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2010 Feast of Tabernacles

During the Feast this year, a number of people who had kept the Feast for 50 years or more shared their personal experiences. It was most interesting to hear some of the stories of those early days of camping in Big Sandy, Texas. At the same time, they talked about the wonderful cooperation and family atmosphere in the piney woods campsite where brethren actively reached out to assist and help each other.

One humorous story that was related was about a family with two little girls. The mother readied them for the church service. Their hair was brushed and they were in their beautiful clean dresses. Mother gave her daughters strict orders to stand outside the tent and NOT get dirty while she finished getting ready. They were obediently waiting for her when one of the neighbours disposed of a bucket full of spent dish water. Unfortunately, she threw the dirty water

into the direction of the two innocent little girls! You guessed it—their mommy scolded them for getting dirty so quickly in spite of being told to stay clean!

It is unlikely that anybody reading this issue will have had a similar experience this year, but it may have brought back memories of tenting while keeping the Feast in days gone by!

Anthony Wasilkoff

Kelowna, British Columbia

About 227 rejoiced before God in Kelowna, British Columbia. This has been United's Western Canadian Feast site since 1997. The messages were solid meat in due season with a lot of emphasis on Christian growth and develop-

ment in order to become the perfect bride for Jesus Christ (sermons are available for download at <http://feast.ucg.org>).

young adults' Bible studies as well as some self-organized barbeques. Stuffed animals were handed out to the children on Youth Day.

The Festival choir grew in size as the Feast progressed. Beautiful selections of music were sung in praise to our God, enhanced by the wonderful acoustics in the Kelowna Community Theatre where services were held. The staging was elegant with fine lighting.

This year we had a "Social Corner," where attendees could gather to meet and to make plans. As usual, a collection was taken for the local food bank. A coffee bar ran in the foyer throughout the Feast, giving everyone a good place to fellowship before and after services.

The weather was ideal, with mainly sunny skies and warm temperatures. This kept sickness down, with a need for only a few anointings.

The selection of accommodations available in the area suited all budgets, and many were even able to walk to services in downtown Kelowna. One visiting member commented that this was the friendliest site that he has attended since 1972!

Rainer Salomaa

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Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Summer lingered and 75 of God's people observed the Feast of Tabernacles in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, with warm sunshine and clear blue skies throughout the entire Festival.

with us for the last half of the Festival after spending the first portion in Kelowna. And we had Festival co-ordinator David Palmer, pastor of the Vancouver and Vancouver Island churches, and

his wife, Ghyslaine. Also assisting with speaking and songleading assignments was Dale Craniford of Vancouver.

Although Saskatoon is a smaller Feast site, we did enjoy special music each day, with a few numbers from the Saskatoon Festival Choir. Since the meeting room where services were held was available to the church all day, it allowed extra time for lots of fellowship and activities, including a luncheon provided by the hotel between morning and afternoon services on the Last Great Day.



Messages were well-presented and well-received with a strong theme related to our personal relationship with God, His Son Jesus Christ, and our fellow brethren.

Three elders were present, including Barry Dubkowski, who first began attending God's Church in Saskatoon in the 1970s before he and his wife, Carol, moved to Boise, Idaho.

Steve Shafer, now pastor of Seattle and Sedro-Woolley, Washington, and his wife, Evelyn, were



Top: Members fellowshiping and sharing a meal
Bottom: Steve and Evelyn Shafer, Carol and Barry Dubkowski, and Ghyslaine and David Palmer (photos by Darlene Buck and Ghyslaine Palmer)

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One of the activity highlights included a visit to Saskatoon's popular tourist attraction, the Berry Barn. Located just outside the city, the "barn" is famous for delicious home-cooked food, which includes Saskatoon berry pie, as well as a great view of the South Saskatchewan River. During our

visit we were treated to a common sight, hundreds of Canada geese heading south for the winter.

As well as visitors from the Prairie Provinces (Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan), we also had visitors from as far away as Newfoundland and Kansas.

Special thanks go to Saskatoon members Jerry and Darlene Buck who, along with several other volunteers, had the site extremely well-organized.

Along with providing strong “meat in due season,” God blessed the Feast in Saskatoon with warm

harvest sunshine, beautiful blue skies, and a wonderful spirit of friendship and fellowship. Hugs and tears were evident as the Feast came to a close and members departed, looking forward to the Feast of Tabernacles 2011.

David Palmer

St. John's, Newfoundland

A mini Feast of Tabernacles was held at the Hotel Mount Pearl in the St. John's area for those who were unable to travel to Moncton. High attendance was nine, which included one attendee from the United States.

Most of the services were via webcast from Snowshoe, West Virginia. The sermons were excellent and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Twenty-four hours before the Feast started, Hurricane Igor wreaked havoc throughout the province of Newfoundland and caused many power outages. Roads and bridges were washed out, and houses were flooded and washed away. One man in a rural area lost his life when he was swept away in the flood. Many people lost everything they owned. It was the worst

hurricane anyone could remember in Newfoundland.

Thankfully, the St. John's area didn't get the high winds or as

blessed with beautiful weather all during the Feast, and the electricity was on in the hotel where we met. However, there was no Internet connection, so two meet-



Top: Feastgoers in St. John's pose as a group
Bottom: Special music presented during services
(photos by Blanche and David Smith)

much rainfall as some other areas received. Electricity was restored to almost all of the St. John's area in relatively short time.

After the storm we were

ings were held at the home of elder (and Feast coordinator) David Smith and his wife, Blanche.

Although the highlight was the sermons, we did enjoy many meals and fellowship as a little group of God's people, experiencing a taste of the wonderful world tomorrow.

David Smith

Collingwood, Ontario

The beautiful full moon that shone over Georgian Bay was in clear view at opening night in our new meeting location at the Bear Estate Conference Centre at the Cranberry Resort. Robin Webber, pastor from California, got the Feast off to a good start with his message "Why Are You Here at the Feast?"

With 215 members expected, the Festival crew had much scrambling to do to find seats and parking spaces. But through the creativity of the crew it all came together perfectly. The shuttle service from the Cranberry Resort proved invaluable in helping with the limited parking.

On Friday afternoon 110 brethren were treated to a WNP seminar titled "Jerusalem: Past, Present, and Future." Robin Webber enthusiastically showed through the Scriptures God's great

love for Jerusalem and its importance in the future establishment of God's government.

Our teens and young adults enjoyed a fun-filled Friday afternoon walking with the many animals at the Elmvale Zoo. Many of our young people also helped out with ushering and the information table on Youth Day.

Sabbath morning Patrick Read emceed our annual Seniors' Brunch to honor our seniors' loyal dedication and steadfast endurance to God's way. A tribute by Garry Lucas rounded off the event after a delicious meal.

headed back to the dock. Both the physical food and the extra spiritual food were enjoyed by all.

The Scenic Caves outing had to be postponed from Tuesday until Wednesday due to inclement weather. That proved to be the right thing to do, since the weather cleared the next day and the temperature was perfect for the 70 who ventured out and worked their way through the caves. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Tuesday evening gave 136 of the brethren an opportunity to sit back and enjoy the variety of songs and skits that were put on by the 19 individuals brave enough to get

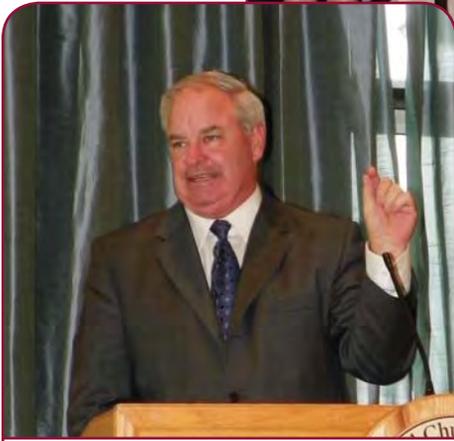
on stage at the Variety Show. Emcee Eric Frandsen did a wonderful job introducing the participants in his humorous way.

Wednesday evening finished off the seven-day Feast with a teen/young adult Bible study given to

19 in attendance by Jim Lucas.

The Last Great Day luncheon was attended by 110 brethren. The afternoon sermon was a thought-provoking and inspirational message delivered by Robin Webber, providing the perfect conclusion to a wonderful Feast.

Once again, a food drive was part of the Feast experience. Several containers were collected for the local food bank.



Top right: The children's choir lined up on stage
Above: Robin Webber giving a message
(photos by Wayne Lue)

On Family Day 85 enjoyed a hearty barbeque lunch before embarking on the corn maze, kids' pony rides, and other wonderful activities at the Rounds Ranch at Wasaga Beach.

Monday provided ideal weather for the luncheon cruise aboard the *M.S. Georgian Queen* with Captain Steve at the helm. Over 80 brethren enjoyed the open waters of Georgian Bay as we traveled the coastline to Midland and then

Special music also added much to our praise to God. We had a full choir, as well as an instrumental ensemble for hymns.

At spiritual mealtime throughout the Feast we received a smorgasbord of messages on themes such as focusing on Christ, our part in the Kingdom, learning to sacrifice, endurance, and many other meaningful subjects.

The Feast video messages by Dennis Luker and Melvin Rhodes were very timely, topical and very well-received.

The positive attitude and cooperative spirit of those in Collingwood were much appreciated. It was so wonderful to see our American and Canadian brethren work together to help provide a smooth-running Feast

for everyone to enjoy. Many people wondered if we would return to the Cranberry Resort next year. Stay tuned for the answer.

A big thank you to everyone who came and participated to make Collingwood Feast of Tabernacles 2010 a Feast to remember.

Patrick Read, Edwin van Pelt and Dennis Horlick

Moncton, New Brunswick

Throughout the Feast in Moncton, New Brunswick, we experienced mostly mild days with a mix of sun and cloud.

The members attending represented seven of Canada's ten provinces. We had a high attendance of 54.

As each day of the Feast passed, the friendships and teamwork grew as we learned about our hope and vision of the time when we would be living with Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God.

The Feast video message from Mr. Luker and Mr. Rhodes was very much appreciated and well-received.

The brethren enjoyed inspiring special music each day and the choir (con-

sisting of 30 percent of the congregation) performed on three different occasions.

In addition to enjoying the spiritual food, the brethren were treated to two trips on a member's fishing boat into the Northumberland Strait to see the seals and beautiful scenery.

As well, the brethren enjoyed a Fes-

tival dinner one evening and entertained each other with an evening variety show on another.

The ladies learned about fine teas and enjoyed dainty pastries at an afternoon tea.

The musically talented among us organized a "jam session" one evening, inviting everyone to come and enjoy



the music and have a sing-along while we ate "jam jam" cookies.

As we all said our goodbyes at the end of the last sermon, we all knew that this year's Feast of Tabernacles had strengthened us to move ahead in our service to Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven.

Above: Choir members assembled to sing
Right: Fellowship at during a meal
(photos by Larry DeLong)

Are Your Prayers Lacking Faith?

We are frequently asked to pray for individuals who are suffering through various sicknesses or trials. However, quite often our prayers do not seem to produce any change or any apparent positive result. This may raise all kinds of questions in our minds regarding our faith or another person's faith. We may also wonder if some unknown sin was a barrier or whether we were not praying fervently enough.

Even though we realize God is in control of the situation, we can totally miss the point of a trial or suffering. The outcome we want is not necessarily the same as the outcome God wants. The trial or suffering can actually be a blessing in disguise, even though we may be unwilling to see it or admit it.

Differing Perspectives

Recently my father was going through a serious illness that lasted several months before he died. While he was going through the sickness that also had him hospitalized, some of my friends from widely differing Christian backgrounds and beliefs (certainly different from those of the United Church of God) had other points of view on this trial than I had.

Even though I did not want to see my father die, I never did pray for my father's healing but asked that God's will be done (Matthew 26:42). I did not submit a prayer request to the Church (my father was not part of the Church). I have prayed in the past for other health and personal situations and have prayed for other people before, and I did on occasion witness miraculous results. However, in this situation with my father I felt differently. I realized that everyone must die even though there is pain associated with death for everyone af-

ected. I was quite broken up when he did die, even though I anticipated that it was going to be the likely outcome.

Some of my friends had a totally different perspective on this situation based on their Christian understanding. They would talk to me or send me information on faith including how to build it and on how miracles are possible. They would send me inspiring stories and tried to emphasize how we can change circumstances if we only believe. They offered to get other people to pray for my father or even solicit prayers through their own various church circles. They offered to light candles or establish vigils within their church organizations. At times they may have felt that I was insensitive or sceptical about the power of God or did not care about my father.



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Their efforts at times did make me feel guilty and embarrassed, because I was doing much less. It did cause me to question my own faith, yet I could not really see a reason to

do more. I wondered whether I was perhaps being too detached from the situation. I sometimes felt guilty because I was perhaps not pushing the matter in a godly sense to a positive resolution, a resolution that was defined by everyone around me as the healing of my father.

However, as I thought about the matter more closely, it eventually did bring home a problem that many people have regarding prayer.

Setting Oneself Up for Failure

Success in prayer has often been defined as getting the petition one asks for. It could involve a healing, deliverance from a trial, or receiving a blessing. However, we have to be very careful when we define success in those terms. God is all-powerful and can easily solve a problem or provide deliverance. But is that really what our Christian lives are all about? The prayer of Christians is for God's will to be done. God's answer is often "wait" and sometimes "no."

In the ancient world, pagan civilizations had gods established for all sorts of purposes, even though they were not truly gods (Jeremiah 16:20). Human beings were sometimes portrayed as playthings subject to the whims of the gods—as we see, for example, in the stories of Greek mythology. The people would solicit the gods to do what they wanted, or the people would do things for the gods in order to avoid some form of punishment. The relationship was at times even adversarial, as the goals and aims of the people were considered contrary to that of the gods.

One of the consequences of viewing the gods the way they did is that it simplified the relationship

between the godly realm and man. People hoped or expected a certain outcome if they did their part to successfully serve, appease or solicit the god. In the world of these gods, it also enabled the people to anticipate a predictable and reliable result that aligned well with human logic, desire and reasoning.

Unfortunately many of these ideas may still be with some us today in various forms and often within various religions, including mainstream Christianity. These views of the gods have often been transferred to the great God of the universe. Sometimes we may feel we need to push God or otherwise He will not care or notice or even punish us. But God is totally different from any pagan god (Isaiah 45:6, 9-10).

Too often humans fail to note that one of the missing characteristics of these ancient gods is HOLINESS. God, on the other hand, is holy (Leviticus 11:44-45; 1 Samuel 2:2; Psalm 99:5, 9; Revelation 4:8). That shows a totally righteous and noble purpose to everything God does and allows, even when He is dealing with us, that is totally contrary to the characteristics of any pagan god.

When we realize that God has a very high purpose for mankind (Job 7:17-18; Psalm 8:4; 144:3; Hebrews 2:6) and especially for those in the Church (Hebrews 2:3), it brings the matter of suffering and trial into a totally new dimension.

The apostles in their writings made very important remarks about trials and suffering that even some Christians prefer to ignore because hardships are so unpleasant to think about. (We want our personal situation to be different.) We are told to rejoice in trials and suffering because God is producing a great work in us (James

1:2-5; 1 Peter 4:13). We are told to be thankful in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Christ also set the example of what we are to face through suffering (Hebrews 2:10; 5:8; 1 Peter 2:21). But from a human perspective, we instead want to always be secure and comfortable. We forget that this also often leads to a poor spiritual condition (Revelation 3:17). Perhaps we are perplexed when we encounter some sort of hardship, forgetting what the Christian life involves (Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 4:12). The

We should not think that being “full of faith” means that we will get 100 percent of our prayers answered the way we want them to be.

apostles never had it easy, even suffering for the Church’s behalf (Colossians 1:24; 2 Timothy 2:10); and most of them were martyred. But the negative things that happened to the apostles did not sway them from viewing what was taking place in their lives as beneficial (Acts 5:41). Our relationship with God and our view of how He is dealing with us should always be positive, even though at times our life can be painful (1 Peter 4:16).

The world also endures trials and sufferings, but they can be due to a variety of factors, including sin (Romans 8:22). God is dealing with the world differently than He does with the Church. He wants Christians to be distinct and separate (Acts 2:40; 1 Peter 2:9-11).

When you define success the wrong way, then a number of negative reactions and conclusions may arise:

- Some may conclude that prayer and faith do not work. Your

mind can start to keep score on all of the people who have not been helped or delivered, and these can become labeled as examples where “God let us down.” It begins to build scepticism regarding the existence and power of Almighty God, when the truth is that we had a very wrong premise to start with.

- Some may feel that they “did not lobby” God enough. In our world, if enough people express their opinion or exert their influ-

ence on a politician, then likely a law or policy will be changed. Unfortunately some may take the same view of God—that the more we pray for a situation, the more likely we are to get the outcome we want. But we should not view God in this way, even though God does want us to be persistent (Luke 18:1-8).

- Some may feel they need to defend God. When the impending result is not what everyone wanted or expected, some may try to re-define and restate everything that occurred and even defend God. But God needs no defence, for His Word stands (Numbers 23:19; John 10:35; 2 Corinthians 1:20). Given the perfection of Almighty God (Matthew 5:48), our analysis should not focus on whether God kept His word, but rather whether we made some wrong assumptions in its application and expected fulfillment.

I am not saying that one should

See “Lacking Faith” on page 13

True Success

What have the “seven laws of success” to do with the Feast of Tabernacles?

As many will recall, many years ago, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote a booklet titled *The Seven Laws of Success*. Mr. Armstrong formulated these “laws” after many years in business and later as the pastor general of the Church of God. They are very helpful principles and indeed can be applied in any area of life, including our spiritual lives.

Briefly they are:

1. The right goal.
2. Education.
3. Good health.
4. Drive.
5. Resourcefulness.
6. Perseverance.
7. Having contact with and the guidance and continuous help of God.

I learned a vital personal lesson from reading this booklet. A short while before I emigrated from South Africa to Canada, I decided to take a critical look at my personal finances. I have had my ups and downs in life and had had a setback that was seriously threatening my future.

Although I was already in my 50s and should have begun preparing for retirement, I was nowhere near that. I decided to read through Mr. Armstrong’s booklet *The Seven Laws of Success* to find out where I was going wrong. Well, I found my answer and it was totally unexpected.

Reflection on Our Past Feast

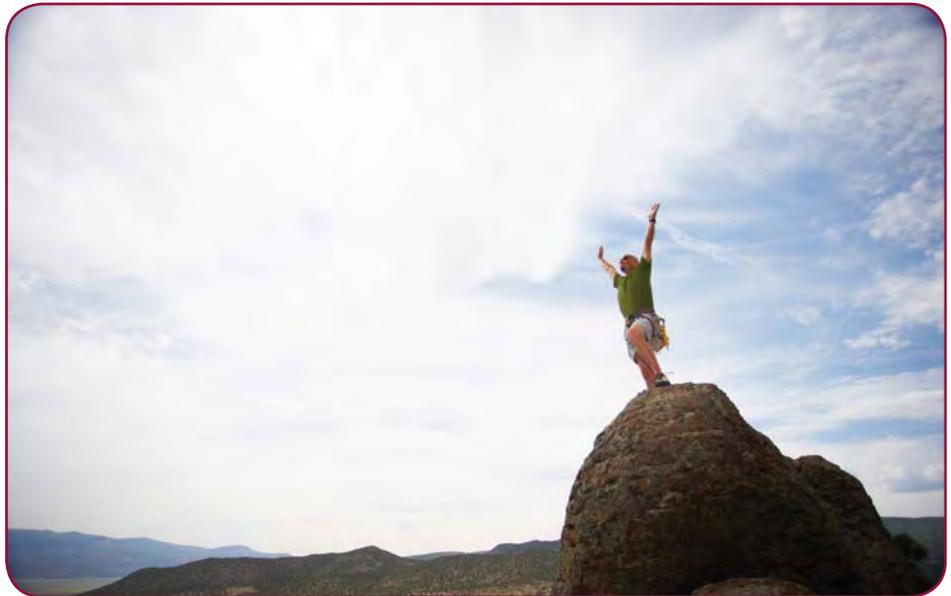
Before I give the answer, I would like to give a little background on the book of Ecclesiastes. Having just observed the Feast of Tabernacles once again, it is good to rehearse how the

book of Ecclesiastes applies to this festival. According to ancient Jewish tradition, the book of Ecclesiastes was read at the Feast of Tabernacles.

The first verse begins, “The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.” Thus, King Solomon was most likely the author. Verse 2 contains a strong statement: “‘Vanity of vanities’ says the Preacher; ‘vanity of vanities, all is vanity.’” Our lives are pointless, says Solomon. Most people don’t really think much about the purpose of life, especially when they are still young. However, when you bring God into the picture, everything changes.

but when things are not going well—consider.

Well, I decided to “consider” why things were not going as well materially as I would have liked. Life is full of cycles and ups and downs. It is the same often in a business. Sometimes things go well and sometimes there are setbacks. The second part of the verse 14 states: “Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, so that man can find out nothing that will come after him.” God has decided that there should be cycles in life for a reason. The last line shows that we do not know the specific details of the immediate future and we have to make



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Verse 3: “What profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun?” Solomon in effect is asking, “What is the point of living? What is the purpose of life?” The purpose is revealed by Solomon at the end of the book, but in effect verse 3 is the specific purpose statement of the book. In the middle of the book, Ecclesiastes 7:14 states, “In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider.” We should be thankful when things are going well,

do with the knowledge we have. It is part of building character.

Now back to chapter 3. Verses 1 through 8 refer again to the cycles of life (“a time to be born, and a time to die” etc.). These verses are famous and have been used in secular literature and songs. Again, they refer to the cycles of life. Verse 11: “He has made everything beautiful in its time.” There is a time for everything. To continue, “Also He has put eternity in

their hearts.” God has made mankind for a great purpose—eternal life. Time cycles come into it, and timing is important to God. However, “no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.” Not many know the plan of God, but we in the Church are privileged to understand that plan and purpose. Some understand now and some will only understand later, in the second resurrection. This is also subject to timing.

Repeatedly the question is asked: What profit is there in all this suffering in life? What is the point of it all? Is there a reason for it? For ages the philosophers have pondered the purpose of life. The answer is available. If people would only accept what the Bible says, they would have their answer.

Does Ecclesiastes have the answer? It is given in chapter 12:13: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all.” What does “this is man’s all” mean? The Living Bible translates it this way: “Here is my final conclusion: fear God and obey his commandments, for this is the entire duty of man. For God will judge us for everything we do, including every hidden thing, good or bad” (Ecclesiastes 11:13-14).

Why is it so important to keep God’s commandments? Because life is all about judgment. How we live and how we handle the ups and downs of life—good or bad—is what will determine the ultimate outcome of our lives.

There Is a Purpose to Life and It Is Tied Up With Eternal Life

Solomon found that even enjoyment of the physical things is tied up with the purpose of life. If there is no purpose

in life, all of our accomplishments are of no use because eventually we die. If there is no life after death, then it is all to no avail. Solomon built gardens, made merry, experimented with strong drink (and partying, no doubt), built houses (and the majestic temple), and acquired great wealth (Ecclesiastes 2:1-16). Yet what was his con-

God has decided that there should be cycles in life for a reason.

clusion? It was all empty without the understanding of God’s purpose for us (verse 17). Mankind strives for wealth, or even just to survive, but it is all aimless if we do not understand God’s purpose for mankind.

This is what gives us the connection between the book of Ecclesiastes and the Feast of Tabernacles. Solomon says, “Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart” (Ecclesiastes 9:7). He makes similar statements in other parts of the book of Ecclesiastes.

No doubt he meant that we will enjoy the simple pleasures that God has given to us to enjoy if we understand the purpose of life. This especially applies to the Feast of Tabernacles when we have extra money to spend on good food and wine and have time to enjoy some additional pleasures that we do not normally have the opportunity to enjoy.

What is more, our celebration of the physical pleasures at the Feast has a great purpose. We are picturing the joy, happiness, and abundance that will be present during God’s Kingdom on earth, a time when all mankind will participate in this abundance.

However, it is important to understand that our physical tabernacles

(human bodies) are temporary and that the Feast of Tabernacles also symbolizes our entry into the Kingdom of God as spirit beings and that we are preparing for that future. The Church of God is being judged now; the rest of mankind will be judged later; but God wants *all* to eventually be saved (2 Peter 3:9).

I said that my conclusion after studying *The Seven Laws of Success* was unexpected. I realized that whether I was materially successful or not didn’t matter. If I was growing spiritually, then I was heading for the Kingdom of God and I was fulfilling my purpose in life—TRUE SUCCESS. That is what life is truly all about.

I read an article about champions in a newspaper many years ago. The writer asked the question: What is it that makes a champion a champion? She came to the conclusion that it was a burning desire to become a champion. Do we have a burning desire to run our race for the Kingdom of God? Do we have a strong desire to see God’s Kingdom established on earth? If so, our chances of being there are good. If not, perhaps we should ask God for the motivation and drive. We can all be winners in this race. God will give us the help we need.

The Kingdom of God is symbolized by the Feast of Tabernacles. For the earth it will be a wonderful time. For us, as spirit beings, it will also be wonderful because we will be assisting Christ in bringing many more people into the Kingdom of God.

Unsung Heroes

Every year, on the first Wednesday in June, Tim Hortons stores all across Canada raise money to help less fortunate children attend camp. The camp helps each camper foster confidence, supporting them in a positive way. I'm sure you're familiar with the term "Camp Day!"

Tim Hortons' beautiful camps are located in various parts of Canada and in the United States. The children who attend camp have a wonderful opportunity to bond and build lifetime friendships while enjoying the great outdoors, participating in sports activities, blazing campfires, singing songs and numerous other camp activities. It is, indeed, a chance of a lifetime!

Proceeds from every Tim Hortons coffee purchased on Camp Day go directly towards helping a child attend camp. The Tim Hortons staff and local dignitaries assist one another by serving coffee, sandwiches and donuts. They work at the drive-through window which is, indeed, a fast-paced endeavour. Everyone works side by side as a team to effectively and efficiently serve the customer in the shortest time frame possible. The staff squeegees car windows as cars come

through the drive-through. Customers take their turn at balloon pop, while the dedicated volunteers help in any way they can, each spending many hours setting up and taking down.

There is a coordinator who works behind the scenes to carefully plan and arrange for the volunteers and staff to participate in the activities and to make sure everything runs orderly and smoothly on Camp Day.

There is no greater or more fulfilling reward than to diligently assist and help someone else in need.

This year, there was one volunteer very near and dear to my heart. My husband, Patrick, came into Tim Hortons on Camp Day and sat in a rather small dog cage for five hours. The patronage had to "Free the Beast," as it was called, by generously giving of their pocket change. My husband raised \$500 for this worthy cause and had fun to boot!

Both staff and volunteers took time out of their busy schedules and volunteered in some small way. In one way or another, their tireless example was noticed by all. At the end of the day as I drove home, I pondered all that had happened. I could not help but wonder...

Did the great God of the universe, the One who gives us our very breath, in all His love and compassion, give so much of His time to help the less fortunate? Did He volunteer His time?

Matthew 20:28 says: "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." This scripture clearly gives us the answer.

We are also told to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). God tells us to give and it shall be given to you (Luke 6:38). Your calling is not just for you, it is for you to serve other people! There is no greater or more fulfilling reward than to diligently assist and help someone else in need. Matthew 25:40 says: "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assur-

edly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"

I have the special privilege and tremendous blessing to work at Tim Hortons. The supervisors and managers go through special training programs and, with much patience and direction, teach and train us to work as a team, cooperating with one another to produce wonderful results. The ladies and gentlemen who work at Tim Hortons work very hard to provide the customer with the very best service possible. I have the greatest amount of respect for the folks who truly work hard for the customer, who are courteous, respectful and friendly and make every effort to accomplish just that! These folks are my coworkers, whom I applaud!

The good examples of others help us realize the importance of applying God's standards in our lives. And at the end, when we have lived them, we will hear the words "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Jo-Anne Read



Pat Read serving from a cage
(photo by Jo-Anne Read)

Living in a Troubled World

Is Canadian society getting meaner? Year by year, it seems people are getting less civil to one another. Is it any wonder why? Angry music and ultraviolent movies have made being kind and courteous uncool behaviour. Hip-hop stars and movie directors are the usual suspects, almost too obvious to mention.

There are hundreds of other less obvious influences that contribute to a society in which we find both less respect of others—and more ruthless promotion of self-interests.

Just watch the highlight reel from an NHL game. Half of the recap will be devoted to the goals scored and the other half to every one of the bruising fights that broke out on the ice. For some reason, society relishes seeing talented, disciplined young men reduced to punching one another just as much as seeing them perform astonishing athletic feats.

Athletes were once revered as role models for our young people. There is no allegiance or loyalty anymore. Many athletes change

Sadly, we seem to be living in an era when the angry man or woman is rewarded. The lowly and the meek, it seems, aren't cut out for the job.

teams more often than some people change their socks. Why? Money!

And so today the sports world is plagued with the abuse of illegal substances, cheating, gambling, and lying. Some well-known individuals who should be the role models are at the top of the list. It's a sad commentary when a TV

analyst says, "Everybody cheats; it's just part of the game."

It's a world full of road rage, gang wars, disrespect for the elderly, and a lack of respect for law and order. The justice system is broken, and



our government is out of step with reality. Sadly, we seem to be living in an era when the angry man or woman is rewarded. The lowly and the meek, it seems, aren't cut out for the job.

Several centuries ago a prophet wrote these words: "Truth is miss-

ing. Those who turn away from evil make themselves victims. The LORD sees it, and he's angry because there's no justice" (Isaiah 59:15, God's Word). Those words are as applicable today as when the prophet first penned them.

If the apostle Paul were alive today, he might very well have written

the same words he wrote to the evangelist Timothy almost 2,000 years ago: "You must understand this: In the last days there will be violent periods of time. People will be selfish and love money. They will brag, be arrogant, and use abusive language.

They will curse their parents, show no gratitude, have no respect for what is holy, and lack normal affection for their families. They will refuse to make peace with anyone. They will be slanderous, lack self-control, be brutal, and have no love for what is good. They will be traitors. They will be reckless and conceited. They will love pleasure rather than God. They will appear to have a godly life, but they will not let its power change them. Stay away from such people" (2 Timothy 3:1-5, God's Word).

As society seems to spiral out of control, we would do well to recognize this is the world in which we live. We must be even more zealous in our desire to see a change—a change that can only be brought about because of the great sacrifice of God's only begotten Son (John 3:16).

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws

By now, most of us have heard about our Amendment Committee, but it is likely that many do not know what it is or who serves on it.

Our Bylaws are legal documents we need to function as a recognized charity in Canada. The Amendment Committee is composed of three members of the Church who facilitate the process of making changes to the Bylaws. Each time a proposed amendment is received, the Amendment Committee meticulously checks the proposed amendment to be sure it is written appropriately and does not contradict any existing bylaw—sometimes very tedious work since it is a legal document.

Currently Lynne Broschak, Dennis (Barney) Kerrighan and Joseph Sheperd serve as committee members with Charles Desgrosseilliers as an alternate in case one of the committee members has to step down. Dr. Kerrighan has been selected to be the chairman of the committee.

Each time there is a proposed amendment to the Bylaws, Church members are given the opportunity to make comments about the proposed amendment. Below are the proposed amendments that will be placed on the National Conference ballot next March. If you are a member of UCG-Canada and wish to submit a comment, please e-mail it to Dr. Kerrighan at barney_kerrighan@ucg.ca by Jan. 10, 2011.

Change to Article 8.3.1 Number of Council Members

CURRENT*

8.3.1 Number of Council Members

The National Council shall be

made up of nine (9) members composed of two (2) lay members, **a minimum of two (2) non-salaried elders, and a minimum of four (4) salaried elders.**

*Proposed deletion(s) is (are) in bold.

PROPOSED+

8.3.1 Number of Council Members

The National Council shall be made up of nine (9) members composed of two (2) lay members **and seven (7) elders, save and except as specified in 8.3.2.**

+ Proposed addition(s) is (are) in bold.

Submitted by: Michael Erickson

Statement of Justification

The current bylaw, as originally written and when amended to its current form, served its purpose in ensuring that an adequate number of elders were able to serve by, in a sense, restricting too many salaried elders from withdrawing. However, it is my opinion that it is no longer needed and, in fact, places undue restrictions on both individual elders (whether “salaried” or “non-salaried”) and the National Conference as a whole in selecting their primary choice.

Each elder, whether “salaried” or “non-salaried,” should be able to, without obligation and upon personal consideration, determine whether he is able and willing to serve on the Council.

Members of the National Conference would then be able to select those elders they desired to serve without having minimum restrictions in place that could alter their primary choice.

Within UCGIA all elders are able to

serve on the COE and can be selected by the General Conference of Elders. This amendment would bring our bylaws into a similar structure and provide the greatest flexibility to the National Conference and hence the Church moving forward.

The term “save and except” is a legal requirement to allow the flexibility and exception detailed in 8.3.2.

Change to Article 8.3.2 Change in Status

The following is a technical amendment necessary if proposed amendment 8.3.1 is adopted.

CURRENT*

8.3.2 Change in Status

In the event that a lay **person** becomes ordained, **or a non-salaried elder becomes a salaried elder, or a salaried elder becomes a non-salaried elder**, he would still serve on the Council for the duration of his term. **This would apply even if more than one such event occurs. In that event, in the interest of continuity and effectiveness, the number of lay members (2), non-salaried elders (minimum of 2) and salaried elders (minimum of 4) would be permitted to vary as circumstances required. This would in no way nullify the above required proportion. Upon completion of the term(s) of the individual(s), the requirement as in 8.3.1 must again be established.**

*Proposed deletion(s) is (are) in bold.

PROPOSED+

8.3.2 Change in Status

In the event that a lay **member** becomes ordained, he would still serve on the Coun-

cil for the duration of his term. **Upon completion of the term of such an individual, the requirements as in 8.3.1 must again be established.**

+ Proposed addition(s) is (are) in bold.

Submitted by: Michael Erickson

Statement of Justification

There would no longer need to be a clarification of change of status for elders if the proposed amendment to 8.3.1 was adopted. Also redundant wording is removed and the reference to “lay person” currently used is corrected to “lay member” to be consistent with the other references throughout the bylaws.

Change to Article 5.1.9 Elder

This is a technical amendment if proposed amendment 8.3.1 is adopted. Parts 1) and 2) would be deleted as they would no longer be relevant.

CURRENT*
5.1.9 Elder

An “elder” is an ordained minister in good standing with UCG-Canada. **For the purpose of balloting for position on the Council:**

1) A non-salaried elder is an elder not receiving a salary from UCG-Canada (stipends exempted).

2) A salaried elder is an elder who receives a sal-

ary from UCG-Canada.

*Proposed deletion(s) is (are) in bold.

PROPOSED+
5.1.9 Elder

An “elder” is an ordained minister in good standing with UCG-Canada.

+ Proposed addition(s) is (are) in bold.

Submitted by: Michael Erickson

Statement of Justification

There would be no need to distinguish between a “salaried” and “non-salaried” elder if the proposed amendment to 8.3.1 was adopted.

UNC

“Lacking Faith” from page 7

therefore be fatalistic. I believe in miracles and have had dramatic miracles in my life that could only be explained by the existence of God. But on the other hand, there are times when I expect God to be totally “invisible” because a greater purpose is going on. There is a time for miracles and a time for none. We destroy faith if we focus on the wrong measure of success. We should not think that being “full of faith” means that we will get 100 percent of our prayers answered the way we want them to be. Only He has all the facts. Only He knows what is best and when it is best.

We Need to Define Success as God Defines It

Too often we adopt the world’s view on an issue. The world may often define success as having health, money, status, multiple

possessions and long life. We need to define success differently since this is not the way God would define it. Our main concern, for example, should not be whether we live a long life but whether our Christian life has been a success and whether we have done all we could to make that possible. Christ prayed to be delivered from His trial of crucifixion (Matthew 26:39, 42); but ironically, had this happened it would have made Christ a failure and would have produced bad consequences for all of us.

Those of us who have been called to be Christians have an indirect obligation and responsibility to endure in this life and to prepare to rule with Jesus Christ in the next life (2 Thessalonians 1:4; 2 Timothy 2:3; 4:5; James 5:11; 1 Peter 2:20; Revelation 2:26; 3:12, 21; 21:7). God’s process and methodology is often outside of our individual mental capabilities to truly comprehend, but God knows what

He is doing in shaping and teaching us (Psalm 119:75-77; Proverbs 17:3; Romans 8:28; 1 Peter 4:12; Hebrews 12:5-6). We understand our duties to overcome sin and to develop godly character (2 Peter 3:18). But the complete path is not clear to us, for we see through a glass darkly (1 Corinthians 13:12), which also implies that we often cannot see the full picture at all. Unfortunately, we often keep defining success from our perspective and not God’s.

When you have the right focus on what constitutes success, then your faith should be strengthened and not diminished (Romans 8:18; Hebrews 2:10). We should still pray and ask God to answer our petitions; but if we do not receive the responses we want, we should realize that something much more important is taking place. Our faith should therefore become stronger.

News From Across Canada

Camp Wild Rose 2010

The day began with bright sunshine and much excitement as we all made our way to Darwell, Alberta, for the first Western children's camp July 18-21, 2010. We arrived at the Davis farm (home of Susan, Owen, Evelyn, and Dave) to find a beautiful setting for camp. They had prepared for several months for us to be educated and entertained at this camp. Prior to the camp, a group of volunteers also helped to build some facilities for the camp.

We had children from the ages of 4 (one turning 4 during camp) to 13, 24 campers in all. The children and their parents traveled from British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Edmonton, Calgary, and southern Alberta to attend this camp. Also present during camp were members from the ministry in Alberta. We all met each other and set up for what was to be a very eventful four days!

As the first day wore on, we went from sunshine to thunderstorms, with much rain and hail, which left us with many "great" mud puddles (such a temptation for some of us!).

Our second day was also damp, but our spirits were not! It was so amazing to watch the children take everything in stride and just enjoy each moment as it came our way.

joyed by all. It was an excellent time of learning and growing.

I must say it was very beautiful to see how the children worked



We spent time having lessons from the Bible and learning about the beautiful creation around us. We made bannock and s'mores by the fire in the evenings.

By the third day the weather was much more favorable and we all dried out! We sang songs together, played games and solved teamwork challenges in which group cooperation was key. We made beautiful kites that actually flew! Archery, orienteering and volleyball were new experiences for some but en-

together to try and help each other have a wonderful experience. Many new friendships were made and a connection built with other Church children. It solidified the statement by God that we should be like little children—as they have such a truly positive zeal for life and for God and His way!

We are looking forward to an even bigger turnout next year!

Fern Berendt

À Plus Tard, Anabel!

It happens every year. Following our annual "Dads and Grads" social, we expect the young people in the congregation to embark on new chapters in their lives: elementary to high school, then postsecondary studies and maybe after that graduate school, or the intimidating "real world."

However, Anabel Aviles, one of our young adults in the Toronto congregation, decided to spend the upcoming year focusing on her spiritual life (rather than profes-



Top right: A game of tug-o-war
Above: Campers "hop to it" in a sack race
(photos by Susan Davis)

sional or career development) by attending Ambassador Bible Center (ABC) at the home office in Cincinnati.

Anabel is overflowing with ideas for a future career and aspires to be successful in many business ventures and has interests in several industries. That being said, when she decided to attend ABC, it was a decision she made wholeheartedly, without wavering. She was determined to spend the year learning God's words and way in depth.

The summer passed quickly; maybe because of the busy nature of the summertime or denial of her departure. Regardless, the congregation had to express both our melancholy and excitement for her big move.

After a couple of hours of fellowship, just before home time, we were called into the gymnasium. The church was gathered in the back, surrounding a delicious cake, waiting for Anabel to enter. Not exactly a fan of good-byes (who really is?), she walked in apprehensively, not knowing what was going on. Some tears were cried

as Mr. Wasilkoff wished her well with his kind words, expressing the sentiments of the entire congregation. With that, the cake was cut and enjoyed by all in attendance, as we took the opportunity to say "see you later."

After four years of grueling hard work, Anabel graduated in May with a bachelor of commerce degree from McMaster University. After ABC she plans on pursuing a master's in business administration. It is always encouraging to see our young people desire and pursue a relationship with our Heavenly Father. It brings us reassurance that our efforts in reaching them are not in vain, despite the growing difficulty of living in a godly manner in today's day and age.

For this reason, we are particularly excited for Anabel and what the year has in store for her. Although we will miss her during these nine months (the author certainly does already), we know that we will have the pleasure of seeing her again soon.

Charlotte Guzman

New Council Member

Recently, a National Council member resigned, necessitating going back to the March 2010 ballots of the National Conference to find a replacement. Mike Erickson has been appointed to finish off Graemme Marshall's term, which will end this coming March. Mike Erickson was ordained an elder on May 19, 2007. He currently resides in Prince George, British Columbia.

In 1987 he married Angie and they have three children: Matthew (16),

Ashley (14) and Sarah (9). He enjoys spending time in the outdoors with his family camping, fishing and hunting.



Mike and Angie Erickson
(photo by Rainer Salomaa)

Michael has been a senior investment advisor advising both corporate and individual clients. In 2008 he had the opportunity to attend the six-week pastoral training sessions held at the home office in Ohio and was subsequently employed part-time by the church to assist with the Prince George, Okanagan, and Grande Prairie church areas. This fall he was hired full-time by the Church.

We look forward to the expertise that Mike will bring to the National Council.

UNC

Deacons Ordained

On the Day of Atonement during the announcement portion of the Toronto church service, William Dimovski and Dale Van Zant were ordained as deacons. The prayers were led respectively by Anthony Wasilkoff and Dennis Horlick. Also participating in the laying on of hands were: Sixto Yap, Garry Lucas, and Michael Caputo.



Anabel Aviles
(photo by Michelle de Campos)

The congregation as a whole was pleased. One senior lady commented, “That was no surprise. They are already doing the job.”

UNC

Grande Prairie’s Sixth Anniversary

We were blessed with great fellowship, good food, and beautiful weather in a lovely location for our (slightly postponed) anniversary on June 26. Our Church family was joined by Rainer Salomaa and a brother Steve Thiessen, from Calgary for a potluck picnic at the Kleskun Hills Provincial Park 20 km. east of Grande Prairie.

The historic park is a protected natural area. It is a semiarid ecological zone in what is otherwise forest and prairie farmland. Imagine finding a native cactus north of the 55th parallel! Yet in this protected environment it is thriving beautifully.

In fact, a casual stroll through the park presented us with an amazing array of flowers and plants—all growing

in harmony. The comparison between the flowers growing in the park and the wide variety of personalities in our Church family comes to mind—only with our Father’s protection and nurture we can flourish in harmony!

We send a warm “hello” to all who have lived and fellowshiped here and those who have passed through and joined with us over the last six years—and we look forward to meeting new friends in the years to come.

Brenda Thompson

North Battleford BBQ

On June 19 most of the North Battleford, Saskatchewan congregation gathered at the farm home of Howard and Marilyn Wallace for a potluck barbeque. There were about 20 in attendance, including the pastor and his wife (Robert and Valerie Berendt).

The menu consisted of hamburgers, hot dogs, steak, veggie trays, salads, and a variety of desserts. The beautiful afternoon and evening lent itself

to a relaxing time of fellowship.

The province has had an abundance of rain, ensuring an abundant mosquito population. The evening came to an end as their feeding time started!

The Wallace farm is located about 30 km. southwest of the Battlefords. The drive out to the farm was through rolling hills and flat farmland that had greened up beautifully. On the drive one can see antelope and deer. Even an occasional moose can be spotted on the almost treeless landscape.

Adeline Sanoy

90th Birthday

Following Sabbath services on the July 24, the Vancouver Island congregation celebrated the 90th birthday of John Beresford with words of appreciation from elder Joe Sheperd for John’s 32 years of service as a deacon, a card signed by all the brethren and a beautiful chocolate cake.



Lorraine and John Beresford (photo by Wendy Culf)

John has been a member of God’s Church for 40 years and has served in speaking, songleading and set-up for services, with help from his wife, Lorraine. We wish them many more happy years together.

Wendy Culf

Grande Prairie anniversary attendees: Rainer Salomaa; Ann Truhn; Tracy, Cliff, Adam, and Ardele Lesh; Lisa Truhn; Doug and Beth Lesh; and Lorne Thompson; kneeling: Garrett Lesh, Brenda Thompson, and Kalu. Missing: Steve and Lena Thiessen (photo by Rainer Salomaa)

Gooding Anniversary

A special luncheon given by the Toronto brethren in honour of the golden 50th anniversary of Neil and Elma Gooding of Bolton, Ontario, was held after services on Sept. 4. Before the refreshments and fellowship, Mike Caputo spoke words of praise and encouragement regarding the milestone that had been attained by the Goodings.



Elma and Neil Gooding
(photo by Lillie Robinson)

Abundant plates loaded with varied savory and sweet goodies were laid on a very long table covered by lovely white tablecloths and decorated with a large yellow and gold floral centerpiece resting on an oval mirror. It was flanked on each side with several gold candles in tall glass candleholders sitting on large gold doilies.

A congratulatory banner adorned one end of the hall and a very large, beautifully decorated cake sat at the other end on a separate table that was also covered by a white cloth. Two vases of yellow flowers sat beside the cake. On the wall behind the cake were several pictures of Neil and Elma from their wedding and with their young children. Each photo was beautifully presented on gold paper that was framed by intricate lace created by their daughter, Donna Checca.

After the luncheon, the Goodings, assisted by their daughter, cut the cake and served it to the brethren who pray for God's richest blessings in their lives.

Lillie Robinson

Rogers & Sitter Anniversaries

After services on July 17 the North Battleford UCG congregation presented Glen and Shirley Rogers and Lloyd and Marlene Sitter with anniversary cakes. Both couples celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary in July.

The Rogers farm in the Neilburg area where they live with their youngest son, Delbert. They have lived in the area all of their lives and currently farm about 2,000 acres of land. Shirley was a schoolteacher some years ago. Glen and Shirley have a family of three sons and five grandchildren.



Glen and Shirley Rogers and Marlene and Lloyd Sitter
(photo by Adeline Sanoy)

The Sitters live in the Edam district. Lloyd and Marlene have a family of three, a daughter and two sons, 10 grandchildren and several great grandchildren. Their family honored them with a get-together for family, blended family and friends in Edam on July 3. The potluck meal was followed by a slide show presentation of Lloyd and Marlene's life. The

evening was emceed by the couple's daughter, Tammy Hampel.

Adeline Sanoy

Hiebert Anniversary

On July 2, family and a few friends gathered at the North Battleford home of Richard and Marlene Hiebert in honor of the couple's 40th anniversary.



Marlene and Richard Hiebert
(photo by Adeline Sanoy)

The couple were married on May 1, but since the family is scattered, they planned the anniversary dinner for the July long weekend (after school was out).

Marlene recently retired from a management position at BMO and Richard is a retired school principle. The couple raised four children: Gary (Sonia), Rhonda (Cory) Simon, Ryan (Kim), and Janice. Richard and Marlene have six grandchildren. Richard and Marlene attend the North Battleford UCG congregation.

Adeline Sanoy

Obituaries

Shirley Margaret Ferrara died suddenly Tuesday morning of Aug. 24, 2010, at her home in Westbank, British Columbia. She was born Aug. 25, 1937, in Red Deer, Alberta. She married Leo Wallace on Aug. 25,



Shirley Ferrara

1956. They had three daughters (Darlene, Kemry, and Diana) and two sons (Raymond and Richard). Shirley worked in housekeeping and patient care in nursing homes for many years. She lived most of her life in Calgary and was predeceased by her husband, Leo Wallace, and son Richard.

On Nov. 7, 1999, she married Pasquale Ferrara and for the last 11 years lived in Kelowna, attending services with her husband. She is survived by three daughters, one son, five grandchildren, and her husband, Pasquale. Her favorite pastimes were spending time with family and friends, camping, and dancing. We all loved her baking.

Funeral services for her were conducted by David Palmer on Friday, Aug. 27.

Rainer Salomaa

Gail Kisilewich, our sister in Christ from the Toronto congregation, was called to her rest on July 22, 2010, while at her home in Bobcaygeon, Ontario.

Early in March, Gail learned that a rare, very aggressive and inoperable cancer had attacked her gallbladder.

Her sterling faith and trust in God were evident when she asked brethren to pray that God's will would be done in her life rather than pray that she should be healed.

At Passover she had to be released from the hospital in Lindsay, Ontario, to attend the service in Toronto in spite of her considerable pain. She found it humorous that she had to bang on the hospital door to get back in when she returned late that night.

Gail's last visit to services was on Pentecost, and she was positively glowing because of her intense excitement about God's truth and way.



Gail Kisilewich

She began to go down quickly after that and kept the Sabbath at home with CDs or online. It was a two-hour trip into Toronto, which was too much for her. Her last time with a church group was at a Bible study given by Dennis Horlick at a home in Bethany, Ontario, which is only about 35 minutes from Bobcaygeon.

Though we truly miss Gail and feel sorry for ourselves in our loss, we know that God is sovereign over His saints' lives. Gail's pain has ceased, and we now wait to join her in God's Kingdom when Christ returns.

Gail Kisilewich's memorial service was given by Anthony Wasilkoff in Toronto. Her husband, Ed, and her family expressed their deep appreciation for his words of comfort and hope.

Lillie Robinson

Peter Martens was born in St. Malo, Manitoba, to Cornelius and Susanna Martens. He had four brothers and one sister. Peter grew up in a small town, Grunthal, Manitoba, southeast of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

As a young man, he loved to drag race his stock cars for sport and competed in different events. Hence, he became an auto mechanic after blowing many transmissions and burning a few clutches while drag racing. He loved to hunt for wild game and trap.

He met his wife, Mary-Anne, who lived in the country close by. In 1966 they married and had five children. They also raised eight foster children. For a few years they lived in Winnipeg where he worked as a car and heavy-duty truck mechanic and as an industrial painter. Later on, he became a grain elevator operator. Due to the nature of his work, he had to move with his young family to the small towns of Starbuck, Morden, Niverville, and Sanford, Manitoba.



Peter Martens

He returned to Winnipeg with his family when work became scarce in the grain industry. He pursued work in auto mechanics, plumbing, industrial, and residential painting.

Peter spent quality time with his wife and young children: camping, fishing, swimming, biking trails, sledging and traveling to the West Coast for vacation time.

He attended the Worldwide Church of God with his family in Winnipeg, Manitoba; and in 1980, he moved his family to Calgary, Alberta.

He then worked as a maintenance person and painter and renovated homes for a living. For sport, he would go mountain climbing with his brother Phil and his two eldest daughters. He went trail biking with his sons. He loved to pick wild berries for his wife so she could bake his favorite Saskatoon pie.

Later on, when his health was affected, he assisted his wife in the home with the children, making meals and doing various handyman jobs around the home. He also assisted in caring for his mother-in-law while his wife worked. He taught his sons how to make the necessary repairs to a vehicle. He was very meticulous in his workmanship. Everything had to be perfect. He was known to his grandchildren as “Teddy.”

He decided to get baptized with his wife, as this was what he wanted most. He was hoping to attend the Feast of Tabernacles this year, but his illness prevented him when he became quite ill.

His wife and children are grief-stricken, and there are not enough words to express their loss. There will be a great void in their lives now.

Mary-Anne Martens

“Postponing” from page 24

opportunity to see the Kingdom at the Feast. It would have been akin to Moses standing on the mount and being allowed to gaze fondly into the Promised Land and being told that he would not be allowed to enter therein. Was Moses disappointed? No doubt. However, he had to accept the fact that he would enter the Promised Land—but at a later date.

The Word of God instructs us to come out of the world. However, most of the year we remain in the world but strive not to be a part of it. This is not easy to do, as we can all attest to. However, the Feast of Tabernacles provides a rare annual opportunity when we can actually come out of the world in a way that is not possible for 51 weeks a year!

The reason we suffer from the ill effects of post-Feast blues is because we don’t want to leave the idealistic environs of the world tomorrow and be required to re-enter the harsh realities of the world today. Once we have tasted the truly good life, it is hard to acclimatize back to the life we are still required to live.

The apostle Paul had a similar experience when he described knowing a man who had the rare experience of being taken into paradise and seeing and experiencing remarkable things. In fact he wasn’t even sure how this event took place, whether in the body or by vision or by whatever means is at the disposal of God. It is no wonder that he would then state that he would prefer to depart and be with Christ. (No one wants to leave the remarkable future that awaits God’s children and have to return to the realities of the present human condition.)

Nevertheless, Paul caught himself and stated: “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith” (Philippians 1:23-25).

We came out of the world to observe the Feast of Tabernacles with the full realization that we would have to return to our homes, jobs, school, and routines in order to be lights in the world and work towards the furtherance of the Christian calling in both joy and hope.

We have a job to do: a gospel to preach and be among the people being prepared for the wonderful world tomorrow. We’ve come back from the Feast having been encouraged and strengthened. We’ve seen what the future is going to be like. We don’t want to miss out. In fact, we want to share the good news with others so that they, too, can participate in a wondrous future. The fields are indeed “white for harvest” (John 4:35). We must do our part to help the Church access those fields. We need to get busy during the winter months when people in the northern hemisphere are most likely to read and reflect and thus be more accessible and amenable to the gospel message.

By busily going about our Father’s business, the winter will elapse very quickly. The next thing we know, Passover will be only a few short weeks away, and we will have to step up our efforts to examine ourselves and delevan our lives as well as our homes!

Anthony Wasilkoff

Postponing Post-Feast Blues

From time to time we all think back to our first ever Feast of Tabernacles observance.

For me it was 1966 in beautiful Squaw Valley in northern California, not far from the Nevada border. What an adventure it was to be there with several thousand fellow believers, assembling daily, often several times a day, in the cavernous depths of Blythe arena.

The Festival was intensive, with many church services and many activities. Everything was so new and exciting. The blessing of little children was an especially thrilling event to behold, with all those parents lined up at the front of the stage holding their darling infant children to be blessed by the teams of ministers positioned on the stage anticipating these precious charges.

The eight days passed quickly and the final service of the final day got underway. I was caught unprepared for the final hymn, just prior to the dismissal prayer, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again." Rivers of tears were being shed all around me because no one wanted the experience of keeping the Feast to end. Of course, I, too, discovered a speck of dirt in my eye and had to wipe it away repeatedly.

This was my first bout with what many of us have come to

recognize as "post-Feast blues." What is this condition? Why does it occur? What can be done to cope with it?

Do Feast keepers still experience this phenomenon today?

The disciples, later to become full-fledged apostles, had the incredible experience of being able to spend 3½ intensive years in the presence of Jesus Christ. It is hard to imagine how wonderful this duration must have been. Can we comprehend being able to rub shoulders with the very Son of God in close quarters for nearly four years!



(©2010 photos.com)

There would have been so many wonderful learning opportunities. There would have been so much to observe and pay attention to. How remarkable was His teaching style. How terrific He was with little children even though never married. How touching His sense of humor. And yet there were those times when He got upset and showed His anger, especially in the temple overturning those money-changing tables.

However, to the apostles' dismay and despair, Jesus Christ got Himself arrested and executed. This is not what they had in mind. After three days of utter hopelessness, the unthinkable happened again. He was resurrected from the dead to eternal life! What joy, what elation, what celebration! But then after 40 blissful days He announced that He would be returning to the Father and leaving them behind. This is not what they had in mind either. Once more their elation turned into sorrow.

Jesus carefully consoled His closest followers by saying: "But

now I go my way to him that sent me: and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is

expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you" (John 16:5-7, King James Version).

And so it is with us when post-Feast blues beset us. We will have been experiencing a foretaste of the wonderful world tomorrow. We will have been given a grand

See "Postponing" on page 19