

A NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA



United News Canada

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 4 • JULY - AUGUST 2001

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the General Council *of* Elders



Cover Photo: Rainer Salomaa

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C I N C I N N A T I • 2 0 0 1

BY ROBERT BERENDT • SEE PAGE 3

THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL

BY CAROL LIVERMORE • OTTAWA

RECENTLY I WAS ASKED, “WHAT is the role of the Council?” The Council is responsible for, among other things, the Church’s budget and policies.

The Canadian Work is no small effort. This fiscal year, April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002, the budget will exceed one million dollars. It falls on the Operations Manager, Anthony Wasilkoff, to ensure that all the funds are responsibly directed and accounted for.

To put it in a nutshell, the basic job description of the Council is to provide direction for the operation of the Church by developing and setting policy. The main thing the Council does is to give direction and oversight for the two main thrusts of the Church in Canada.

The first of these two thrusts pertains to what is commonly called preaching the message of the Kingdom of God. Mixed in with this are legal issues, branding and identity, and strategic and research initiatives. The second part of our mission statement consists of the pastoral functions, part of which include care and feeding of the Church.

What guides us in setting policy? There is a mission statement in our Strategic Plan that states, “The mission of the Church of God is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in Canada, make disciples and care for those disciples.”

The Canadian Council also operates as a fully functional partner with UCG-IA.

This is quite a task, especially when you consider that Council members are separated by geography

and time zones. The diversities of perspectives, knowledge, concern and priorities are considerable. So you can see that at times it can be a challenge to reach common understanding and consensus.

I am fascinated, respectful and even awed by the responsibility that falls on the Council’s shoulders. From my perspective, having been associated with a number of businesses and community organizations, I am struck by the obvious influence of God’s Spirit at work as each issue is tackled. In the secretary’s report on page six, you will find details of some of the issues considered at the most recent meetings.

It is the Council’s practice to meet in different Church areas across the country. Our most recent meetings were held in Lethbridge. Personally, I found it an invaluable opportunity to have significant discussions of local and national concerns about the Church with fellow members whom I had never met before. Open and frank discussion between all of us will help us successfully carry out our responsibilities.

Another advantage of holding the Council meetings in as many Church areas as possible is that it allows members to sit in on Council meetings. Not only do they observe, they may even be invited to participate. (There is an orderly way to do this. Our chairman, Rainer Salomaa, generally follows accepted parliamentary procedure.) At the Lethbridge meetings, our visitors gave valuable input which the Council appreciated.

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GENERAL CONFERENCE OF ELDERS 2001

BY ROBERT BERENDT • PHOTOS BY RAINER SALOMAA

GOD TELLS US THAT HIS WORK OFTEN starts as a tiny seed. The seed that is the United Church of God - *An International Association* has sprouted! This is the sixth year since the little seed was sown. In those few short years UCG has “formed, stormed, normed and performed,” according to Mr. Richard Pinelli.

George Carter attended his first General Council of Elders (GCE) and the International meetings that preceded it. “The Council meeting was an excellent example of how United works,” said Mr. Carter. “It was lively, it was open. A variety of differing opinions were expressed, but mutual concern was shown throughout, and the conclusion heartily applauded.”

That first-time observation is one of the reasons it is beneficial for the ministry to attend the GCE. It shows the way the Church can work, though people from different lands are a little unsettled at first.

Meetings were held on Thursday and Friday, May 3-4 for the International ministry. About 100 people attended, including most of the Council of Elders and UCG-IA Chairman, Roy Holladay, who led the discussions. There is an enormous value in being present at these international meetings. One certainly becomes educated about cultural differences and complications arising from language difficulties. I am fortunate enough to be fluent in German, and was able to translate for several who did not feel confident in English.

The theme of the conference centered on the progress and continued improvement in the function and operation of the Church. To give you an idea of what was discussed, here are a few agenda items from the International portion of the conference:

- Manpower and how to provide it in the international areas.
- Relationships with other religious organizations. (One exciting piece of information given was that the Remnant Church of God



German- and Spanish-speaking ministers.

in Africa will dissolve and become the United Church of God this year! There are 13 ministers and more than 1,000 people involved.)

- Serving Asian countries. (Populations are great and finances must be used wisely.)
- International editorial progress and how titles of booklets may not be good for all nations in the world.
- Helping scattered groups around the world.

One subject drew the most attention. President Les McCullough will continue in his position for one more year, then a new president will be sought. This was a point of great concern among the Latin American ministry. They felt that if a man was doing a good job, he should never be replaced. This is a different view than that held by the ministry in Canada and the U.S. We look upon this position as being similar to a CEO or operations manager. The position runs for three years, at which time it is reassessed. This form of government is still a little unsettling for some people. After much discussion, the Latin American ministry’s concerns were answered, but for us all it was a lesson in realizing that people think differently – something we need to take into consideration.

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**“...[I]T IS
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THE MINISTRY
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IT SHOWS THE
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GENERAL CONFERENCE OF ELDERS 2001

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



Peter Eddington mans the camera.

**“[SOME WERE]
NOT USED TO A
PROCESS THAT
ALLOWS
EVERYONE TO
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AN OPINION.”**

One minister from Ghana, Mr. Banda, was on his first trip to the United States. “I am a little uncomfortable with the process that I observe,” he said. We talked about Mr. McCullough and how decisions were made. He was not used to a process that allows everyone to express an opinion. I then asked him if he was all right with everything in spite of his concerns. He replied, “I trust the Council of Elders to make the best decisions they can. In the end it is God’s Church and He will make things work out.” Then he added, “In Africa, change means death.”

Our number tripled when the American ministers and their wives arrived. There were over 600 people at Sabbath services and the atmosphere was friendly and warm. Close to 6,000 people listened to the service by phone and internet hook-up. There was enough time to fellowship on the Sabbath before the meetings began in earnest that night.

On Saturday evening, the ministers and wives had the opportunity to attend a open question-and-answer session with the Council of Elders (COE), or attend a talk given by Julie Zutz on the Net Generation. I attended the COE meeting. Discussion centered on why the president was not given another three years. The COE answered the questions very

well, in my opinion, and avoided giving any information that may have been discussed in the closed door session.

The conference really got down to business on Sunday morning, at 9:00. Roy Holladay, chairman of the council, gave the opening remarks. Reports were given from the Ministerial Services, International and Media areas.

The afternoon was taken up with balloting for the Strategic Plan, Operations Plan and Budget (all were passed). We also balloted for four members of the Council whose terms had expired. Three were asked to remain for another term: Vic Kubik, Leon Walker and Les McCullough. The new man on the Council is Clyde Kilough who served in the Edmonton area years ago as a very young minister. (He is still a very young minister compared to most of us!)

There were several amendments that were also balloted on. Two passed and two did not. It is good to be able to take part in expressing our opinion in matters pertaining to the Church. The real power in the Church is the whole body of ministers – that is the General Conference of Elders. They appoint the council that appoints the other officers. All are subject to the approval of the ministry as a whole.

We heard addresses from the Chairman (Roy Holladay), Treasurer (Tom Kirkpatrick) and President (Les McCullough). All were very positive and encouraging. Growth has been tremendous in the U.S. and the Church seems poised to shoot ahead in a greater way.

Next we had updates on our involvement with the Remnant Church of God, and a strong talk was given by Richard Thompson on the “Urgency in Preaching the Gospel and Urgency in Preparing the Bride of Christ.” Ministers again had the chance to attend the question-and-answer session with the COE, or listen to Julie Zutz speak on the generational differences in the Church. The meetings ended at 10:00 p.m.

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Monday meetings started at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 5:45 p.m. Vic Kubik gave a presentation on “Doing the Work” and Darris McNeely spoke on “Thinking in the Bible.” We then broke up into smaller groups to discuss those talks. That was followed by “Urgency of Preparing the Bride of Christ” by Bill Bradford, with more break-out sessions to discuss the content. We had two more talks on “Christ Centered Servant Leadership” by Clyde Kilough and “Urgency of the Times” by Donald Ward. The discussions that followed allowed the ministers to comment and add to what was given so we could improve our understanding. Mr. McCullough ended the meetings with a talk entitled, “Where do We Go from Here?” There was an emphasis on a warning message. The warning is the need to repent, more than a warning to this world that destruction is coming.

These meetings were meaty and full!

We realize that the ministry is aging and therefore the ABC program is vital. God does expect us to do our part in developing ministers to take over in time.

I spoke with three of the ministers from Germany: Herr Gohring, Herr Riehle and Herr Smits. Herr Gohring expressed his delight at attending. It was his first time in the U.S. and he was deeply impressed with the friendliness in the restaurants, the easy and brotherly attitude among the ministry and the ability all had to express their opinions. Even the German



Mr. & Mrs. Dean Wilson

ministers could ask questions. They did so through an interpreter, as did the Latin American ministers.

This is a worldwide work. It is the work of God and it is clear that the choices and direction taken thus far are good ones. God has blessed us in the tripling of the *Good News* output in the last two years. There has also been a huge growth in people showing interest by supporting the work financially and by requesting vast amounts of literature.

We do need to remember to pray to the Lord of the Harvest – because the fields are ripe and ready for harvest and the labourers are indeed few. -UNC

**“THESE
MEETINGS WERE
MEATY
AND FULL!”**

COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

One of the things I observed at these meetings is that members of the Council sometimes had different opinions and even disagreed with each other. It was heartening to see that we never lost sight of the need to advance in unison in the direction of our mission statement.

We have so often read in Proverbs that “through wisdom a house is built.” The wisdom comes from the Spirit of God working within each of us. Without God’s help our efforts will be in vain. Please pray for wisdom for the Canadian Council. -UNC

COUNCIL MEETS IN LETHBRIDGE

SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL • PHOTOS BY RAINER SALOMAA



Sabbath services in Coaldale, Alberta.

JUNE 6 SAW THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER round of Council meetings. The Wednesday evening meeting started at 8:00 and lasted just over two hours. After the minutes of the previous meeting were adopted, Anthony Wasilkoff and Ed van Pelt updated the Council on the activities in the National Office. Ed handed out charts and graphs demonstrating the most recent growth of UCG - Canada.

The newest Council member, Carol Livermore, gave an icebreaker. She said her approach to Council would be according to the advice of Thomas Jefferson: "In matters of style, swim with the stream; in matters of principle, stand like a rock." The Council looks forward to Carol's involvement.

For the benefit of those Council members unable to attend the General Conference of Elders, Robert Berendt gave his impressions of the meetings. Following this, each pastor reported on how the Day of Pentecost was observed in their respective areas.

During the brainstorming session, several items were assigned to committees for further discussion. These included: how to encourage more input from the youth; whether there should be one or two services held on Holy Days; and local evangelism.

An executive session was held on Thursday morning. Thursday afternoon was spent in committee work. A Friday morning executive session was devoted to the annual evaluation of the Operations Manager. Then the Council worked on a general self-evaluation.

Some of the local brethren were able to attend the Friday afternoon session. Each committee chairman gave a report on behalf of his committee. The Strategic Planning Committee began the initial work on the Strategic Plan for 2002/2003. The Ethics/Finance Committee proposed, and the Council approved, a vacation policy for employees.

The Governance Committee drafted three proposed amendments to the Bylaws. With Council approval, these will be forwarded to the Amendment Committee. The Governance Committee discussed an issue brought to the Council on behalf of a Church member. The member asked that the Council consider having only one service on Holy Days instead of two. There was lively discussion among the Council, and the members present, on the issue. The consensus of those present was that the current tradition should be continued but that individual Church members should be aware of their own individual needs and circumstances and attend one or two services accordingly.

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Lynn & Graemme Marshall

COUNCIL MEETS IN LETHBRIDGE

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The wedding of Bill and Anna Conway was held after the end of the Canadian Council meetings.

Getting the youth of the Church involved was the main topic for the Pastoral Committee. It was decided select advisors to Pastoral Committee. These advisors would be adults who coordinate the teen Bible Studies and activities in the local areas. They would be responsible to take input from the teens and pass it on to the Pastoral Committee for its use. The Council hopes this will be the first step in giving youth a more active part in the Church.

One of the most pressing issues for the Council is related to the Toronto office lease expiration at the end of October. Council's desire is to purchase a building, if possible. The Council instructed the Operations Manager to seek some way to finance this. They also appointed Eric Livermore to be Office Location Task Force Manager.

SABBATH SERVICES IN LETHBRIDGE

EIGHTY-SIX BRETHREN ATTENDED SERVICES on the Sabbath during the Canadian Council meetings. Services were held in Coaldale, a small town of about 6,000 people, located 15 minutes east of Lethbridge.

George Carter spoke on "The Foolishness of

Sunday morning was reserved for Council education. Local members attending were invited to take part in the discussions. Ruth Kerr conducted a Writer's Workshop. She presented exercises to teach proper punctuation, grammar, and self-editing. Richard Dubler then gave a short presentation on Fitness and Exercise. He kindly gave some of his time to Ruth and yet managed to cover the material he had prepared to deliver.

The meetings were concluded just in time for all to rush over to a wonderful ceremony to which all Council members were invited – the Anna Wiebe/Bill Conway wedding. Best wishes to Bill and Anna from the Council for a long and happy life together! -UNC

Preaching" (1 Corinthians 1:21), and Anthony Wasilkoff looked at how to build a proper foundation. Special music was presented by a quintet from Calgary and a quartet of brethren from Lethbridge, Montana and Cincinnati.

Brethren enjoyed a barbecue and fellowship after services. -UNC

"GETTING THE YOUTH OF THE CHURCH INVOLVED WAS THE MAIN TOPIC FOR THE PASTORAL COMMITTEE."

MACARAEGS VISIT TORONTO

BY KEVIN FORD • TORONTO

**“VISITORS [CAME]
TO HEAR
THE ONLY
UCG ELDER...
WORKING...IN
THE PHILIPPINES.”**

FOLLOWING VISITS FROM UCG-IA president, Leslie McCullough, and his wife, Marion, at Passover, and Graemme and Lynn Marshall from Down Under at the end of April, the Toronto Church was once again host to international guests at its May 12 service.

Edmond Macaraeg visited North America with his wife, Lorna, to attend the Cincinnati meetings and to renew ties with family and friends. He spoke at the Toronto service at the invitation of pastor Anthony Wasilkoff. Visitors from other fellowships, who came to hear the only UCG elder currently working full-time in the Philippines, swelled the Toronto congregation, which includes two Filipino families.

Mr. Macaraeg began by updating the brethren on the situation in his native land, where he and four non-salaried elders pastor about a dozen congregations totalling some 350 of God's people. He then explained how God is now preparing a people to be teachers in the world to come, and emphasized the ever-present risks to the Church in the form of apostasy. He recalled how the Church in the Philippines had once numbered around 5,000 members, a large percent-

age of whom no longer accept the truths they once held.

After the service, the Guzman family hosted a fellowship meal at their home for the Macaraegs and many of the Toronto brethren.

On the following Tuesday, the Macaraegs visited the Canadian National Office on Toronto's Islington Avenue. Here they were able to review the Canadian operations and enjoy a lunch with the office staff in the boardroom. In the course of discussions, Mr. Macaraeg mentioned that for a number of years a Filipino member in the Toronto area had been assiduously translating the Church's literature into one of the Filipino dialects. It was a reminder to us of our commission to "go therefore and make disciples of ALL the nations" (Matthew 28:19).

As they prepared to travel back to the Philippines, the Macaraegs knew they face a daunting task in bringing the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to a nation of 70 million people. But they have God's assurance that it will be done (Matthew 24:14). -UNC

ONLY TODAY

POETRY BY ALVINA MARTIN * TORONTO

Little we know as the rising of the sun,
What this day brings before it is done.
But God in His wisdom knows everything
The trials and blessings this day will bring.

The trials are blessings in disguise,
And are needed in life to make man wise.
One day at a time is not bad to bear,
For we know our heavenly Father takes care.

Yesterday is gone and tomorrow is not here.
It is only today that can bring us cheer.
The cares of the future and cares of behind
Must be put aside in the Christian's mind.

Today is crucified between two thieves,
Yesterday and tomorrow cause us grief.
But pray that God would show us the way,
So we can be happy every new day.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2001*

**Editor's Note: United News Canada tried to contact as many graduates as possible, but not all of this year's grads could be reached before press time.*



ADAM DUBLER *Toronto, ON*

Adam Dubler graduated from the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College with a Doctor of Chiropractic. He previously graduated from the University of Waterloo with an Honours B.Sc. in Health Studies.



ROBBIE GUZMAN *Toronto, ON*

Robbie Guzman attends the Toronto, Ontario, Church with his parents and sister. He attended Grades 9 and 10 in the French First language section. He finished OAC in the English section at Cardinal Carter High School. He has been studying the Martial Arts of Shaolin Kempo since 1995.



EVE SCHWARTZ *Prince George, BC*

Eve Schwartz, age 17, graduated from Prince George Secondary School. She plans on attending a commercial art program at a college of her choice. Eve loves to ski, mountain bike, draw and gaze at the stars through her telescope.



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KEVIN SPAHICH *Milton, ON*

Kevin Spahich of Milton, Ontario, has been an honours student throughout his high school years. In September, Kevin will begin an Honours Economics program at Sir Wilfred Laurier University.



REBECCA VON HOLLEN *Calgary, AB*

Rebecca von Hollen graduated with a bilingual diploma from William Aberhart High School in Calgary. She is enrolled in the Engineering program at the University of Calgary this fall.

IN THE BEGINNING: UCG IN NEW BRUNSWICK

BY JOHN AND HELENE HOWARD • NEW BRUNSWICK

The New Brunswick
Congregation:

Back Row: David Brown, John Howard, Linda Parlee, Clara Wanamaker, Virginia Steeves, June Steeves, Tina Gross with baby Bridget, Don Gross.

Front Row: Clarence Parlee, Helene Howard, Brittny Gross, Brianna Gross, Gary Steeves, and George Carter.

Missing: Bill and Jean Wetmore, and daughter, Abby.



Note: On April 14, 2001, the last day of Unleavened Bread, the Sussex, NB, UCG-IA congregation celebrated its fifth anniversary. The following (edited) description of the group's development was read during the afternoon announcements.

IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WERE GARY AND June Steeves, their daughter, Virginia, and June's mother, Mrs. Clara Wanamaker.

God instructed them to be fruitful and multiply. To prepare the ground – the foundation, so to speak – and to make themselves ready for an emerging Church congregation. This was the beginning of the United Church of God in the Sussex, N.B., area.

For years they faithfully followed God. They viewed sermon videos and fellowshiped with one another, wondering if it would always be just the four of them. Occasionally, others would visit and listen to the Sabbath messages. Having others to fellowship with made these cheerful occasions, but the visitors soon went their way.

In time, they discovered that Dale and Sharon Veno, from Fredericton, about 100 kilometres away, were members of the United Church of God, too. They began to travel back and forth between their respective homes.

During this period, Mr. Gary Antion, then head of the Canadian Work, made three trips

to the Maritimes. He held a service in Nova Scotia; another in Sussex, New Brunswick, and the third in Moncton, New Brunswick.

The spring of 1998 saw John and Helene Howard join the small group to partake of the Passover. They have been attending regularly ever since. In addition, visitors continued to attend from time to time.

Four months later, in August, 1998, God granted more growth by placing in our midst a beautiful baby girl, Abby Wetmore, along with her parents, Bill and Jean Wetmore. Mr. David Brown also attends regularly.

Services continued to be held in the homes, but eventually they became too crowded, and the new Ambassador Inn in Sussex became the new meeting place.

On August 8, 1998, the area's first assigned minister, Mr. Mark Kaplan, visited the brethren. He was accompanied by his wife, Linda, and children, Rachel, Daniel, and Jonathan. They travelled monthly from Montreal, often enduring all types of road conditions. At times there were as many as 18 in attendance to hear Mr. Kaplan's message. During this time period, the video group became a Bible Study group. But things were to change again when Mr. Kaplan and his family returned to the United States a few months later.

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EDMONTON SKI TRIP A HUGE SUCCESS

BY SUSAN AND OWEN DAVIS • EDMONTON

VERY EARLY ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, THE Edmonton teens, along with a number of adults and young children, set off for Marmot Basin Ski Hill in beautiful Jasper, Alberta.

The group enjoyed two wonderful, sunny days of excellent skiing. Abilities were tested, challenges raised and conquered, and skills strengthened – not to mention numerous muscles that were not known to exist previously!

After the first day of skiing, the group retired to the comfortable Marmot Lodge in Jasper to enjoy pizza. After dinner, the adults sought relief for sore muscles in the inn's hot tub, while the children and teens played tag in the pool. Then it was back to the "dining room" for cake and hot chocolate before bedtime.

The next morning, after a buffet breakfast, we set out for the ski hill once again. Another sunny day made for great skiing before we headed back to Edmonton later that afternoon.

What made our trip special was not only the skiing and all the fun we had, but also the wonderful sense of camaraderie and unity. Teens,

adults, and children alike built stronger bonds of friendship and love for one another through the simple experience of enjoyment. Everyone contributed in some way: some through their abilities in organization; others by their willingness to lend a helping hand; and some just through their special personalities that made everyone glad to be there.

We believe God's blessing was put on this activity as His people shared in an experience that created a unified sense of belonging to a very special group.

(This was our second ski trip. Last winter we went to Sunshine Ski Hill near Calgary, Alberta. On this trip we were able to invite our fellow brethren and teens from Calgary and strengthened our relationship with them. The Calgary brethren put on a wonderful potluck supper for us and billeted many of our families for the night. We enjoyed one terrific day of skiing with them before heading home to Edmonton.)

We will continue to invite other nearby Church areas on the ski trip in hopes of making this an annual event. -UNC

"THE GROUP ENJOYED TWO WONDERFUL, SUNNY DAYS OF SKIING."

UCG IN NEW BRUNSWICK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Before the 1999 Feast of Tabernacles, prayers were answered when God added a family of four from Maine – Don and Tina Gross and their two lively girls, Brittny and Brianna. Their third daughter Bridget, was added to their family and the congregation.

In 1999, the brethren were blessed with a new minister, Mr. George Carter, who planned to visit the area once a month when possible. On August 8 of that year, Mr. Carter delivered his initial message to 21 in attendance.

The past five years have seen visitors from Australia, Texas, Pennsylvania, Ontario,

British Columbia and Nova Scotia. Brethren from other Church of God groups continued to visit, some on a regular basis. One prospective member visits from Halifax when possible. We have also had many visiting speakers: Mr. Gary Antion, Mr. Mike Caputo, Dr. Richard Dubler, Mr. Mel Rahel and Mr. Ed van Pelt.

God has provided growth. Eleven brethren took the Passover this year, a 275 per cent increase in five years. More importantly, there has been tremendous growth in love and appreciation for one another. -UNC

MEMBER HONOURED BY RCMP VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION

STORY & PHOTOS BY JEAN JANTZEN • VANCOUVER ISLAND

CAMERAS FLASHED MR. ERNEST GIBSON, better known as "Gib," was honoured and given full membership into the International Police Association. He was presented with a worldwide passport at a dinner in Comox on April 17, 2001.

This has been only one of many events, birthday dinners, luncheons and breakfasts that Mr. Gibson and his wife, Helen, have attended in his honour. It's because this humble, God-fearing man has just turned one hundred years old. It's also because Mr. Gibson is one of the last of a "close-to-extinct breed" known as the Royal North West Mounted Police.

Cameras flashed once again Saturday, June 9, as 100 retired members, wives, and guests gathered at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Central Vancouver Island Veteran's Association luncheon in Courtnay, to pay tribute to Mr. Gibson. He received several awards, including the "Dominion President's Special Award" in recognition of his one hundredth birthday. This was presented by the president-executive and all members of the RCMP Veterans' Association.

He was also given the Commanding Officer's Certificate of Appreciation, which stated, "Your



Ernest "Gib" Gibson, centre, with his wife Helen (left) are escorted to an awards luncheon.

personal contribution was during a critical period in the history of not only Canada, but of the Royal North West Mounted Police which played a central role in forging the western expansion of Canada. It was also during your period of service, February 1, 1920 that the name of our organization became known as Royal Canadian Mounted Police. We recognize your distinction of embodying a living portion of this important part of Canadian history. Signed in Vancouver, Beverly A Busson, Assistant Commissioner, Commanding Officer 'E' Division RCMP."

Mr. Gibson also received letters of congratulations from Buckingham Palace, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and another from the Prime Minister of Canada, Jean Chretien. The President of the Republic of South Africa sent a congratulatory message to Mr. Gibson, saying, "He would have preferred to deliver this message personally but it is not possible due to his busy schedule."

A composite drawing of Mr. Gibson at age 19 (taken from a 12-year-old and 42-year-old photo of Gib) in what would have been his constable uniform, was drawn by forensic artist Sergeant Cam Pye of Vancouver and presented at this festive occasion. And, to close the ceremony, Mr. Gibson cut a huge birthday cake specially prepared and donated by Quality Foods. -UNC



100 years young. Mr. Gibson cuts his birthday cake.

"THIS HAS BEEN ONLY ONE OF THE MANY EVENTS... THAT GIB AND HIS WIFE... HAVE ATTENDED...."

MEMBER CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

STORY & PHOTOS BY JEAN JANTZEN • VANCOUVER ISLAND

THE VANCOUVER BRETHREN, MR. AND MRS.

Lorne Davies, Mr. and Mrs. David Palmer, and members as far away as Summerland, British Columbia congregated in Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, on Sabbath, June 2 to honor Ernest “Gib” Gibson by celebrating his one hundredth birthday.

Many birthday cards and congratulatory messages came from all over Canada and the United States in honour of this milestone occasion. For very special music, and a wonderful treat for us, Mr. Gibson sang acappella, “Place of Secret Prayer.”

Sabbath messages were focused on honouring our oldest member. Mr. Ken Kerr, Sr. told the congregation that God has much to say about seniors, and that we should give honour and rise in the presence of the grey-headed. To put Mr. Gibson’s life in perspective, Mr. Kerr explained that Mr. Gibson was born before Henry Ford’s Ford Motor company was formed, Orville Wright’s first 12-second flight, and before the Bolshevik Revolution. Mr. Gibson served in World War II and won five medals – two for courage.

Vancouver Island’s Mr. Joseph Sheperd gave some fascinating statistics: Mr. Gibson has consumed approximately two pounds of food and liquid per meal, so in his 100 years, he has consumed 219,150 pounds of food or 110 tons. His heart, at 65 beats per minute, has beat 3,416,500,000 times. His heart has moved 146 million gallons of blood through arterial vessels for 2,190,000,000 miles.

The main message from Mr. Palmer was on “The Celebration of Time and Mr. Gibson.” He explained time is a wonderful gift and we should treasure every moment. Used in a right way, time leads to health, happiness and success.

Mr. Willy Weber, a retired pastry chef, had prepared a strawberry shortcake for the occasion. He also presented the Gibsons with a beautifully wrapped food hamper from the



Vancouver Island brethren.

We on Vancouver Island are privileged to know Gib and his wife, Helen. They inspire each one of us with their continuing faith in God. They display courage, strength and humour, in spite of the many health trials that come with aging. They attend Church once or twice a month, which is a three-hour round trip for the couple.

Helen and Gib are overwhelmed by the love and attention from their extended Church family. “We feel so close to them all,” Helen and Gib said. “We cannot believe people have been so good and so kind to us. This day will live in our hearts forever. We cannot possibly express our feelings toward you all. Thank you so much to our dear brothers and sisters in Christ. We treasure every card and message received.” -UNC

Editor’s Note: A member profile on Mr. Gibson appears on the following page.

Ernest and Helen Gibson with Mr. David Palmer at a special Sabbath service commemorating Mr. Gibson’s 100th birthday.

MEMBER PROFILE: ERNEST “GIB” GIBSON

STORY & PHOTOS BY JEAN JANTZEN • VANCOUVER ISLAND



Helen and Ernest Gibson.

HOLLYWOOD’S ROMANTIC VISION OF THE Mounties are basically Old West Sheriffs in scarlet coats and wide brimmed hats. They are courageous, handsome and chivalrous. And I’m sure many were. But according to Canadian novelist, Ralph Connor (and probably Ernest Gibson, himself a former North West Mounted Policeman), being a Mountie is not quite so romantic. Members of the force are described by Ralph Connor as “dry nurses of the community who look after the sick, rescue men from blizzards and pack in supplies for people in need.”

Mr. Gibson, a member of the Vancouver Island congregation, was born in a little town called East London in Transvaal, South Africa in 1901. His father was the chief electrician at a gold mine. When the Boer Army was advancing across South Africa, hundreds of British fled. His mother, who was pregnant with Ernest at the time, was left behind when the rest of the neighbors had been evacuated. She was one of several refugees who left the country in an open coal car. Her milk dried up in the excitement, and they had an awful time getting milk for the three-day-old baby. They stopped at every

watering hole to try and keep him quiet.

His parents, known as British Colonials (born in a colony), moved back to England then onto Pennsylvania three years later. This is where his sister was born. The Ingersoll-Rand Drill Company offered Mr. Gibson’s father a lifetime job as a draftsman.

At age 14, with no high school to attend, Mr. Gibson ran (walked) away from home to Pittsburgh and ended up working at the mine.

Mr. Gibson did piecework on a lathe centering six-inch shells on a conveyer belt. He had some money in the bank, his own room and World War I was on. But the good times weren’t to last. “One day I came out of the shop and my dad was standing there,” says Mr. Gibson. “He had put detectives on my trail and traced me down and nailed me. I was standing over the Ohio River on a footbridge. We were talking in the middle of the night and I was so tired I couldn’t stand up. He was arguing that I should come with him to Canada.”

His father prevailed and the family settled in Holden, Alberta, on what was called a CPR farm. It was 1918.

Once again Mr. Gibson ran away and joined the Mounties in Regina on September 11, 1918. What were the qualifications back then? “Oh just good looks,” says Mr. Gibson with a twinkle in his eye. “[You had to] speak English, have enough stature, and be able to handle horses. I signed up for three years minimum. They were recruiting from all over, a real boot camp, 30 six-man tents all over on the green. We slept on the floor on a mat. There were six mattresses filled with straw and a blanket. That doesn’t quite sound like Hollywood’s romantic vision of the Mounties, does it?”

Gib’s own bittersweet memories of his training days are a little different than what Hollywood might portray.

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MEMBER PROFILE

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“There were 25 or 30 of us recruits at Fort William,” recalls Mr. Gibson. “I didn’t mind the military training – marching, forming fours. At first, each of us were given a horse to look after – hose it down, curry it sparkling clean. Even the hoofs were polished and sometimes that was a job, especially when the horse didn’t like it – you got a kick in the shin. They were all remounts from Calgary but some of them were broncos straight off the range. We had one who had kicked out every stall, on both sides. Talk about a wild horse.

“For inspection, we watered, polished, curried, saddled up our horses, and when called for, went on parade – seven days a week.

“We did this for six months then we were sent on detachment.” And at his graduation Gib proudly recited the oath: “I will faithfully, diligently, and impartially execute and perform my duties in the Royal North-West Mounted Police Force, without fear, favour, or affection of or towards any person or party, so help me God.”

“I injured my knee [a broken cartilage] wrestling,” continues Mr. Gibson, “and at that time they did not operate because medical money was limited. So I was crippled up, a bum knee for the rest of my life.

“I will never forget the time the cook gave us sour beans and everybody was running to the [outhouse]. I woke up in the middle of the night, dark as pitch, and I run around the tent, caught my foot in one of the ropes and went head over heels. I didn’t think I would make it to the latrine which was tented off. I’ll never forget those sour beans and running as hard as I could.

“Fifteen or 20 of us used to ride down to the reserve and keep order, so that is what we did. We rode wherever the brass wanted to go. We took all our orders from higher up. Before long I had the men in my charge to put the boys through their paces. Right turn! And away we’d go.”

Mr. Gibson’s injury was so severe that it prevented him from riding. He worked in the kitchen instead. Later, he was assigned for Royal Duty while King Edward was on a hunting trip in the Qu’Appelle Valley.

“But my bum knee got me discharged from the Mounties,” says Mr. Gibson. “So I got a homestead. I bet the government 10 dollars I could prove it up and I did. I



had it paid up in two years and build myself a cabin, which had to be inspected and passed. I settled 120 miles north of my family’s farm at Goodridge, near Mallaig, Alberta. I got a small horse, took out all the trees. I had to pick stones from some of the neighbors’ [properties], shovelled straw or hay, or cleaned the barn, or do whatever I could do to make a few dollars, buy some groceries, and finally get a home together. But I had to find other ways to make a living. I rented out the land and joined up in the army.

“I injured the other knee while serving in the army during World War II. During the war I met and married my beautiful wife, Helen, in 1942. We stayed together 18 days, then we were separated for three and a half years. We homesteaded for a few years then I became the last white Indian agent on the Kehewin Reserve on Long Lake between Bonnyville and Saint Paul, Alberta.”

This is where Gib and his wife were called in 1960 after reading *What Day is the Christian Sabbath?*

Gib and his wife Helen moved onto a three-quarter acre hobby farm nestled in the beautiful Comox Valley when he retired 35 years ago. “I now receive a pension,” he says with a twinkle in his eye. “The RCMP took responsibility for one knee, the army the other.” -UNC

Words to Live By
will return next issue.

CENSUS FINDS MORE UNMARRIED COUPLES

WASHINGTON: (AP) - Along with the population growth of the 1990s came big changes in the face of the American household. The number of unmarried couples soared by 71 per cent, dwarfing the increase in married couples.

The number of women raising children without fathers at home surged, too – up 25 per cent between 1990 and 2000 – while living alone was up 21 per cent compared with a seven per cent increase in married-couple households.

Overall, there were 54.5 million married-couple families in 2000, or about 52 percent of the country’s 105.5 million households, the census reported. In 1990, there were 50.7 million married-couple homes, 55 per cent all households then.

Married couples raising children under 18 made up 24 per cent of all households in 2000, down from 26 per cent in 1990. Some of that change may be due to some baby boomers, who range in age from 36 to 54; the oldest of these having finished raising their kids during the 1990s.

These are some of the latest details from the 2000 census. The data recently released offers the head count’s first look at America beyond race and ethnicity.

There is further evidence that issues that popped up in recent years based on changing family structure – such as domestic partner benefits and same-sex marriages – will keep getting attention.

“Social norms have changed. The neighbors don’t whisper behind your

back as often,” said Dorian Solot, co-founder of the Alternatives to Marriage Project.

The data did not detail how many of those in unmarried partnerships were same-sex couples. That information, as well other more specific relationship data, could be released this summer.

SATANISM ON THE RISE

“OFTEN USED WITH SUPERSTITIOUS RELIGION,” SAY BISHOPS.

ROME (Zenit) - Italian bishops have expressed their concern over what they see as a resurgence of Satanism, fortunetelling, witchcraft and black magic.

The Italian bishops’ conference, meeting in plenary assembly in the Vatican, explained in an official statement that this new phenomenon is promoted because of its “resonance” in the media, and the “unhealthy interest” it awakens.

Their comments came as they reviewed the Italian translation of the new “Ritual of Exorcism,” published in Latin by the Vatican in 1998. The document updates the text that was approved in 1614 and then enlarged in 1954.

According to the Italian bishops, phenomena such as Satanism and black magic are often combined with a superstitious use of religion, which results in offending the individual’s dignity and liberty.

“We are witnessing a rebirth of divinations, fortunetelling, witchcraft and black magic, often combined with a superstitious use of religion,” the bishops’ statement said. “In certain environments, superstition and magic can coexist with scientific and techno-

logical progress, inasmuch as science and technology cannot give answers to the ultimate problems of life.”

The bishops, who are preparing the pastoral orientation of the Italian Church over the next 10 years, also said they are especially worried about the “resurgence of an unhealthy interest in the sphere of the demonic.”

The bishops’ conference believes that the spread of these ideas leads people to lose confidence in God, to have no faith in providence, and to instrumentalize God according to man’s immediate interests.

“All this offends the dignity and liberty of the person, as man becomes subject to dark, impersonal forces, psychological dependencies and moral degradation,” the bishops stressed.

YOUNG GIRLS LOOK TO MORE AGGRESSIVE ROLE MODELS

NEWYORK : (ABC) - A new study finds that young women are looking up to very different role models these days. Forget about Cinderella or Barbie – now they are answering the call to be more like “Xena, Princess Warrior.”

Little girls these days, it seems, want to “kick butt and be more aggressive.”

Cassie Ederer of youth strategy for the U.S. based Convergence Mediagroup, says the goal is no longer to look pretty and wait for your prince to come. She says rather, “girls want to be healthy and strong, take charge, be in control.” -UNC