything from seemingly insignificant problems like toilet training to life-altering issues of character building. I cannot imagine trying to carry this burden by myself. What a blessing to have access to the mind that created the universe and to know that I am not alone. As my boys grow older and their problems get



# Reflections

.....from a young mother for the prayer of the 'BLESSING OF CHILDREN' - continued from previous page.

bigger, I know I will depend on God more and more for His wisdom and guidance.

Some days I forget how precious my children are and I forget the lessons they are teaching me. At the end of the day, when I realize that I have been short with my boys, or brushed them off, or given up a precious moment with them, I take a step back. Sometimes I come to God in tears for comfort and forgiveness because I have failed my boys. All they wanted from me was a bit of time. I am reminded that sometimes all God wants from me is some time too.

I am slowly understanding more how God loves his children, including me. The God who created and sustains the universe loves me and my children perfectly and completely - beyond my comprehension. In Matthew 6:25-30 we read how God loves the sparrows of the sky and lilies of the field and looks out for them. How much more does He love his children and look out for them? In Matthew 19:14 Jesus tells the 'little ones' to come to Him because they are very precious to Him.

My boys have taught me many lessons, including how much I need God. What

a great comfort to know that we are not alone in the most important task of our lives. What a blessing to have God as our partner in raising our children.

So, as I get ready to tuck my boys into bed, I will once again get on my knees to pray with them. When we are done, I silently thank God for the joy they bring to my life and for having the privilege of being a "temporary guardian" of two precious future kings of God.

Almeda Lucas – Barrie, Ontario



The Lucas family of Jim and Almeda and sons Evan and Daniel.

Jim, Almeda's husband, is self-employed as an architectural draftsman in LUCAS DRAFTING. Both Jim and Almeda are Ambassador College graduates from Big Sandy and have been married 10 years. Besides being a young mother, Almeda also works as an insurance adjuster.