



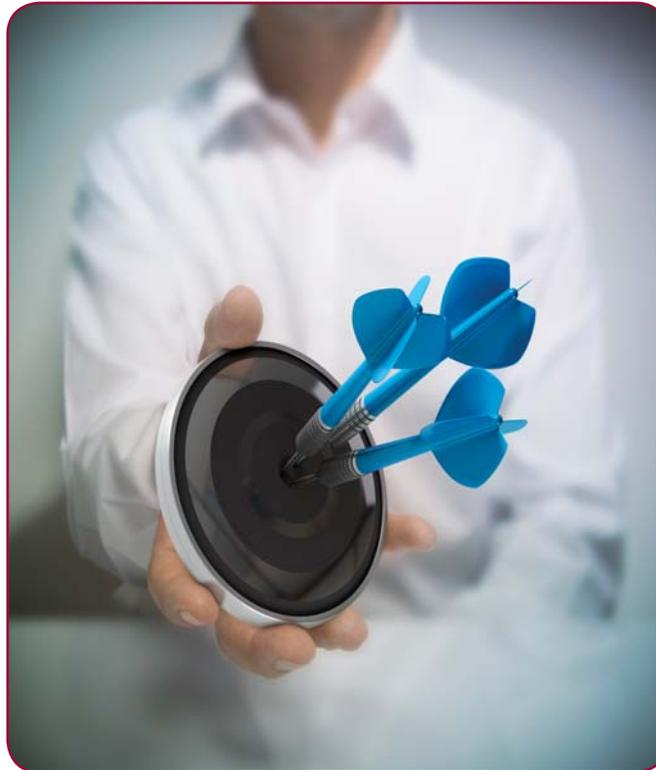
Feast Goals

Do you have a goal for keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in 2016? As you prepare to keep the Feast this year should you have a goal? If so, why should you include some goals for observing the Feast? How important is it to identify a goal or a series of goals?

There are four festival sites in Canada this year: Ste.-Adèle (Quebec), Midland (Ontario), Canmore (Alberta) and Victoria (British Columbia). Two of these sites are new locations for us this year, whereas the other two are locations we keep returning to because they have so much to offer. Even so, many brethren are transferring to sites outside of Canada as opportunity permits them to travel. Some are staying home and keeping the Feast locally because circumstances no longer permit them to travel to even the closest local site.

Zig Ziglar once stated, "If you aim at nothing you will hit it every time." On the other hand, if you have an aspiration and you

aim for that aspiration, you are far more likely to achieve it, in whole or in part, because you are aiming at something specific to accomplish.



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how most individuals had no aim in life. They never planned with aforethought to be in the career they find themselves in today. They do not live where they presently live because of careful advance consideration and determination. They have simply been driven and compelled by circumstances. They have yielded to drift and have made little effort to take the helm and set the rudder toward where they wanted to be.

The booklet goes on to explain that establishing a goal – the correct goal – will trigger ambition. The right goal will be so intensely desired that it will motivate a person to work with determined effort and incentive. Life must have an overpowering purpose as should component parts of one's life. Through the ages, few human beings have known such an over-arching purpose.

The 2016 Feast of Tabernacles is only a short time away, but there is still sufficient time remaining for you to sharpen your focus on what it is you wish to accomplish through keeping the Feast this year. This issue of the *United News Canada* has articles in it to help sharpen that focus and objective.

May your Feast observance this year yield results that will hold you in good stead for the next year and thereafter!

Many years ago, the Pastor General of the Church wrote a compelling booklet titled, "The Seven Laws of Success." In it the author, Herbert Armstrong, pointed out that achieving success is not accidental and that those who do achieve success follow concrete principles. The booklet proceeded to identify seven specific principles, which, if followed, would result in achieving success in life or at least in important aspects of one's life. The first of these essential principles or laws is to fix the right goal – not just any goal but the correct goal.

Unfortunately the booklet is no longer in print, but it explained

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Anthony Wasilkoff

Best Feast Ever

Each year the fall festival season is filled with much anticipation as we prepare for the Feast of Tabernacles. It is a time for new adventures and maybe a few new clothes. The opportunity to experience new cultures or different food may also present itself. Each year, when members return from attending the Feast of Tabernacles, we often hear that it was “the best Feast ever.”

When I review over 60 years of keeping the Feast, I ask myself, “Which was the best Feast?” The first Feast my parents attended, I was young and chose to spend the time with grandparents I rarely got to see. After that, for one reason or another, my family was unable to attend the Feast for several years. So we kept it by ourselves at home. Those were the years I yearned to meet with others who believed the same things we did.

When I started High School, we were finally able to make the trek to Big Sandy, Texas, to observe the Feast of Tabernacles. I remember the wonderful excitement of just being there. We didn’t have the money to stay in a hotel or go out to eat. Instead, we camped on-site. My mother spent many hours during the summer that year canning soup and chili for us to eat during those eight days. Our special treat was to have beef hot dogs (they were not avail-

able where we lived) and a gallon of apple cider! We were thrilled!

Through the years, there have been other very memorable Feasts – not the least of which was in the mountains of beautiful Squaw Valley. I have experienced meeting in the big tent and also enjoyed the wonderful perfume of flowers in Hawaii, white beaches of Florida, delicious food in Quebec and meeting the Queen of Jordan. I have had the opportunity of staying in tents, junky hotels and fine resorts. I’ve had a Feast with a sleepless and colicky baby, years with teenagers and enjoyable time spent with extended family.

But, what was my best Feast? I think the most memorable goes back to the early days in Big Sandy when I was a teenager. We were assigned campsites according to church areas, which allowed us to get to know our fellow brethren better as we traded cups of coffee, hot chocolate or dessert. We were also assigned serving duties by church area.

One year, the Springfield (Missouri) congregation was assigned to work in the cafeteria every second day. At the time, those who could afford meal tickets could eat at the cafeteria on the Big Sandy campus. Various congregations would be there to prepare and clean up for

the meals. My parents and I were on duty a total of four days while one of my sisters looked after my younger siblings. As I recall, being on duty included working for two or three meals each of those days. On the other days, I was assigned to babysit for a family from another church congregation while they served in the cafeteria.

So, for that whole Feast, I had little “free” time. Yet, it remains at the top of my list of “best” Feasts! I came away with a wonderful sense of accomplishment. I had a chance to work with older people and learn from them. I had the opportunity of babysitting two darling children. With everyone so unselfishly helping each other, there was a wonderful camaraderie and spirit of unity. The experience taught me the enduring value of serving for serving’s sake.

Through the years, I have discovered that the “best” Feast doesn’t come from exotic experiences or what money can buy. It comes from hearing God’s Word being taught and spending time with God’s people.

I look forward to another very memorable Feast this year to be added to those that have gone before!

Linda Wasilkoff

UNITED NEWS CANADA

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Take a Listening Heart to the Feast

When you see or hear the word “feast” what comes to mind? To members of the Church of God, the word relates to a wonderful festival, the biblical observance of the Feast of Tabernacles. But, let us consider for a moment the word “feast.”

Most modern dictionaries will describe “feast” as: “joyful religious anniversary;” “an annual village festival;” and “a sumptuous meal, especially in public.” The biblical expression in Leviticus 23 “feasts of the Lord” emphasizes the importance of these feasts observed at fixed times or seasons and convened for a definite purpose.

Easton’s Bible Dictionary (1897 edition) describes the word feast as “a mark of hospitality (Genesis 19:3; 2 Samuel 3:20; 2 Kings 6:23); occasions of domestic joy (Luke 15:23; Genesis 21:8); and the occasion of a marriage (Judges 14:10; Genesis 29:22). Feasting was a part of the observances connected with the offering of sacrifices (Deuteronomy 12:6, 7; 1 Samuel 9:19; 16:3, 5), and with the annual festivals (Deuteronomy 16:11). It was one of the designs of the greater solemnities, which required the attendance of the people at the sacred tent, that the oneness of the nation might be maintained and cemented together, by statedly congregating in one place, and with one accord taking part in the same observance.”

The dictionary then states “To keep the people’s consciousness alive to God’s way, to revive, strengthen, and perpetuate it, nothing could be so well adapted

as these annual feasts” (*Easton’s Bible Dictionary*).

The phrase “keep the feast” also encourages us to commune spiritually. In other words, as we travel to one of the various festival sites to keep this “anniversary,” we recognize that we are invited guests, not only to a banquet of good food, fine drink and wonderful fellowship with other brethren who have made the same trek, but we also recognize that the invitation is from God. Not only does He want us to rejoice with the



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physical blessings that have been bestowed on us over the past year (Deuteronomy 14:22-26), He also wants us to commune spiritually with Him and each other. What exactly does that mean? How do we commune spiritually?

Let us look at a biblical example. When Solomon followed his father David on the throne, God appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, “Ask what I shall give you” (1 Kings 3:5). Solomon asked for an understanding heart – better translated as a hearing or listen-

ing heart – that he might better judge God’s people and be a better king, “And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing” (1 Kings 3:10). As a result, Solomon was blessed not only with the wisdom of a listening heart, but great physical blessings as well.

The lesson we learn is this: not only do we participate in the Feast of Tabernacles for the physical meat, but also for meat which will not perish, but leads to everlasting life (John 6:27).

When you and I travel to the Feast this year, let us ask God for a listening heart – a heart willing to hear His instructions. Remember what the apostle Paul wrote, “That it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21).

If we develop a determination to attend the Feast with a listening heart, we will not only be in spiritual communication drawing closer to God and Jesus Christ, but, like Solomon, we will find the physical blessings are much more enjoyable as well, as we draw closer to each other.

The Feast is a wonderful opportunity to rehearse the Kingdom of God. Since God communes with us spiritually, it is a great occasion for us to commune with fellow brethren. The word “commune” merely means fellowship, and fellowship gives us the marvelous opportunity to apply some of Solomon’s wisdom. “A man has joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!”

(Proverbs 15:23). “Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones” (Proverbs 16:24).

We will meet many personalities at the Feast, including those who are quiet and shy or people who have a hard time communicating. If we put warm, friendly, encouraging conversation on

our to-do list for the Feast this year, we can contribute to someone’s festival just by striking up a friendly conversation. “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver” (Proverbs 25:11).

This year at the Feast tune in your listening/hearing heart and then tune into someone else’s.

What better way to get to know God than by getting to know someone else whom God has called. After all, you and that new person with whom you commune may be in the Kingdom of God forever. So why not take the opportunity while at the Feast of Tabernacles to become acquainted?

David Palmer

National Council Meets in Calgary

On June 2-3, the National Council held its annual face-to-face meeting at the Carriage House in Calgary, Alberta. It had been seven years since a meeting was held in Calgary. All nine Council members and the majority of spouses were present for the meetings.

Rainer Salomaa began the meeting by reminiscing about the first meeting held in Calgary in January of 1996 and the one held in June of that year in Victoria. The first meeting formed the National Council and started the process for incorporating the United Church of God – Canada. So, in a sense, this meeting celebrated the 20th anniversary of the founding of UCG-Canada. During those initial meetings, a board had to be formed; documents had to be created; a budget was prepared; and officers of the corporation were appointed.

Since that initial meeting, over 30 individuals have served on the National Council. The board has had an ebb and flow of new members, but also has had continuity.

For instance, Rainer Salomaa has served on the Council continuously since that initial meeting.

After the minutes of the March 2016 meeting were approved, Rainer Salomaa gave a short synopsis of the most recent General Conference of Elders and Council of Elders meetings. He noted that Dr. Donald Ward is the new chairman for the Council of Elders. He then showed a slide show of a tour of the Home Office.

Anthony Wasilkoff gave a National Office update that included a report on Subscriber Development letters that have been mailed since November of 2012. The report showed the cost per response and the amount of donations generated as a direct result of the letters.

Bill Dimovski and Edwin van Pelt were in touch with representatives of the Readers Digest magazine to consider the possibility of running an ad in their magazine. Bill recommended that further evaluation was required

to determine if this would be the best allocation of funds.

Two PowerPoint presentations were given by Edwin van Pelt. His first provided statistics about donors, members and subscribers. One item discussed was the increase in the number of people donating on-line. UCG-Canada will soon accept e-transfers in addition to the current method of online donations.

The second PowerPoint was on behalf of the Media Team and concentrated on the Beyond Today television program results. Mr. van Pelt noted that the contract with Hope TV has been renewed and that the contract with Vision TV will have been renewed in August.

The Ministerial Team update was given by Anthony Wasilkoff. He reported that overall trends in the church across Canada are positive. Michael Caputo started to work as interim pastor for Montreal as of the beginning of June.

Time was set aside for brainstorming on Thursday morning.

There was discussion about the difference between growth in numbers and spiritual growth. It is recognized that there is no “magic bullet” to cause the church to grow. Anthony Wasilkoff recommended the book, *I Am a Church Member*, written by Thom S. Rainer, which reminds members that they have a duty to be active members. That led to a discussion about unity in the church areas and suggestions of how to inspire individuals to become more involved.

Thursday afternoon was devoted to committee meetings where preliminary work for the Council as a whole could be done.

Friday morning began with reports from each of the committees. Larry DeLong reported on behalf of the Strategic Planning/Finance Committee. The committee reviewed a suggestion regarding the need to review the yearly Operations Plan to ensure that objectives are being met. The Director of Operations acknowledged this as a valid suggestion. It was determined that the Strategic Planning committee would be given the task of reviewing the Operations Plan each year and providing recommendations to the National Council. The committee made further suggestions regarding preparing the annual budget and doing more “forward planning” to allow better reaction to potential variations to budgets. The committee will work on a policy for use by the Director of Operations for when expenditures are higher than allowed by the budget.

Patrick Read, on behalf of the Governance/Ethics/Pastoral

Committee, presented a formal procedure for selecting a chairman. In September, Rainer Salomaa’s term as Chairman will end. With changes required by Canadian legislation, selecting a new Chairman is more complicated than it had been. As a result, a formal resolution was presented and approved by Council allowing for a Temporary Chairman to be appointed to chair the meeting immediately following the annual meeting of the National Conference when new Council members will be selected and until a new Chairman is selected. Patrick Read was asked to be the Temporary Chairman in September 2016, until a new Chairman is appointed.



Michelle Moss

The Compensation Committee, with Lloyd Teetaert as chairman of the committee, is composed of members of the Council who are not employed by the church. The committee recommended some adjustments to the salary ranges and pay scale categories, which would allow more flexibility for administration. The recommendations were approved by general consent.

A joint recommendation by the Finance and Compensation committees for future adjustments to the mileage reimbursement rate was approved by general consent.

Michael Erickson presented a policy for reserve funds. This policy ensures that the National Council controls how large our reserve fund is and how it might be spent. The policy was unanimously approved by the National Council.

The National Council is responsible for interpreting the Bylaws and needed to do so. After discussion, the Council approved a resolution to determine who qualifies to be a member of the National Conference referencing Bylaws 5.1.11 and 5.1.7. The purpose of the resolution was to provide consistent guidelines when unusual circumstances occur. The resolution was approved unanimously.

In September, terms of three Council members will come to an end. After the WebEx meeting of the National Conference meeting when new Council members are to be selected, there will be a meeting of the new Council. The method for ensuring that the newly selected laymember would be online for that Council meeting was determined.

The last item on the agenda was the annual review of the Director of Operations, which was conducted in an informal closed session. This was followed by an outing to Heritage Park and a barbeque at the home of Rainer and Claudia Salomaa.

2016 Audit Summary

The Bylaws of United Church of God-Canada require that the annual audit of the church's finances be published and made available to all congregations of UCG-Canada. If you would like to see the complete printed version of the report please contact your local pastor.

UNC

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA Statement of Operations and Fund Balance

For the year Ended March 31st, 2016

	Operating Fund	Festival Fund	Assistance Fund	Building Fund	Other Funds	2016	2015
Revenue							
Tithes and offerings	\$1,417,860	\$ 20,756	\$ 8,698	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,447,314	\$1,501,431
Interest and other income	7,306	-	-	938	-	8,244	7,685
	<u>1,425,166</u>	<u>20,756</u>	<u>8,698</u>	<u>938</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,455,558</u>	<u>1,509,116</u>
Expenditure							
Salaries and benefits	774,873	-	-	-	-	774,873	685,284
Travel	89,483	-	-	-	-	89,483	75,470
Festival costs	-	25,751	-	-	-	25,751	24,200
National conferences	18,862	-	-	-	-	18,862	12,261
Office and general	121,732	-	-	-	-	121,732	120,390
Insurance	17,018	-	-	-	-	17,018	16,542
Telephone	10,159	-	-	-	-	10,159	9,687
Advertising	151,402	-	-	-	-	151,402	157,129
Professional fees	9,453	-	-	-	-	9,453	8,696
Hall rentals	123,168	-	-	-	-	123,168	120,950
Church supplies	7,637	-	-	-	-	7,637	7,658
Tape duplication	1,576	-	-	-	-	1,576	1,436
Rent	43,040	-	-	-	-	43,040	43,242
Equipment rental	4,822	-	1,875	-	-	4,822	5,261
Assistance	-	-	-	-	-	1,875	100
Bank and interest charges	6,302	-	-	-	-	6,302	8,051
Amortization - (Notes 2(b) and 3)	7,177	-	-	-	-	7,177	8,777
	<u>1,386,704</u>	<u>25,751</u>	<u>1,875</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,414,330</u>	<u>1,305,134</u>
Revenue over Expenditure for the Year	38,462	(4,995)	6,823	938	-	41,228	203,983
Fund balance at beginning of year	1,147,999	43,349	82,702	37,289	1,898	1,313,237	1,109,254
Fund Balance at End of Year	<u>\$1,186,461</u>	<u>\$ 38,354</u>	<u>\$ 89,525</u>	<u>\$ 38,227</u>	<u>\$ 1,898</u>	<u>\$1,354,465</u>	<u>\$1,313,237</u>

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31st, 2016

	2016	2015
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,358,642	\$1,317,507
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	21,634	19,096
Supplies inventory	4,429	4,434
Prepaid expenses and deposits	<u>35,668</u>	<u>43,965</u>
	1,420,373	1,385,002
Capital Assets - (Note 3)	<u>28,744</u>	<u>35,038</u>
	<u>\$ 1,449,117</u>	<u>\$1,420,040</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balance		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 58,007	\$ 35,910
Withholding taxes payable	-	12,059
Capital lease obligation - (Note 4(c))	<u>23,958</u>	<u>22,189</u>
	81,965	70,158
Long Term Liabilities	<u>12,687</u>	<u>36,645</u>
Capital lease obligation - (Note 4(c))		
Fund Balance	<u>1,354,465</u>	<u>1,313,237</u>
	<u>\$ 1,449,117</u>	<u>\$1,420,040</u>



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AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of United Church of God - Canada:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of United Church of God - Canada, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31st, 2016, and the statement of operations and fund balance, and changes in cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of United Church of God - Canada as at March 31st, 2016, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

July 5th, 2016
North York, Ontario

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
(Licensed Public Accountants)

News From Across Canada

New Pastor

UCG-Canada has long recognized the need to train new ministers or to be able to hire those with experience. Earlier this year an opportunity arose that was too good to pass up!

Victor Kubik called the National Office offering to “lend” a pastor to Canada. The offer was gratefully accepted and John and Merrie Elliott are now serving in the



Vancouver and Vancouver Island congregations as well as continuing to look after the East Africa region. David Palmer is happy to have someone to take over more of the responsibilities of pastoring.

John was born in Pasadena, California, and spent much of his childhood around the Ambassador College campus where his father oversaw the construction and maintenance of the campus. John and Merrie spent most of their Ambassador College years at the Bricket Wood campus. After graduating in 1974, John married Merrie McCann and they moved to British Columbia.

John and Merrie served in the Victoria and Abbotsford, British Columbia, congregations for five years. They have also served congregations in Arkansas, South Dakota, California, Ohio and Arizona. Mr. Elliott has been involved in festival planning, youth camps and, for several years, has been the senior pastor for Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Mauritius and Ethiopia where he has also been actively involved in training leadership.

The Elliotts have three married daughters and eight grandchildren, all of whom attend the United Church of God. Currently Mr. Elliott serves on the Council of Elders and is the chairman of the Doctrinal Committee.

We welcome the vast experience that both Mr. and Mrs. Elliott will bring to the church in Canada.

National Office

Two New Hires

For a number of years, UCG-Canada has been working toward being able to hire additional ministers as God provides. As a step in this plan, two individuals have recently been hired to work part-time in the Canadian ministry.

Michael Caputo

Those who receive sermon DVDs from the National Office will be well familiar with Michael Caputo who has been hired to be the interim pastor the Montreal congregation.

Michael was born in southern Italy. He moved to Canada with his parents in 1967. The family first located in Quebec where he learned to speak French.



He was baptized in 1972 and went to Ambassador College the following year. After college, he continued his university studies in Canada and worked in the mental health field for several years. Michael was ordained to the ministry in 1985 and, with his wife Leonilda, pastored in Italy until 1988 when he was re-assigned to serve a Canadian congregation.

Because of health and family reasons, Michael left the full-time ministry in 1990. He worked as a high school teacher and college educator until his recent retirement, which allowed him more time to allocate to helping the church.

Leonilda recently retired from working as a baker and cake decorator. Being a master cake decorator, she also taught cake decorating at a top cake-decorating school for several years. Additionally, through the years she has provided the local congregation with beautifully

decorated cakes and delicious assorted baked goods. Michael and Leonilda have three children: Anthony, Julie and Victor. They also have two grandchildren.

James Lucas

Jim Lucas was only a few months old when his parents, Garry and Emmie, came into the church. He was baptized his senior year at Ambassador College. After graduating in 1990, Jim returned to his home town of Barrie, Ontario. He married Almeda Bauman (also an Ambassador College graduate) in 2000. They have two sons: Evan and Daniel.

Jim is self-employed as an architectural draftsman. Now he also works part-time as a ministerial trainee and assists in several of the Ontario congregations. He will also occasionally help Michael Caputo with the Montreal congregation.

Almeda will continue working in her job as a Healthcare Litigation Specialist with a major insurance company.



Paul Wasilkoff

The Lucas family attends services in the Toronto congregation and also other outlying areas.

National Office

Batoche Days

On July 17, a group from the North Battleford and Saskatoon congregations met at Batoche, Saskatchewan, to take in some of the events at the “Back to Batoche Days.” Batoche, a National Historic Site, was the scene of the final battle of the Northwest Resistance in 1885. The festival events include chuck wagon races along with fiddle and jigging contests. The focus of the event is on the Metis culture.



provided by Bruce Bird

After enjoying a picnic lunch, the final jigging and fiddling events were taken in. Some were able to see the final heat of the chuck wagon races. The day was filled with fun and fellowship—with the highlight of the day being fellowship.

After meeting for a cup of coffee at the canteen, everyone reluctantly called it a day.

Adeline Sanoy

Camp Wildrose

Amidst the beautiful greenery of the Davis farm near Darwell, Alberta, 34 campers and 24 volunteers participated in the seventh annual Camp Wildrose. Camper’s ages ranged from five to 16 years, but whole families attended with toddlers, babies and grandparents adding to the mix! Participants came from various parts of British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. The weather was summer perfect – warm and sunny. What a wonderful camp experience it was!

Building Godly character and unity were central themes worked into every camp activity. Each morning everyone gathered together for a “Peanut Butter and Jam” session (the metaphor being that God’s Word and His lessons should “stick” with us, give us energy, and taste good). Each session left an impactful message for everyone to carry through the day. One session joined our body parts together in a connecting whole and focused on 1 Corinthians 12 and unity. Another lesson gave facts about bees and how wonderfully they are made to work together for a common goal.

Our daily Christian living lessons focused on two parables: “The Sower and the Seed” (Matthew 13), addressing the condition of our hearts and their reception to God’s Word; and “The Parable of the Mustard Seed”, where our tiny seed of faith allows God to do the rest.

We introduced a few new activities this year. Cathy Ward (Edmonton) came out to the camp one



Wayne Ward

afternoon to work with the children on two theater pieces, “The Esther Story” and “The Red Sea Crossing.” The children performed the plays later that evening and did a wonderful job! We were all entertained as we watched the Egyptians drown under two blue tarps with water spraying from the garden hose!

Another hit activity was dance lessons taught by Heidi Poffenroth (Calgary). The younger campers learned some easy line dances, while our oldest teens had instruction in the polka, jive and two-step. Later that evening, there was a real dance, deejayed by Heidi. The “dance hall” was decorated, and the kitchen staff provided an ice cream sundae treat to add a special touch to the event. The best part of the evening was a round of musical chairs for each age group, including the adults!

Our craft this year was tie-dyed t-shirts. Such fabulous colours and patterns! They were bright and colourful and each one was unique! Thank you to Brenda Thompson (Grande Prairie) for organizing such a special camp keepsake.

This year’s canoeing activity had some added challenges for the

teens, as they were given the task of turning a capsized canoe upright. It only took them half an hour, leading them to quip, “Our poor rescuee has drowned a few times over!” Some other favourite activities included ultimate frisbee, archery, volleyball, badminton, soccer, parachute games, water play, scavenger hunting and teamwork challenges.

Each year, Camp Wildrose has built upon its experience to create an even greater feeling of unity and family togetherness. Although we are scattered over long distances, we are so excited to see each other at camp and to live together in harmony for four fun-filled, spiritually uplifting days. Thank you to everyone who supports Camp Wildrose and believes in the importance of teaching and nurturing our youth in God’s ways and building a church family where everyone experiences the work of God’s Holy Spirit. Please consider joining us next year!

Susan Davis

D’Alessandros Farewell

It is said that “location” is everything. Location can determine suc-

cess or failure when starting a new business or when deciding where to live.

The city of Windsor, Ontario, is located across the river from Detroit, Michigan. This location played an important part in beginning, establishing and continuing the Windsor congregation.

One of the reasons the location of this new congregation became so important is because we needed the assistance of an elder who would be close enough to help during times when the Canadian pastor was not available.

When Patrick Read was assigned the task of starting a United Church of God congregation in Windsor, Mr. Randy D’Alessandro, for many years the Detroit and Ann Arbor



Patrick Read

pastor, was asked if he would be willing to help out. Thankfully, Mr. D’Alessandro was eager to help in any way he could.

The closeness of Windsor to Detroit allowed Mr. Read to begin a twice-a-month mid-week Bible study by sharing the responsibility with Mr. D’Alessandro.

God blessed the Bible study to the point that Sabbath services were the natural next step. Mr. D'Alessandro with his wife, Mary, crossed the U.S./Canadian border to minister the Word to our little flock once a month for the next couple of years. Mr. D'Alessandro also arranged for two elders, Mr. Keith Haab and Mr. Brian McGuire from the Ann Arbor congregation to minister the Windsor congregations on other Sabbaths of the month.

Changes in church assignments are common within the ministry, and Mr. D'Alessandro accepted a request to serve the Chicago, Illinois, area. Mr. and Mrs. D'Alessandro's move to the Chicago area was to be completed by May 1, 2016.

On the Sabbath of April 29, the Last Day of Unleavened Bread, the Windsor brethren honored the D'Alessandro's last visit to Windsor with a surprise. Mr. Read presented them with a silver Canada goose in flight on a marble base with an inscription from Romans 10:15, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

They were also given a card signed by the Windsor brethren, which included a monetary gift to be used as they desired. Because the occasion was during the Days of Unleavened Bread, one of the challenges that we faced was having a cake for the occasion. However, Mary Brdar applied her skill and baking expertise to create a wonderful "unleavened cake" for the occasion.

We are thankful to God for giving us Randy and Mary D'Alessandro who faithfully helped us in our growth as a congregation. Although we will miss them, we pray that God will grant them a faithful ministry first and foremost to Jesus Christ, the Kingdom of God and the Chicago area brethren in the years ahead.

Patrick Read

Hamilton Farewell

In high school, most of us were required to study the writings of William Shakespeare. In one of his more popular plays is the often quoted "parting is such sweet sorrow." This captured the sentiment of the Hamilton congregation as they bade farewell to Rhonda Stopyn, daughter of Peter and Jacqueline Stopyn, on the Sabbath of September 3.



Gaeian St. Denis

Following services Rhonda was presented with a cake and special card made by Coreen Wasilkoff and signed by the congregation. She will be greatly missed as she begins the next chapter of her life – pursuing her Master's degree in

Gerontology. Ontario's loss is Saskatchewan's gain, but we hope to have her back in a couple of years.

Linda Wasilkoff

Ontario Campout

Gorgeous sunsets, a nearly full moon, waves washing up on the shores of Lake Huron and crackling campfires at night were just some of the sights and sounds the 35 campers from four Ontario congregations experienced during the annual camping weekend, which took place from Friday, July 15 to Monday, July 18 at Point Farms Provincial Park, just north of the picturesque town of Goderich in Southern Ontario. For nearly a quarter of the campers, this was their first experience participating in what has become an annual event.

Campers arrived at the group campsite on Friday afternoon and early evening. Those who arrived early assisted the later arrivals with pitching tents and inflating air mattresses. Thanks to co-operation and teamwork, everyone's temporary abode was set up before sunset.



Edwin van Peit





Paul Wasilkoff

Around that time, a number of campers ventured down the 129 steps to the beach where they could enjoy the beginning of the Sabbath and watch a spectacular sunset. Lake Huron is known for its awe-inspiring sunsets.

Friday night saw the nearly full moon shining brightly on the camp. Hundreds, if not thousands, of stars were also visible in the cool, clear night sky. A stiff breeze off Lake Huron meant the relaxing sound of the waves could be heard throughout the campsite. That same breeze also rustled the leaves in the trees adding to the feeling of tranquility.

Sabbath morning brought sunshine, pleasant temperatures and low humidity. After breakfast, a 90-minute Bible Study was conducted. Shortly after that, it was time for lunch. Campers were asked to bring different items for lunch and dinner on the Sabbath as well as lunch on Sunday.

In spite of it being a hot and dry summer, there was no fire ban in effect and we were able to have campfires. These added considerably to the enjoyment of the camp weekend. Hot dogs, s'mores, popcorn and even a few breakfasts were cooked on the campfires.

A few campers departed Saturday

evening but most stayed until Sunday when impromptu field hockey and badminton games broke out during the day. Many spent time at the beach as well. With skies becoming overcast during the afternoon and the threat of rain and thunderstorms later on Sunday afternoon and into the evening, most campers packed up their gear and headed home.

A few hearty souls stayed until Monday, and through the power of prayer, the rain and thunderstorms passed by and only a few drops of rain fell. The skies cleared during the evening, once again revealing bright moonlight and God's handiwork in a star-studded sky. Late Monday morning, under clear and sunny skies, the four remaining campers packed their gear and headed home.

By all accounts, it was a very successful and enjoyable weekend. Plans are already in the works for next year's event.

Edwin van Pelt

Hamilton Grads

The Hamilton, Ontario, congregation had reason to celebrate this year. Almost one-tenth of its attendees graduated this past June. On July 2, the three graduates were

honored with a special cake following services.

Rhonda Stopyn, daughter of Peter and Jacqueline Stopyn, graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.Sc. She will be going to the University of Regina to get a M.Sc. in Gerontology. Her hobbies include playing piano, swimming, and visiting her Uncle Willie. Her goal is to pursue a career in counselling and help others heal through Christ's love.

Ethan Mercer, son of David and Tracy Mercer, graduated with honours from Lakeview Public School in Grimbsy. He received the athletic award, which he shared with his friend. He will be attending Grimbsy Secondary School this fall. Ethan loves all sports and is currently playing soccer and hockey for AAA teams in the Grimbsy area. Additionally he is trying to improve his golf game. For the future, Ethan is considering going into the dentistry field.



Anthony Wasilkoff

Logan Wasilkoff, son of Paul and Coreen Wasilkoff of Hamilton, graduated from Franklin Road Elementary School in Hamilton and received the art award. He will be attending Sir Allan MacNab Secondary School this fall. Logan enjoys music and is currently taking

banjo lessons. He also enjoys being in the outdoors as well as building things in his dad's workshop.

UNC

Andrusko Farm Award

In 2 Timothy 2:6, the apostle Paul declared that "The hard-working farmer must be first to partake of the crops." This is only fair, as anyone who has observed farm life anywhere must confess. There are few people who work longer and harder every day than a farmer. Thus, when a farm on the Canadian prairies has been in the hands of one family for a century, it is a truly remarkable achievement. Such is the case with the Andrusko farm near Stenen, Saskatchewan. Founded by family patriarch Mike Andrusko when he arrived in 1913 from his native Ukraine, the enterprise was acknowledged by the provincial government with the Century Farm Award in 2013.

One-hundred years is a long time, and life has often been a struggle for farmers on the prairies. For the Andruskos it has been no different. When I spoke with Bill Andrusko about this on the telephone, he told me that his father Mike had been compelled to seek work for a year in Detroit, Michigan, over the winter of 1919-1920, at the Ford and Dodge Brothers automobile plants, before being able to return to his family later that year.

Bill was not around at the time, as he was born in December 1928, but he did arrive just in time for

the Great Depression, which hit the prairies harder than any other region in North America. Simply keeping body and soul together was a herculean task for people, and maintaining ownership of one's farm proved too much for many. In a time of few, if any, social assistance programs, many American farmers gave up their homes and tried to re-establish themselves as itinerant workers in California, while in Canada more than a few prairie farmers were forced to relinquish the family



Rainer Salomaa

homestead and seek work in the interior of British Columbia as fruit pickers.

The Andruskos were able to keep their farm, and the demand for agricultural produce during World War II finally established a steady market for everyone. Today their farm of 480 acres produces coarse grains, as Bill describes it: wheat, oats and barley. They raise no livestock.

In 1961, Bill married Sonia. They had four children. Son Michael is a teacher in neighbouring Sturgis and also runs the farm. Daughter Laney lives on the farm with dad Bill. Cheryl graduated from Ambassador College in 1982 and worked for the World-

wide Church of God under Frank Brown. Theresa lives in Montreal. Bill lost his wife in 2015 after more than 50 years of marriage.

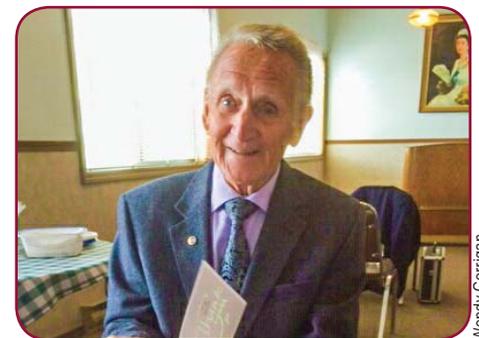
Bill and Sonia were baptized in 1971 by Charles Bryce. Today Bill attends the Regina congregation of the United Church of God. At 87 years of age, he enjoys an active retirement and the quiet country life on their farm. He is still able to ride the tractor for hours at a time and carefully maintains the farm's buildings and landscape.

Todd Sauve

Ordination Anniversary

Joe Sheperd, who has served as an elder for many years on Vancouver Island with his wife, Bobbi, reached the milestone of 40 years as elder on Pentecost 2016.

The Sheperds were called into God's church while Joe was serving in the Royal Canadian Air



Wendy Corrigan

Force. He was due to be promoted into the diplomatic corps with a possible posting to Russia since Joe speaks Polish and can understand Russian.

Instead, they made the decision

that he would leave the RCAF and came into God's Church. They were baptized in 1964. Mr. Sheperd then spent many years as a manager in the British Columbia medical system in Victoria.

He was first ordained a deacon and then, 40 years ago, he was ordained an elder on Pentecost 1976. In addition to his service as an elder on Vancouver Island, he also served a three-year term on the UCG-Canada National Council.

Wendy Corrigan

de Jong Anniversary

Bill and Gerda de Jong have been faithful members in God's Church for many years.

Having immigrated from Holland in 1949, they met each other after arriving in Canada. They married in 1956 and went on to have five children.



William Moulton

Bill began to attend the World-wide Church of God in Ottawa with his brother, Andy, in the 1960's. Gerda began attending services with him a few years later. They attend the Ottawa congregation of the United Church of God-Canada.

On June 18, the Ottawa congregation joined them in celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary with a delicious cake during the snacks after services.

Mary Moulton

Sheehan Obituary

Gwen (Shortt) Sheehan was born on February 22, 1922. She died Tuesday, July 19 at 94 years of age in Mississauga, Ontario. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Walter (Wallie) who died at a relatively early age leaving her a widow for many years.

Mrs. Sheehan was called into the church decades ago – the only one in her family to be called—but she “adopted” many church members, including those from her local congregation as well as others she met through the years.

For many years, Gwen had been afflicted with multiple sclerosis. Even so, she continued living in her own home until a just few years before her death when she had to move into a seniors' home. From that time, she was no longer able to attend church.

Toronto members have fond memories of the times Mrs. Sheehan could attend church, which during the last years was mainly on Holy Days. She sang the hymns with great passion directly to her Father in Heaven. She was a ball of super energy and seemed to feel the words with zest as if she meant every one of them!

Mrs. Sheehan will also be remembered for her dedication to praying for the ministry and members. She was pen pals with several in one ABC class. She cherished the cards and letters she received from those young people.

For many years, Gwen was unable to attend the Feast. That did not stop her from observing it enthusiastically. She would pre-plan each day of the Feast, including what she would wear and eat, which hymns she would sing and which sermon she would play for her “service”. Gwen explained that she would say an opening and closing prayer for her “service” while asking God to accept them since there was no man there to pray for the service.



Anthony Wasilkoff

Patrick Read conducted a graveside funeral for Mrs. Sheehan on Tuesday, July 26. She was buried in Mississauga next to her late husband. A memorial was held on Sabbath, August 27 in accordance with her family's wishes.

Toronto member Lillie Robinson says: “Gwen has left us a legacy of how to praise our God – joyfully, gladly and with obvious gratitude!”

Linda Wasilkoff

“Rest” from page 16

One way to help make the Feast enjoyable is to appreciate what God has given us. Think about blessings received from God throughout the year. Enjoy what God has created. It is a joy to spend time appreciating God’s creation.

The Feast is an opportunity to unwind mentally and to relieve the stresses of everyday living. God does not want His Feasts to be stressful, to be a burden or to weigh us down. He wants us to enjoy ourselves in the right way. God gives us all the things we can truly enjoy including the Feast of Tabernacles.

“S” is for serving. There are many different ways we can serve at the Feast. Some are more obvious than others. Some people serve behind the scenes. For instance: by praying for others or through our actions. Small acts of kindness such as holding a door open for someone whose arms are full might seem like a small thing, but it can mean a lot to that person. Serving does not have to be a big production.

One way to look at serving is to make things easier for another person. When we serve, we are making things easier by potentially lifting a burden from someone else. When we register for the Feast, we make it easier for those planning the Feast. It might seem insignificant, but it makes a big difference.

We have to be careful that all of our service does not change our focus of why we’re at the Feast. We find the story of Mary and

Martha in Luke 10:38-42. Mary wanted to be taught by Jesus. Martha, on the other hand, was too busy serving and complained about Mary. We can sense Martha’s frustration in this passage. Serving is good – it is something we should be doing. But notice that Martha was preoccupied with serving. It diverted her focus and took her away from more important things. Being taught by Jesus and hearing His words should have been a priority. If we were in this situation, would we be more like Mary or Martha? Would we be more eager to be taught or preoccupied with other things? There is nothing wrong with serving – it is a very Christian thing to do. Be certain to keep the correct balance to our degree of service.

We should be serving God as well as one another. How? We serve God through having proper fear, reverence and awe of God. We serve Him by following the path He leads us on. We serve Him through love and keeping His commandments. We serve Him entirely – with our heart and soul. Let’s continue to serve God, as well as serving one another – not just during the Feast but throughout the year.

“T” is for taste. Taste the finer things in life, and taste the coming Kingdom of God.

God created us to have between 2,000 and 8,000 taste buds so we can enjoy different foods. During the Feast we have the opportunity to enjoy foods we might not normally consume during the rest of the year. That’s how God planned it. It’s a good thing.

But beyond the physical, let’s look at the spiritual. Taste the coming Millennium and Kingdom of God. During the Feast we will undoubtedly read the words of Isaiah 2:2-4 and 11:6-9. Those words are in vast contrast to today’s world showing a coming time of peace and harmony when God and His way will be taught. There will be obedience to God. Because of obedience, there will also be abundance. Blessings will abound, not curses as it is today. What a world that will be. At the Feast we learn more about the coming Millennium and Kingdom of God and will get a foretaste of what lies ahead for us.

Remember these four points to help us REST at the Feast; by doing so we can have the best Feast yet even when things don’t go as planned.

R is for restore, refresh, rejuvenate, renew, recharge or retribute.

E is for enjoy. God commands us to the Feast. Let’s do just that.

S is for serving.

T is for taste. Taste the finer things in life, and taste the coming Millennium and Kingdom of God.

Remember Acts 2:26. “Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh will also rest in hope.”

These four points will help us to REST (to remain in hope) at the Feast.

R.E.S.T. at the Feast

You want to make this the best Feast yet. With the Festival Planning Brochure in hand, you and your family went through various options. After researching and discussing those options, you decided where to attend the Feast of Tabernacles.

You took the all-important step of registering for the Feast. After all, you thought – rightly so – that this would help those organizing the Feast to know how many seats to set up, what activities to plan and what equipment to get, among other things. Then you made your housing reservations. Everything has been done to make this the best Feast ever.

What else can we do to ensure this will be the best Feast ever?

Part of the answer lies in the following four points to help us “REST” at the Feast. There is a meaning of the word rest that connects these four points.

David’s words are quoted in Acts 2:26 (NKJV). “Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh will also rest in hope.”

The word rest means to remain – to remain in hope. These four points will help us to REST at the Feast – to remain in hope.

“R” is for restore, refresh, rejuvenate, renew or recharge.

The Feast of Tabernacles symbolizes the restoration, refreshment and renewal of all things. Although it can be a busy time,

it’s important that we take time to restore, refresh, rejuvenate, renew or recharge ourselves spiritually and physically.

We can get so busy at the Feast with serving, fellowshiping, taking part in activities that we can end up doing too much. There is so much we want to do that we sometimes we think the Feast is too short.



Janie Airey/DigitalVision/Thinkstock

We can also get into the frame of mind that the Feast is a vacation. While many of us use our vacation time to attend the Feast, we must be careful not to make the Feast a vacation. We must be careful to keep our focus on the meaning of the Feast and why we are observing it.

If we are not careful, the Feast can become too much, if we’re not careful. Due to staying in temporary dwellings we may not sleep well. We eat out and probably eat foods that we probably would not normally consume. There is nothing wrong with that, but if we’re

not careful we can become run down spiritually and physically. It’s important for our spiritual and physical health to restore, refresh, rejuvenate, renew, recharge or retribute ourselves.

“E” is for enjoy. We are told by God in Deuteronomy 16:14-15 to rejoice, or to enjoy.

Let’s make it easier on ourselves and do just that. In spite of the problems we may have faced in getting to or at the Feast, we must realize that unexpected things will happen. How do we handle it when things do not go according to plan? Do we still rejoice as God intends?

Although the word rejoice is found twice in Deuteronomy 16:14-15, they are slightly different words in the Hebrew language but with the same basic meaning, which is to make glad, be glad or have joy. In a word, it means to enjoy!

We can enjoy the fact that we are observing the Feast of Tabernacles, the meaning of this Feast, the many different spiritual aspects to observing God’s Feast days and the messages we will hear during the eight days.

There are also many physical things we can enjoy. We can enjoy the time we have with one another. We can enjoy different experiences and different foods. We can enjoy the physical surroundings and the activities that have been planned.

See “Rest” on page 15