



UNITED NEWS CANADA

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Summer 2018

In The Good Ole Summer Time!

All winter long we yearn for the return of warmth and the soothing summer months.

How wonderful it is when song birds finally arrive and fill the morning and evening with their melodious calls. We see their young appear and observe their incessant importuning to be fed.

It delights us to see spring and summer flowers emerge with their splendiferous colours and magnificent scents. Many plants have a built-in mechanism to recognize and track the sun during the course of each day. This amazing action is called heliotropism. It describes a plant's capacity to track the sun throughout the day in order to derive the maximum benefit of the sun's growth attributes.

"Lord, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us. You have put gladness in my heart, more than in the season that their grain and wine increased" (Psalms 4:6-7). Truly, the people on whom God generously shines His face

are genuinely and abundantly blessed.

We human beings would be well advised to emulate this remarkable capacity. Psalm 31:16 similarly adds, "Make your face shine upon Your servant; save me for Your mercies sake." It is vitally important for us to track our Creator God day by day and soak up the guidance, direction and blessing that He freely offers us through ongoing contact with Him.



Wikimedia Commons

first occupied when they arrived on their homestead. These were sod huts – houses built from 'dirt' as one person fondly called them. However, it was free standing, provided safety from predators and kept out the elements – for the most part.

With the arrival of spring and summer came much needed rain, which was vital for the garden and the crops. But this same rain often made the habitation uninhabitable because the sod hut always leaked and did so extensively. When the rains came, the only dry place in the house was under the kitchen table, which was covered with oilcloth. That is where the family stored the flour and sugar to be sure these vital staples were not ruined during the rain.

Everything else got soggy and stayed that way until it could be dried out again with the return of blue skies and warm sunny weather!

Today we talk about the hazy, lazy days of summer. But that was not the case for farmers in times gone by or even today in spite of modern devices and advanced mechanization. May your summer this year be meaningful and memorable as we look forward to the fall holy days just around the corner!

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In June, my wife and I visited the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon. It was educational to be reminded of the life the early pioneers lived as they were opening up the West in the late 1800's and early 1900's. They brought their few valuable possessions with them. An important and cherished item amongst those few vital possessions often was the family Bible.

We saw a model home typical of what many pioneer families

Anthony Wasilkoff

A Snail's Pace Approach to Our Calling

We begin with the story of a snail that appeared at the front door of a home, knocked, and waited. A woman answered the door, looked down, screamed, and gave the snail a swift kick. The snail tumbled down the sidewalk and onto the street.

Fast forward—two years later. The same snail appeared at the same door and knocked and waited. The same woman answered the door and looked down. The snail looked up and said, “What was that all about?”

I think you can probably surmise that the premise of this article is patience and perseverance. We are commanded to “...run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1 NKJV).

However, King David said, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4).

Let’s take a look at how sometimes a snail’s pace approach to our calling (walking – even a slow walk) can develop the qualities of patience and perseverance.

Patience

A patient approach to our calling prevents us from being anxiety ridden and hasty in our decisions. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines being patient as being “steadfast despite opposition, difficulty, or adversity.”



Photo by Alex Blaian on Unsplash

The aforementioned snail had to be patient as it probably faced all three of the definitions in his journey back to that front door. Opposition on that two-year journey may have come from toads, bird species and other living things that find snails delectable.

Difficulty for the snail ensued as it tried to negotiate vehicles ready to squish it on the road if it did not take a somewhat circuitous path for the curb. The fact it wasn’t crushed was a feat of accomplishment in itself.

Adversity may have come from trying to find suitable shelter as it experienced eight different seasons in its two year journey. Finding a regular supply of food to maintain energy for its walk (or crawl) was most certainly a constant battle. This snail did meet that challenge.

We are challenged as well to pursue patience.

1 Timothy 6:1 says, “But you, O man of God, flee these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness” (NKJV).

There’s a promised reward for walking patiently: “But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” (James 1:4 , NKJV).

Perseverance

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines perseverance as “continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure or opposition.”

The key here is “continued effort.” This is the mainstay of perseverance and we need daily help

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from God via His Holy Spirit to put forth continued effort. We are actually encouraged to glory in our oftentimes difficult walk.

Romans 5:3, "And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance" (NKJV).

I'm sure that snail counted it a tribulation or trial to be kicked out onto the road, which in snail terms is quite a long way. Once it gathered its wits, it had decisions to make. It wanted answers for its rough treatment and set on a journey to get answers. It persevered and made it back to that door to find an answer to its primary question.

When we were called we began our journey for answers. Having received many answers – the truth - we continually strive to grow in knowledge. We desire more answers as we study and mature in the faith. We desire to act on those answers. We can take a lesson from that snail and persevere to continually grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18 NKJV).

Patient endurance or patient perseverance is by no means easy. We tend to want fast resolutions to our problems and a hindrance free Christian path. But this is not the reality. God knows that obstacles and frustrations build character.

Our Christian journey is fraught with hindrances.

This is why He states in his word, "This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus" (Revelation 14:12 NIV).

Our task each day is to pursue patience and perseverance – to make it part of our character. The lessons are there for us in God's word - the examples of those who were patient and persevered to the end. We can study and remember them...and remember that snail!

Michael Ugolini

March National Council Meetings

The National Council's first meeting of 2018 was held on the evening of March 12 by WebEx. As per the norm, the previous minutes were reviewed. One edit was made.

During the National Office update, it was noted that there are several people returning to the church after being away for 20 years or more. It was also noted that though our *Beyond Today* response rate is down, almost 30 per cent of those requesting literature have not previously done so. This shows that we continue to reach new people.

Edwin van Pelt reported that a number of people received their donation statements in an unsealed envelope. He has tried to determine what caused this and will put some safeguards into place to ensure that

this doesn't happen again.

Rainer Salomaa and Anthony Wasilkoff gave an overview of the February Council of Elders meeting held in Big Sandy, Texas. This was followed by reports from each committee chair giving an update on what the committees are currently working on.

The Strategic Planning/Finance Committee will be focusing on manpower challenges and next year's Strategic Plan. The Governance Committee has reviewed all of UCG-Canada's policies. They are evaluating which need to be changed or updated and should have some ready to be amended in June. The Compensation Committee will be reviewing salaries to ensure they are in compliance with current

legislation.

The secretary read the National Conference ballot results. The 2018-2019 Strategic Plan, Operations Plan and Budget were all ratified by the National Conference.

Some additional planning details for the June meetings in Saskatoon were discussed. The travel day will be June 6 with meetings on June 7 and 8. Members of the National Council will be assigned to attend Sabbath services in Saskatoon, North Battleford or Regina on June 9.

There was a short executive meeting following the regular meeting.

National Council Secretary

"Marijuana" from page 12

Periodontal Disease

Marijuana use for as long as 20 years has been linked with gum disease, specifically at age 38, according to a study in *JAMA Psychiatry*.

Poor Vision

Regular marijuana use can delay how visual information is processed in the eye's retina. A new study found regular pot smokers experience a slight delay in the functioning of their retinal ganglion cells (RGCs), which work to process incoming visual information and are responsible for connecting the retina to the brain.

Poor Sleep

Marijuana may often be associated with helping users sleep better, but a recent study in the *Journal of Addictive Diseases* found the drug may be related to a user's sleep troubles. Daily pot smokers actually scored higher on the Insomnia Severity Index and on sleep-disturbance measures than those who used the drug less frequently. For example, 20 percent of the non-smokers met the criteria for clinical insomnia, compared with 39 percent of the daily users meeting those criteria.

Okay, let's ask a few questions.

- Just because the government makes something legal, is it right in God's eyes?

- Does He favour abortion?

- What about euthanasia?
- How about smoking cigarettes?
- Is it loving your neighbour to have him breathe your second hand smoke?
- Would Christ, if He were here today, smoke pot?
- Should you?

I think we know the answer. If Christ lives in us, we would say the same as the apostle Paul who wrote, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20 NKJV throughout).

Did God design our lungs to breathe in smoke, or to inhale fresh air? Does He want us to look after our bodies? Notice what He inspired Paul to write: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

He also warns us that "If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are" (1 Corinthians 3:17).

God's desire is that we have a sound mind, to be sober and not impaired. He says, in 1

Thessalonians 5:5-9 "You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The MacLean's magazine article referenced earlier said that teens who smoke pot regularly double their risk of reporting psychotic symptoms or being diagnosed with schizophrenia in adulthood. Long term usage is also associated with problems in attention, memory, impulse-control, problem solving and emotional regulation. In a 2015 study, King's College London researchers found that people who smoked skunk every day had five times the normal risk of psychosis.

Rather than mess with our minds and bodies, God beseeches us to "... present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).

Would Christ smoke pot? No! Neither should you.

Rainer Salomaa

My Early Sabbath Experiences

In my teens, I apprenticed with my father as a hoisting engineer. When I turned eighteen, I secured my license. As time went by I got married and had a family.

On my first job, I operated a Northwest rock shovel building roads. I worked many long hours in different parts of Ontario. Saturday was a short day when I only worked ten hours. A few years later, I switched to a mobile crane, erecting steel buildings in St. Catharines, Toronto and other locations in Southern Ontario. It was a union job so I worked forty hours a week.

At this point in time, after working my day job, I came in contact with the church while eating my second lunch in my car, before going to night school. The famous voice of Mr. Herbert Armstrong came over the radio with "greetings friends." Shortly thereafter I was baptized in the Church.

To survive, I got a job with a major parcel delivery company. I worked for the first two weeks, then life became very interesting. I was told the commercial route I was on required me to work every third Saturday. I said "No, I do not work on Saturdays."

The manager said, "If you do not work Saturday then come in on Monday and pick up your pay cheque." I returned on Monday and I was told, "The replacement driver stepped out of the truck and sprained his ankle, so you can work this week."

I worked for the next two weeks.

The third week I worked until the end of the week and once again I said, "I do not work on Saturdays." Again, I was told to come in on Monday and pick up my pay cheque. When I returned to work on Monday, I was told this driver jumped out of the truck and broke his ankle.

So once more I worked the next days and when I refused to work on Saturday, again I was told to come in on Monday and get my pay cheque. When I arrived on Monday I was told, "The replacement driver had to leave town for his mother's funeral." The whole episode repeated itself for the third time.

When I arrived for work as usual, the manager said, "Well, Syvret, I guess we will have to make an exception, you will be the only driver in this company who does not work on Saturdays."

Years later, I worked for a Jewish company. I did not know they were open for business on the Holy Days. I obviously did not work on the Sabbath. Ironically a Jewish employee, covered for me on the Holy Days.

After working there a few more years, I moved to Winnipeg and was able to work in my trade. I worked in the new, very tall, North Star Inn, which is now known as the Radisson Hotel.

What is it like to work on a new high-rise building? Well, to get to your job station, you do a lot of walking. The temporary elevator only goes so far, then you walk up five flights of stairs, then two or

more ladders, then climb up forty feet through the crane tower to stand on the main boom. At that point, you are now higher than most of the buildings in the city. It is now time to take a one-hundred foot walk out to the control cabin at the outer edge of the boom. The middle of the street below is now visible. Some days it can be tricky, if the wind is strong or the steel you are walking on is wet. At that height the wind is blowing most of the time, and it is usually colder.

You have a panoramic view of the city. However, when you are working you are looking straight down over 315 feet. It is helpful to have good depth perception. When I had to lower the empty cement bucket down to the street to be re-filled with cement, the bucket should stop at the street, not into the street.

I well remember another incident that happened on a different job site. It was the last Friday of the month of December. The sun was scheduled to go down at 4:27 p.m. I thought, I do not work on the Sabbath, even for three minutes. In my mind I thought, what should I do? I prayed, "Father, I am not working on the Sabbath, I will walk off the job." At exactly 4:26, I undid the safety belt, removed the mike to the loud speaker, and stood up to leave. At that very moment, the site manager spoke over a loud speaker saying, "We are quitting early, you can leave now."

True faith is the answer. God is very aware of what we do.

June National Council Meetings

The city of Saskatoon provided the backdrop for the yearly face-to-face meeting of the National Council on June 7 and 8. All Council members were present along with their spouses. Two additional guests, Sheldon Sitter and Wayne Ward, also attended the meeting.



provided by Terry Connor

Rainer Salomaa began the meeting with an overview of how the National Council began. He discussed his recent health scare and then spoke about a recent hunting trip he and his wife went on that required them to have a GPS with them. He stated that our Christian walk is a little like using a GPS – we walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). As we age we realize that it is our spiritual body that is more important than our physical body and that God's work is a work of faith. God gives us His spiritual GPS to help us get to the Kingdom of God.

Following the adoption of the March 12, 2018 Minutes, Anthony Wasilkoff gave a report on the May Council of Elders meeting. During that meeting there was a review of both the President and

the Secretary. Mark Mickleson was honoured on his retirement. Two couples, John and Merrie Elliott and Mark and Michelle Mickleson were honoured for their work in Africa.

Edwin van Pelt gave an office update. There are now over 450 registered members of United Church of God–Canada. Every province has subscribers to the *Beyond Today* magazine. The name of the French edition of the magazine has been changed to *Pour L'Avenir*. A spreadsheet showing responses to the Subscriber Development letters that have been sent to subscribers over the past several years was provided.

A report from the Media Team showed that the number of weekly responses from the television program has gone down but 25 – 30 per cent of those responding are responding for the first time indicating that we are still reaching new people.

During the Ministerial Services Team report, the Council received a map showing church circuits and the May average monthly church attendance.

Stanley Kitt presented a Vision document, which generated much discussion. This was followed by presentations from Wayne Ward and Sheldon Sitter.

One of most pressing challenges for the church at this time is manpower. The Council took some time to brainstorm about this with several potential solutions being put forth. Examples of different

models were discussed as was the importance of having older men mentoring younger men.



provided by Sheldon Sitter

Committee meetings were scheduled for the rest of Thursday afternoon. Friday morning began with reports from the committee chairmen.

The Strategic Planning/Finance Committee recommended that the Media Team look at newer media methods such as social media for reaching the younger generation and see if there is a way to reduce the cost per response.

The Governance Committee reported that they have reviewed all 75 existing policies. Some need to be updated and put into a consistent template. The Committee will be working on two policies that may need to be updated. Some of the policies need technical changes because the name of our magazine changed from *Good News* to *Beyond Today*. The Council gave the committee permission to make that technical change in all policies as needed.

The Compensation Committee is made up of all Council members

that are not paid by the church. It was set up to review salary ranges annually. They presented slightly revised salary ranges, which the Council approved.

The Compliancy Task Force presented an amended Policy 2.8 Sick & Personal Emergency Leave.

Each year the Council must approve the agenda for the

annual meeting of the National Conference which will occur on Sunday, September 16. This agenda was approved.

There was a short time for taking care of unfinished business. One item discussed was a potential bylaw amendment.

The last item of business was to conduct the annual review of the

Director of Operations.

On Friday night, members of the local congregation were invited to the meeting hall for light refreshments and to meet Council members. On Sabbath, Council members attended services in North Battleford, Regina or Saskatoon.

National Council Secretary

Some Good

Back in the mid 1980's when we came into the church, it was common to listen to individuals talk about their calling and many would speak about having to live their Christian lives basically alone, simply because there were no other brethren living close by.

Fast forward to the year 2018 and we now have the ability to call other brethren any time. Attending services every week and also attending services on a Holy Day, even if it is the day after a Sabbath is the norm for most.

That may be possible for the vast majority of us. However, it would still be considered a luxury for many of our brothers and sisters, such as our brethren living in Newfoundland. Since being asked to pastor Newfoundland, I try not to take attending services for granted anymore.

We made our first visit to "The Rock" for the Pentecost weekend and enjoyed the fellowship of 15 people on the Sabbath and again on the Day of Pentecost.

No amount of words can possibly convey the magnitude of beauty or vastness of the area until you experience it for yourself.

After having the opportunity to spend time with the brethren and take in Cape Spear, Signal Hill, Torbay and Petty Harbor, it is easy to use one of their favorite sayings . . . "It was some good."

Both the Sabbath and Pentecost provided wonderful fellowship, delicious food and the opportunity to visit with the brethren who made us feel right at home, even providing me with a coffee mug

expressing the desire that we return.

After enjoying a wonderful local fresh fish and chip dinner at a little place called "By da Beach," I stepped out and experienced the added cuisine of moose sausages for breakfast, sampled "Cod Tongue" one evening at supper in the only restaurant in Petty Harbour, and I now consider myself an "honorary" Newfoundland.

Our brethren in Newfoundland may live on a vast island separated by space and water from the rest of the family, but they certainly do not lack in their love and desire to follow and serve our Father.

Psalm 133 reminds us "how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" which of course is very true. Our brothers and sisters in Newfoundland would say it slightly differently: "It's some good for us to dwell together in unity" which I most certainly would agree with as well.

Patrick Read



provided by Patrick Read

News From Across Canada

Barrie Ordinations

The newly formed congregation in Barrie had a special event at services on the Sabbath of April 21 with the ordination of two deacons and two deaconesses.

Michael and Carol Pallotta are both originally from Toronto. They attended services in Milton before relocating to Barrie in 1998 for Michael's work in construction. Carol started attending church as a child with her mother and met Michael in high school. They married eight years later and were blessed with God's calling. They were baptized in 1996 and 1995 respectively. Mike and Carol have been married 24 years and have two adult children. They have been serving in the church for a number of years in various ways.



provided by Jim Lucas

Lloyd Syvret was born in South Porcupine, Ontario, into a family of nine children. He and his first wife, Catherine, moved to California where they first came into contact with the church. He was baptized on the Ambassador College campus in 1960. In 1969 Lloyd and Catherine moved back to Canada and attended the Winnipeg congregation. They were some of the founding members of the Winnipeg UCG congregation where he served in many capacities

including leading songs and giving sermonettes. Following the death of Catherine, he was reunited with a childhood sweetheart, Carol, whom he had not seen for 50 years. They were married in 2002 and shortly thereafter she was baptized. Both Lloyd and Carol served in many areas of the Winnipeg congregation until July 2017 when they moved to Penetanguishene, Ontario, and began attending the Barrie congregation.

in our Family Christian Club. Both our locals and visitors participated and enjoyed the creative review and interaction.

We appreciate the work done behind the scenes on the content and technology.

Paul Wasilkoff

50th Wedding Anniversary

UNC

Hamilton Bible Trivia

On May 19 the Hamilton congregation welcomed a number of visitors from Toronto who weren't able to meet in their usual hall.

After our post-services food and fellowship time we enjoyed a game of Bible trivia. The game format is similar to a popular televised game show where the answer is displayed and the contestant must formulate the question.

The subjects addressed in this particular game were from the Fundamental Beliefs covered

On Sabbath, May 19, the North Battleford congregation honoured Jim and Terry Connors on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They were presented with a card and small gift from the congregation as well as an Anniversary cake.



provided by Adeline Sanoy

Jim and Terry are retired and live in Lloydminster, Alberta. They have two children and two grandchildren.

Adeline Sanoy

Fundamental Beliefs Jeopardy				
Powers that Be	It's the Law	Promises Promises	Oh the Humanity	There's Hope
100	100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300	300
400	400	400	400	400
500	500	500	500	500
Final Jeopardy				

provided by Paul Wasilkoff

Combined for Pentecost

Congregations from Southern Ontario met together in Kitchener for the Day of Pentecost. This year members from Kitchener, Hamilton,

Toronto and Windsor worshipped and fellowshiped together.

The hall was tastefully and creatively decorated with a fire motif to reflect elements of Acts 2. After services we enjoyed a potluck meal with so much variety it felt like a restaurant buffet.

Because of the positive feedback from the day we have reserved the same location for next year.

Paul Wasilkoff

Kitchener Ballgame

On Sunday, June 3, the Kitchener congregation hosted a day at the ballpark.

We were able to secure the use of a centrally-located baseball diamond and adjacent picnic shelter.



provided by Paul Wasilkoff

Brethren representing a number of congregations and fellowships were able to attend in spite of the forecast of rain.

We began our day enjoying informal games of badminton, football, frisbee. Not surprisingly, the children found

the weather perfect for a water fight. At lunch time we enjoyed a potluck barbecue meal.

The ballgames were designed to ensure all participants were able to have a turn at-bat regardless of size or level of experience.

Paul Wasilkoff

McWhirter Obituary

Vincent McWhirter was born in Apple River, Nova Scotia, on October 24, 1939. In 1948, he and his parents came by train to Welland, Ontario, where they then settled.

Vince's siblings include Arthur (wife Sandi) McWhirter, Lillian Gilbert (husband Bob Tischler), Marion Sharp and Una Rousseau (husband Raymond).

On December 3, 2017, Vince McWhirter passed away at the age of 78 after being in poor health for a number of years.

A memorial was held for Vince following services on April 28 with Anthony Wasilkoff presiding. Marion Sharp provided a eulogy. She spoke of how much Vince loved



his congregation. That love was reciprocated and many spoke of the quiet kindness he showed to various members over the years. Vince's brother-in-law also spoke.

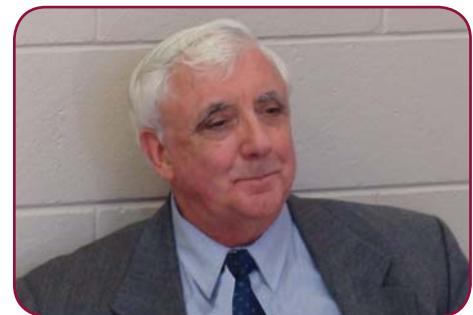
The Toronto congregation provided a reception following the memorial.

Linda Wasilkoff

Merritt Obituary

George Ernest Merritt was born in Sheffield, England, on October 9, 1941, to George and Elsie (Allsopp) Merritt.

In his late teens, George began questioning the meaning of life. Soon after, he stumbled upon a wireless broadcast called "The World Tomorrow." This began George's life-long devotion to learning and seeking God's word.



provided by United News Canada

At church, George had his eye on one young lady – Joan Heggie. Their first date was dinner and the movie "Fiddler on the Roof." The evening went very well and they were married that same year in 1972. George was blessed with a beautiful, faith-filled and devoted wife

and mother.

George was an attentive father who enjoyed playing tag or hide and seek at a local park, being a horse, playing board games, chess, piano lessons, writing and performing songs for church socials. He was always encouraging his children to be their best and would often ask "Are you happy?" He was a man who truly loved his children.

George passed away on January 16, 2018, after a long illness. Joan, Christine (daughter), Stephen (son) and his brother Dennis from England were with him.

Thank you to all our Christian family, relatives, neighbours and friends who attended the funeral, sent cards, flowers, food, baskets, letters, calls and prayers. The out-pouring of love and care was overwhelming.

Merritt Family

Ward Obituary

Wayne Ward, the Berendt family and the entire Edmonton congregation are mourning the loss of a loved one. Beloved wife of Wayne, daughter of Robert

(Val) Berendt, sister of Rick, Dan and Carrie, and a deaconess in the Edmonton church, Cathy Ward died peacefully at home on March 6, 2018, surrounded by love after a brave battle with cancer.

Cathy exemplified grace, humility, goodness and service to us all. With degrees in both education and drama, Cathy was a teacher with a passion for theatre, stagecraft and lighting. Our congregation and Feast sites witnessed amazing transformations when Cathy regularly contributed amazing and evolving festival stage designs in large venues like the community theater in Kelowna and the Canmore Theater. We witnessed Cathy's amazing Sabbath school play production including the entire Esther story re-enacted! And an ingenious re-creation of the parting of the Red Sea!

Cathy's choice to live in hope set a magnificent example for us all, knowing in the depths of our sadness, that ultimately we all cling to the same brilliant hope of the Resurrection. Cathy has been buried beside her mother Joan, where they both share the same epitaph, "resting in hope".

Richard Berendt

Mathison Obituary

Don Mathison, 91, passed away on May 4, 2018, after serious health challenges related to diabetes. A memorial was

held on June 9 at Evergreen Care Home in White Rock, British Columbia.

Don formerly attended the Vancouver congregation with wife, Vera, who died in January, 2016. Over the last few years, Don's health challenges had him living in a seniors' care home in White Rock.



provided by Dale Cranford

Mr. Mathison led a full life until health challenges set in. Born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, he was later inspired by his grandfather's stories of WW1 and joined the Royal Canadian Navy. Don would go on to help and inspire family and friends, was active in many community affairs, even winning the Jaycees National Effective Speaking Award. Remarkably, he continued to work as a successful salesman until age 80! Mr. Mathison also travelled extensively through Asia and especially to his beloved Hawaii.

Don made the most of life and remained positive to the end. This fine gentleman lived a full life, and his kindness, humour, enthusiasm and warmth were a blessing to many. He will be missed.

Dale Cranford



provided by Richard Berendt

Children and Church

Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr (1808-1890) was a French journalist. One of his frequently quoted epigrams is translated “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” This can be said about children and church services.

While clothing styles and lifestyles have changed through the generations, one thing has never changed – the outstanding energy that children have. It continues to be a challenge for parents to make the Sabbath a delight for their children while making sure that other people attending church (including the parents themselves) are able to concentrate on Sabbath Services. Controlling the noise of young (and some not so young) children presents ongoing challenges to parents.

Parents can sometimes feel like they face years of getting little out of the weekly Sabbath messages as they have endless disturbances from their children. And, it doesn't just affect the parents – it can also distract people sitting close by. However, 1 Corinthians 7:14 lets us know that our children are in a special category when it comes to receiving God's instructions and Deuteronomy 6:6-7 gives parents the command to diligently instruct and teach children. It is one of our most important duties as parents.

Each year our Festival Brochures include a section on Etiquette for Services. Regarding children it says: “Children are a great blessing! However, parents should focus on the need to train their children to sit or be occupied quietly during services. It does take work, effort and patience. If a child's behavior becomes disruptive, one of the parents should as quietly as possible

take the child from services, and tend to his or her needs.”

The Festival Brochure goes on to remind those of us who do not currently have small children to show patience and support for those who do. If children's behaviour disturbs you, perhaps you could offer to help out. Or you might be wise to sit in a different section of the hall.



Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash

Here are some tips that those who have gone through the difficult task of training children to be quiet have given:

- Arrive at church early enough to give your children time to walk around and get some exercise before they have to sit for services. Perhaps consider taking turns walking them around the building. Older children can help with set-up which gives them a sense of being an important part of the service.
- Only bring quiet toys to services. If a toy can make a noise, a child will be sure to find a way to make that noise effectively and repeatedly!
- About ten minutes before services start, take your

children to the washroom, feed any that need a snack and get them ready to settle in for services.

- Start teaching the art of sitting quietly at home. Perhaps consider “playing church.” Get them used to sitting quietly while looking at books or colouring. This is a good time for parents to do their own Bible Study.
- Be diligent and consistent during your quiet time. As the child gets older you can explain that sitting quietly is showing respect for God and love toward others who sit around you.
- As children get older, teach them to take notes and look up scriptures. Of course, this is easier if the parent does so as well.

A challenge early primary grade teachers face is that youngsters have never been taught to sit still, be quiet and pay attention. Children who learn this at home and church have a head start when they start going to school. Have you ever been in a restaurant when a family with many children came in? You can often visibly see the faces of the servers fall. Fellow patrons are often hoping the family will be placed far from them! This fall during the Feast of Tabernacles, our children will frequent many restaurants. If the training to sit quietly begins now, the servers in the restaurants will be surprised at the well-behaved little children they serve and will hope they will return to their establishment.

Would Christ Smoke Marijuana?

Canada has become the first industrialized country to legalize recreational marijuana. Recreational use of cannabis is already permitted in nine U.S. States, and many European countries are moving towards decriminalization. Critics warn that this legalisation sends the message that the psychoactive drug is safe to use - a conclusion that many dispute.

There has been much public discussion on how to test for impairment, work place safety, smoking zones and long term health concerns.

Canadian Conservative party's Senator Dennis Patterson claimed that readily available cannabis would have a "devastating" effect on vulnerable indigenous populations already plagued by addiction, mental health problems and violence, the *Montreal Gazette* reports. "There will be casualties. There will be mental illness. There will be brain damage. There will be deaths," he warned.

One of the biggest concerns is marijuana's effect on mental health. The NHS (National Health Service) website warns that regular cannabis use increases a person's risk of developing a psychotic illness, such as schizophrenia. The risk increases if a person starts using cannabis at a young age, smokes stronger types of the drug, such as skunk, or smokes regularly or for a long time, the health service says.

The new law would allow citizens to grow up to four marijuana plants in their home. One proposed

amendment "would allow parents to share it with their kids, as they can with wine or alcohol" reports the *Toronto Star*.

The February 2018 issue of *MacLean's* magazine ran an article entitled "The teenage brain on weed." It brought out that "Youth are better able to list what they consider to be benefits of cannabis than the harms. As the country hurtles toward legalization of recreational use this summer, doctors fear the risks of marijuana are still not well understood, and that ignorance could carry widespread

impacts of policy."

Here are some health concerns associated with the hidden dangers of smoking marijuana from *Medical Daily* ("7 Hidden Health Dangers Of Smoking Marijuana Revealed In 2016"):

Raises Alzheimer's Risk

A recent study found pot smokers displayed low blood flow in the hippocampus, which is involved in storing long-term memory, including all past experiences.

Worsens Verbal Memory

The long-term use of marijuana is linked to poorer verbal memory at middle age. Researchers in Australia found for each additional five years of marijuana exposure, verbal memory was 0.13 standardized units lower than for those who never used it.

Weakens Heart Muscles

Marijuana use may increase the chances of developing an often temporary heart condition, stress cardiomyopathy, also known as "broken heart syndrome."

Increases Osteoporosis Risk

Smoking pot is often associated with a case of the munchies, but a recent study in the *American Journal of Medicine* found smokers are more likely to have lower body weight and broken bones. People who report heavy marijuana use have a large reduction in bone density compared with nonusers.

See "Marijuana" on page 4



Photo by Outco California on Unsplash

consequences." The article goes on to say, "The evidence is mounting that early-onset cannabis use has a tremendous impact on the structure and functioning of the teenage brain."

Diane Kelsall, interim editor-in-chief of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* wrote in an editorial, "The government appears to be hastening to deliver on a campaign promise without being careful enough about the health