



Changing the Hue of Post-Feast Blues

My wife and I hosted a guest speaker and his wife for a special weekend when we were still living and serving in the Okanagan Valley. This well-known couple were excellent house guests for the duration. He spoke on the Holy Day at a combined service where four congregations had assembled at a central location. They were a joy to spend time with and to learn from and share their wealth of experiences.

One of the recollections we have is his observation of something that we have in Canada which typically didn't exist in California where they lived at the time. One evening he remarked on the effect of illumination after sunset that we often refer to as dusk. There are various definitions of dusk. The term twilight also refers to this remarkable phenomenon.

Twilight can be defined as the illumination the earth receives after the sun has set and is no longer visible because it has dropped below the horizon. In a related way, dusk is the dark-

est phase of twilight each evening. This pleasant effect seems to be especially noticeable in the spring and autumn of the year.



photo by Rick Medien on Unsplash

The visiting evangelist carefully observed the twilight and dusk factor and remarked on how much longer they lasted in Canada than they did in southern California and he seemed to truly savour the experience.

This effect can also be referred to as afterglow. Afterglow can be defined as the light that lingers after the sun has set. It can also refer to the pleasantness that lingers after something special has been experienced or accomplished and the sense of satisfaction and appreciation that remains after the event.

Every year we return home from the Feast of Tabernacles

where we have been on a tremendous high for eight wonderful days. The festival environment provides us with a remarkable foretaste of the coming world tomorrow. However, the Feast inevitably concludes and we are required to return to this present world and the reality that the millennium has not yet arrived. Post-feast blues can affect even the veterans who have been keeping the wonderful Feast of Tabernacles for many years.

This issue of *United News Canada* has been designed to keep the afterglow of the Feast going longer than usual, long enough to bridge us over to the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. It is significant to note how King Solomon instructed his fellow Israelites after they had observed the Feast of Tabernacles one memorable year. In 2 Chronicles 7:10 we read, "On the twenty third day of the seventh month, he sent the people away to their tents, joyful and glad of heart for the good that the Lord had done for David, for Solomon, and His people Israel."

May we similarly savour the afterglow of keeping this year's Feast of Tabernacles and remain joyful and glad of heart for all the good that our Heavenly Father continues to do for his many faithful servants today.

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Anthony Wasilkoff

St. John's, Newfoundland

The Feast of Tabernacles was observed by eleven brethren at a satellite site in beautiful St.



photo by Ellsworth Stanley

John's, Newfoundland. We had a comfortable meeting room at a local hotel and were able to receive the webcast of services (including all speaking and special music) from Panama City Beach each day. For the most part the services came through very well. The opening night video came through clearly and was very well received.

The group made up some gift

packages which were distributed to those who were not able to attend services.

On Family Day we cooked up a traditional meal, listened to some local music and did some dancing.

All in all we had a very inspiring Feast of Tabernacles.

Ellsworth Stanley

Spencerville, Ontario

Due to distance, some senior members from the Ottawa congregation are unable to attend a Feast site, so a satellite site was set up in a private home in the country. Daily attendance ranged from two to ten. At this time the autumn colours in the surrounding area were beautiful. For weather we experienced moderate temperatures and a few light showers.

The daily messages and the Friday night Bible Study were seen and heard from the Panama City Beach Feast site. The transmission came through ex-

tremely well. Those attending were able to listen to the inspiring messages. We appreciated the fact that the songs that were chosen could be transmitted, allowing us to join in with the song service. The special music by the soloists and the Panama City Beach choir were also most inspiring. Also, the interviews before and after services with members attending the Panama City Beach site were of great interest to us.

Following services each day, members who chose to do so, traveled to some of the local

restaurants to have a meal together while continuing to fellowship. The exception to this was on the Last Great Day when a tasty meal was served in the host's home following the morning service. Lasagna and salads were the main course followed by a delicious dessert provided by the ladies attending.

About midway through the Feast, a sad occasion occurred. A long-time member of the Ottawa congregation who was unable to attend the Feast this year passed away. This brought

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great sadness to all of his physical and church family. We look forward to the resurrection when we will see Bill again.

As seniors in God's church,

we are thankful that technology has made it possible for us to be able to be in our local location but still sit in on festival sites such as Panama City Beach. We are thankful to the

technicians who faithfully give of their time to help make satellite Feast sites possible. They do a wonderful job!

Joe & Mary Moulton

Midland, Ontario

Brethren from across North America gathered in picturesque Midland, Ontario, for this year's Feast of Tabernacles. Our meeting hall was in the Quality Inn where the majority of Feast goers lodged. The hotel features a verdant and glass-enclosed atrium where guests gathered for breakfast each day. The facility provides us much flexibility for services and activities giving us an all-inclusive feel. Our attendance for the first Holy Day was a high of 160. Throughout the remainder of the Feast the average attendance was 145.

The vivid autumn colours were at their height providing a vibrant backdrop to the lakeside walking trails available in abundance. The quaint downtown streets of Midland are artistically enhanced by murals depicting the history of the town and surrounding region. Restaurants and shops punctuate the streets making for an enjoyable excursion that many engaged in.

The activities were very well attended. The Meet-and-

Greet gave opportunity for fellowship and snacks during the evening of the first Holy Day. The Hymn Sing gave an occasion for the musically expressive to vocalize and socialize. A bus tour was arranged as an unofficial activity for those who wanted to see Algonquin Provincial Park. The Family Day was creatively designed to allow participation by people of all ages. We gathered in the atrium for a Games Night where a broad range of games were played. Mr. Aaron Dean conducted the Friday evening Bible Study, which covered the Book of Ruth.



photo by Edwin van Pelt

Teen activities included a Bible Study and games afternoon, including a s'mores

backyard fire and an afternoon of go-carting. On Sabbath morning a Seniors' Brunch was arranged to honour our seasoned brethren. David Metzel gave an encouraging reminder of the need to keep serving regardless of our age. On Saturday evening, we enjoyed a Variety Night which included vocal solos, poems, group songs and musical pieces. Finally, on the Eighth Day many brethren took advantage of the Last Great Day Luncheon which allowed for a convenient way to enjoy one last meal together. As in previous years we contributed back to the Midland community by collecting for the local food bank.

A number of visitors took advantage of Midland location by visiting Niagara Falls either before or after the Feast. Brethren commented how enjoyable it was to be able to meet so many people from such a broad range of age groups. We look forward to seeing returnees and new attendees next year.

Paul Wasilkoff

Cochrane, Alberta

The Feast of Tabernacles was again held in Cochrane, Alberta. Services were conducted at the Cochrane Ranchehouse. The Ranchehouse is nestled in a valley on the edge of Cochrane with a picturesque view of the Rocky Mountains to the west. Each day clear skies gave us majestic views of the snow-covered mountains. The high attendance in Cochrane was 180 on the first Holy Day.

The sermons and special music, from the opening message to the end of the Eighth Day, all focused on building a stronger and deeper relationship with God and with each other, being a temple of God and aiming for that higher calling of being part of His family – “to be doing”.

Mr. Kubik’s opening video and Sabbath message were much appreciated. These video messages help all the Feast sites around the world feel connected.

Church sponsored events included a festival dinner, Family Day, a hymn sing and three

evenings for the seniors to socialize, play games and listen to supplied live music.

Feast goers also took advantage of Cochrane’s ideal location just 20 minutes west of Calgary and within easy driving distances to Banff National Park and Lake Louise. Many took the afternoons to travel into the mountains to see the spectacular scenery and into Calgary to go to the Telus Science center or to the Calgary zoo to see the pandas, snow leopard and the penguins.



photo by David Bratnick

A pre-Feast guided bus tour into Banff and Jasper National Parks was organized for those who were able to come a couple days early. Those that had

the opportunity to join the tour were treated to sunny skies and breath-taking views including the Columbia Icefields and Glacier Skywalk (a glass floored platform suspended out over the edge of the mountain).

Because many rented holiday homes and apartments, there were great opportunities to invite others to their accommodation for food and fellowship. In one instance more than 40 came together for an evening.

Near the end of the Feast, attendees started to bring donations for the local food bank. In the end there were four heaping shopping carts of food and nearly \$1,300.00 collected. For all those that contributed to this, the local food bank sends a message of “Wow, thanks so much!!!!!!!!!!”

The Feast this year was very uplifting, rewarding and it strengthened our hope for the soon coming Kingdom of God.

Larry DeLong

Osoyoos Lake, British Columbia

The Feast in British Columbia was held on the shore of Osoyoos Lake at the Watermark Beach Resort. The views were spectacular and the setting quite millennial with orchards and vineyards around the lake-shore. Bible seminars were held several evenings during the

Feast with all-church seminars on Friday night and Sabbath afternoon. The high daily church service attendance at the Feast was 211 on the morning of the Eighth Day.

Activities during the Feast included a guided Wine Tour

for 60 adults who were bussed to five area wineries to sample the local vintages. On Wednesday, an exceptionally fun Family Day saw members driving fast go-karts and playing 18-hole miniature golf at nearby Rattlesnake Canyon Amusement Park. At the evening’s Family Dinner

and Dance a catered meal of beef and salmon was enjoyed as the music played. Participants of all ages danced energetically to music from through the decades. Young adults and teens wowed everyone with their advanced swing dance techniques.

On Thursday, the young adults hiked up Mount Kobau and down to Covert Farms Estate where they enjoyed tasting organic wine. The teens were enjoying an outdoor cook-out and beach volleyball at the Feast venue. Meanwhile, a Golf Tournament challenged mem-

bers of all skill levels to work together at Sonora Dunes.



photo by Anthony Pacelli

Friday found the seniors enjoying a catered meal and an interactive discussion led by Ed Dowd at the Seniors' Luncheon. They also enjoyed games

of cribbage on two evenings during the Feast.

The members appreciated having the Feast with a centralized location where members stay together and walk directly from their lodging into the daily church services, main activities, catered events, scenic walkways, and local establishments. God provided us with a taste of the future coming Kingdom of God and the unifying relationships that will abound on earth.

John Elliott

National Council Meeting

The National Council had a short WebEx meeting on September 15. Larry DeLong had previously been appointed Temporary Chairman for that meeting. The regular minutes from June 20-21 were approved as was authorization of payment for this year's audit.



photo by Maureen DeLong

Each year the Council presents a Strategic Plan to the National Conference. The pro-

posed 2020-2021 Strategic Plan was presented, discussed and approved.

A resolution for a limited matching contribution to a pension plan for employees was presented, discussed and the National Office was given approval to research into appropriate plans.

Rainer Salomaa's term on the Council ended necessitating selecting a new chairman. The last item on the agenda was to discuss the method for choosing the Chairman. The first step was to determine who would be available to fill this role.

The actual balloting process was to be conducted by email



photo by Mitchell Moss

over the next few days. The result is that Larry DeLong was selected to serve as Chairman until his current National Council term expires. We congratulate Larry DeLong on his new responsibilities and express much gratitude to Rainer Salomaa for nearly 20 years of service in this position!

Linda Wasilkoff

New Council Member

Each September the National Conference has to select three individuals to serve a three-year term on the National Council. While two of the three this year have served on the Council before, one person is starting his first term.

Jeff Anderson is a laymember from the Prince George,

British Columbia congrega-



provided by Jeff Anderson

tion. He and his wife, Janelle, have five children.

Jeff's employment background is in Information Technology and he currently manages an IT department. He should be a valuable asset for the National Council.

UNC

Serving You Better With Your Index Number

Have you ever wondered why you have an index number, or wondered what it is? Have you ever thought about the significance of your index number?

Your index number begins with the letter C and is followed by 10 digits. It is above your name on any correspondence you receive from the National Office. It's not to be confused with the PM number, which is our Canada Post Publications Mail agreement number. The PM number appears on copies of your Beyond Today magazine that you receive in the mail every other month.

The purpose of the index number is to identify you personally. This helps us to record your donations properly. It also helps us if you have any questions. We currently have over 90,000 people in our database and each person has his or her own index number. We have 54 records for J. Smith; some re-

cords include one initial, others include multiple initials and other records include a first name beginning with the letter J. Still other records include a first name beginning with J and a second name, or a first name beginning with J and an initial, in addition to the surname of Smith. If you contact us and give your name as J. Smith, it becomes difficult to find you without more information. If you supply your index number we can find your record much more quickly and accurately.

Here's an example: you let us know your name as J. Smith and your address is 123 Any Street. We could have any of the following possible matches for that address. We could have a John Smith, or a Joan Smith. We could also have a J.D. Smith or a John D. Smith. We could also have a John David Smith, or a J. David Smith on file.

One more example: you are in file as John Smith at 123 Any Street and you give a Holy Day Offering. But on the outside of the envelope you wrote J. Smith at 123 Any Street but you don't include your index number in the space provided. We cannot automatically assume you are one and the same person so a new record is created in our database potentially resulting in a duplicate entry.

This is why it's important to use your index number. It identifies you personally. This is very important when, for example, making donations (especially on-line) or letting us know if you move.

If you don't have an index number one will be assigned when your name and address are entered in our database. Using your index number helps us to serve you better.

Edwin van Pelt

“Arms” from page 12

Paul tells us in Romans 15:30 “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.”

Maybe, just maybe, we haven’t been striving like we did in the past to keep the elders of the church in our prayers that they may do their jobs effectively, that they may be encouraged and that they may be protected from the evil one. They are doing the best they can with what they’ve got and the time frame they have. The ministry is spread thin and most are getting on in years. Maybe we expect too much, or have become too critical, even expecting them to work for nothing to prove their dedication. Would we expect that of ourselves? I realize we may have become disillusioned, but we can’t abandon our responsibility toward the elders.

The New Testament continues to emphasize the need to support those who minister in the church and how we are to treat those over us. 1 Timothy 5:1, 18 notes that those involved in preaching and teaching are “worthy of double honour.”

In his article *Tithing In Force Under the New Testament* Herbert W. Armstrong points out that tithing is not abolished but the priesthood has changed. He explained that the tithing law is also changed of necessity, so as to become God’s system for financing the ministry of Jesus Christ!

We must remember that Satan is working daily to dishearten us and the elders of God’s churches and to cause dissension, division and discouragement. Remember, we are all in this endeavour together, whether we are elders, teachers, deacons or lay members. We are all brethren and have a responsibility to up-

hold those arms who are trying to do the work. Our eternal life depends on it. “For we are labourers together with God...” (1 Corinthians 3:9).

Paul tells us “Obey your leaders and defer to them; for they are tireless in their concern for you, as men who must render an account. Let it be a happy task for them, and not pain and grief, for that would bring you no advantage. Pray for us...” (Hebrew 13:17-18).

When we ponder the question, “Is the Lord among us or not?”, we should not forget the words of Isaiah “Fear you not; for I am with you; be not dismayed; for I am your God: I will strengthen you; yea, I will help you; yea, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness” (Isaiah 41:10). God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Jean Jantzen-Duperrault

2020 Daily Bible Reading Schedule

As January rolls around, it is once again time to begin the new Daily Bible Reading Schedule. If you begin on January 1, you will be able to read through the entire Bible in the year!

This program has been ongoing for several years and includes a feature that will read the scripture to you.

Why not check it out? You can find the program online

United Church of God Canada						
Daily Bible Reading Schedule						
January 2020						
Previous Month		Download January 2020 PDF			Next Month	
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			Genesis 1 Genesis 2 Genesis 3	Genesis 4 Genesis 5 Genesis 6	Genesis 7 Genesis 8 Genesis 9	Genesis 10 Genesis 11 Genesis 12 Genesis 13
Genesis 14 Genesis 15 Genesis 16 Genesis 17	Genesis 18 Genesis 19 Genesis 20	Genesis 21 Genesis 22 Genesis 23	Genesis 24 Genesis 25 Genesis 26	Genesis 27 Genesis 28 Genesis 29	Genesis 30 Genesis 31 Genesis 32	Genesis 33 Genesis 34 Genesis 35 Genesis 36
Genesis 37 Genesis 38 Genesis 39 Genesis 40	Genesis 41 Genesis 42 Genesis 43	Genesis 44 Genesis 45 Genesis 46	Genesis 47 Genesis 48 Genesis 49	Genesis 50 Exodus 1 Exodus 2	Exodus 3 Exodus 4 Exodus 5	Exodus 6 Exodus 7 Exodus 8 Exodus 9
19	20	21	22	23	24	25

at: <https://www.ucg.ca/resources/daily-bible-reading-schedule/>. This program is also prominently featured on the home page.

You may be surprised what you come across next year as you systematically work your way through the Bible.



Shaving Was An Art

I recall the days when shaving was an art. A barber would place a hot cloth on a man's face to soften the facial hair, lather the areas to be shaved, hone the straight edge of his blade and with deft practiced strokes proceed to shave his customer. He seemed to be able to adjust to faces with sensitive or normal skin, light, heavy or medium beards and faces of all shapes. It was rare that the barber would nick or cut a man. My dad shaved at home and he always seemed to get a nick on his face.

Things have changed in this area of life and some lessons that could be easily learned have to be found elsewhere. Razors come as disposable blades that cannot be sharpened now. Shaving cream is designed for sensitive or normal skin. You have to try pretty hard to cut yourself - and if a nick does happen - it usually is due to waiting too long to dispose of the disposable razor. Electric razors have been developed that take care of any beard and that require no expertise. The spinning blades are flexible enough to match the most angular jaw and shaving has become anything but an art.

I noticed that my shaving cream is for "normal" skin. One wonders why all the differences among skin types. When we consider skin type, hair density, level of oils, facial shapes and factors such as pimples or sore spots - we can see that people are truly different. A barber who was an artist would make the adjustments.

People are all unique in how they react or cope with the problems of life. People can be sensitive or "thick skinned" we would say. They can be bruised or full of sores and we all need to learn to be an "artist" in dealing with one another. Even the most expert barber had to learn to shave different faces and his keen edge may have slipped from time to time. Barbers are trusted to use the sharpest of all blades right on the throat of their customers. No doubt the barber was very careful and even then more than one jittery customer would have leaped out of the chair in anger or concern.



photo by Arthur Humeau on Unsplash

How expert are you when it comes to dealing with people? They too are vulnerable. Are we striving to learn how to be an artist in dealing with others? Do we choose our words carefully? The tongue is likened to a sword and we need to learn how to use it carefully (Proverbs 12:18, Revelation 2:16). Interacting with one another is also an art. James says that we all offend or "nick" others (James 3:8-10). Our words are grievous weapons and can do much damage. They can also give the nice clean and happy feeling that a really good

shave brings for a man. We need to learn to recognize sensitive skin, dull blades and coarse hair. We need to become skillful with our interactions. Some customers' reaction to pain can be violent. That is the way most people react to pain - they often lash out at the one responsible for the cut. Once nicked, only a fool or brave man would go back for a second time. A brother once offended is very hard to win back (Proverbs 18:19).

How sensitive is your skin? Are you easily offended? 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 tells us God expects us to overcome our sensitivities. We may have reasons for being sensitive. All of them need to be resisted and overcome. It is not good enough to say: "that's how I was born." This is a responsibility that a sensitive person has to overcome. Jesus Christ expects you to do just that. It will take an honest effort of self-examination and perhaps the help of an unbiased but competent person to change your course, but you can do it - or God would not demand it of you. Some years ago my wife had her fingers badly damaged. The repair was good, but left a nerve quite exposed. Her daily task was to continue to rub that exposed nerve gently each day so that it would become a little less sensitive. With time the nerve seemed to develop a "thicker skin."

How gentle are we? Are we gentle with those whose skin is sensitive? We are all human and all make mistakes. It is far bet-

ter to err on the side of love, patience and tolerance, than to err on the side of frustration, anger and rebuke.

The wonder of it all is that God wants us to find the balance. We need to overcome our sensitivity if it is a barrier to growth and we need to become artists in dealing with one another in order to love each other. He does not do the work for us - but He gives us the direction and He will provide help at the right time. We are all warriors against anything that will keep us from the promise God gives of eternal life. Paul said that we ought to “fight” correctly (1 Corinthians 9:25-27). We are to put on the “new man” (2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:4). If we practice, we will become that new man - we

will change. Change is the result of a continuous effort in doing or being that which we would aspire to become. It is sort of like shaving yourself every day with a straight razor. If you ever had the chance to do that - you would soon realize how careful you must be until you become expert. By being careful, you become an expert.

When we carefully shave ourselves every day, we are aware of sore spots, a dull blade or anything else that may make us uncomfortable. We resolve to be more careful. So the lesson is learned and driven home of how to shave - how to interact with people. Little by little, each day that we hold our tongue, think about who we are and what we are about to say, and practice pa-

tience and self-control, we will become artists who are far more effective and important than one who simply shaves another face. We will learn to recognize sensitive skin and choose the right lotion. We will understand the value of a hot cloth to soften the facial hair. We will change and become experts—much better than what we were. We will also strive to lessen the ease with which we may be offended. We will take care of our “skin” so we can make the job of the “barber” easier. Best of all, we will be developing the kind of character that Almighty God demands in those who are to be entrusted with an inheritance that surpasses our wildest dreams.

Robert Berendt

News From Across Canada

Edmonton Canoe Trip

On August 11, a group of 16 teens and adults from the Edmonton congregation enjoyed a day of canoeing down the North Saskatchewan River. This was our second year for this activity. Last year's trip was quite the challenge with a downpour of constant rain and very cool temperatures. Although the day was cloudy and temperatures only reached about 16 degrees, it did not rain this year! Thus, it was declared a much nicer day by all who participated! All of our teens employed the skills they have

learned from canoeing lessons at camp and manned their own canoes this year!

The river trip takes about four hours to complete by canoe with a lunch break in



the middle. The banks of the North Saskatchewan River are very high along this stretch so you truly feel surrounded by God's creation as you float down the river. A quiet, peaceful channel along the route is home to many birds who build their nests in the sand walls of the banks. Deer were also spotted as they came down to the river to drink.

The trip ended with a hamburger barbeque at the Davis home and a marshmallow roast over the fire. It was a wonderful time to bond as a family and we hope to include many more

brethren in what will perhaps become a summer tradition.

Susan Davis

B.C. Combined Service

The Victoria and Vancouver brethren had a wonderful combined Sabbath service on August 17 in Victoria. A few months prior to this, the Victoria congregation could not access their hall for Sabbath services. I made the announcement the week before to our brethren that we could not get the hall and that I would be speaking in Vancouver.



photo by Wendy Corrigan

They all asked if they could come to Vancouver that Sabbath, and so it was. We had a wonderful service and fellowship together. It was a first time for Richard and Maureen Shiundu and family from Kenya to visit the Vancouver congregation. It was also the first time for Andrae and Tash Dennis from Jamaica to visit that congregation.

Fast forward to August and a similar situation arose with no hall available in Vancouver for Sabbath.

Our pastor, John Elliott, then

organized a visit with us in Victoria. He brought some brethren in his car and Dale Craniford also brought some brethren.

On that day Mr. Elliott gave a wonderful sermon titled "The Sum of All Choices" about making choices in your life. After services there was plenty of time for snacks and fellowship before brethren had to catch the ferry back to Vancouver.

Peter Corrigan

Ottawa Ordination

During Sabbath Services on October 5, Anthony Wasilkoff, Jim Lucas and Joseph Moulton ordained Richard Moulton of the Ottawa congregation as an elder. The occasion was made even more special because his father was involved in the ordination and will be active in mentoring Richard.



photo by Jim Lucas

Richard and his wife, Michelle, have been integral parts of the Ottawa congregation. Richard was ordained a deacon several years ago and Michelle can

usually be found working in the kitchen whenever there is food to be served. This ordination means they will be able to serve to an even greater degree. Our congratulations to Richard and Michelle and to the congregation!

Linda Wasilkoff

Hamilton Blessings

On November 2 the Hamilton congregation celebrated a special occasion not enjoyed for a number of years. This year the Castañeda family had their three children blessed!



photo by Coreen Wasilkoff

John and Sandra (along with their children), who are originally from Colombia, have been attending with us for two years as of this coming January. We appreciate their involvement in our congregation.

Paul Wasilkoff

Women's Weekend

Ladies from Barrie, Hamilton, Toronto and Windsor, Ontario, gathered together for the annual Women's Enrichment Weekend in Toronto on November 9 and 10. This year the weekend fo-

cused on the fruits of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23. The evening began with a catered meal of chicken marsala, roast potatoes, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables and tossed salad.



photo by Amy van Zant

Before dessert was served, there was a short get-acquainted Table Topics session. Donna Checca succeeded in eliciting numerous responses with questions that were thought provoking mixed in with some that were very light hearted. They all helped the ladies get better acquainted and feel more comfortable with one another. They provided an outlet for both serious and humorous comments.

After everyone had a chance to get dessert, we were treated to two speeches. MaryAnn Halcrow shared how volunteering for a duty at this year's Feast taught her some very important lessons. Her take away message was that when you volunteer you not only help others but benefit yourself.

Slavica Rodonic then gave a speech entitled "Love and Self-control." In it she shared lessons she has learned over the past year in her Christian journey.

Sunday morning saw two "break out" sessions. Patricia Romeo began with an apple as a prop and a short overview of the fruits of the spirit focusing on "love" as what is needed to fulfil each of the others. Then each group of ladies was given a sheet of paper with questions pertaining to one of the fruits of the spirit. The ladies discussed the subject and answered the questions with scriptures, personal examples and practical applications.

Almeda Lucas then picked up where Trish left off. She continued the fruit theme by discussing proper cultivation to ensure that the best fruit is being produced. She discussed appropriate soil preparation, nutrition, pruning and protection. This led into another discussion by the groups as they answered more questions. At the end of each discussion period, one lady from each group summarized the group's discussion for everyone.

Lunch consisted of five different home-made soups: zucchini, cheese and broccoli, ginger squash, curried broccoli, steak and potato. It was hard to decide which one to take so many decided to try a little of each! In case the soup wasn't filling enough, there were croissant sandwiches and cookies as well.

Following lunch, Donna Checca led the ladies in several fun games that challenged our imagination, our memories and our dexterity. Competition was pretty strong since there were

prizes to be won. There was a lot of laughter and good hearted teasing.

At the end of the day we had a discussion to see what the ladies would like to be included next year. Several ladies have already volunteered to take a more active part next time. We all came away feeling inspired and eagerly looking forward to next year's special weekend.

Linda Wasilkoff

Bullerwell Anniversary

On August 24, the North Battleford congregation presented Virgil and Karen Bullerwell with a cake and flowers in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.



photo by Adeline Sanoy

Virgil and Karen farmed in the Badwinton district west of the Battlefords. After they moved into Battleford, Karen upgraded her skills and later worked as a bookkeeper and receptionist for a local business. Virgil and Karen have three sons and seven grandchildren.

Adeline Sanoy



Uplifted Arms

“Is the Lord among us or not?” It was a question the Israelites had for Moses. God had saved them from Egypt, divided the Red Sea, provided a cloud to guide and protect them, and provided manna. He also gave them a human deliverer whom He had called to lead and guide them. Yet the Israelites seemed to have forgotten what God had done for them.

Do we remind ourselves what God has done for us? What miracles it must have taken to call us out of the world and place us within the body of Christ! Yet over time many of us have become cynical and wary of those in positions of authority, even on occasion wondering, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Much has happened in our Christian experience, but are there lessons we can learn from the Church in the Wilderness? Like the Israelites of old, are we murmuring against those God had put in positions of authority? In spite of their human foibles, idiosyncrasies and weaknesses (that we all have), God sees fit to place them over us. We have heard of our predecessors’ murmuring and God’s hot displeasure with them. Do we think He is happy with our murmurings today? Paul warns against grumbling (1 Corinthians 10:10-12).

Those placed in positions of authority need our full support to do the job and, in fact, we have a responsibility to give it to them.

Remember the story of the Israelites and the Amalekites. Whenever Moses held up his hands, the Israelites won; when he lowered his hands, the Amalekites won (Exodus 17:8-13).

Deuteronomy 25:18 fills in some more details: “(Amalek) smote the hindmost of you, even all that were feeble behind you, when you were faint and weary.” So Israel was “faint and weary.” Some of them had fallen by the wayside, others were being picked off almost daily by the bands of aggressive Amalekites. There are similarities with the weakened state of the scattered churches of God today as members murmur, waver, some turning back to the world. Satan, the roaring lion, without mercy continues to assault the body of Christ.



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As we read at the beginning of Exodus 17, Israel was living through the aftermath of their rebellion against Moses. If we are murmuring against authority we will be chronically thirsty like them. Perhaps their tiredness was matched by the mental and physical faintness of dehy-

dration. The effects of this can last quite some time after liquid is received. So they were at low ebb. Anyone who is striving to fight the fight will go through this sense of exhaustion and depression at times.

It’s customary to look inward when suffering instead of outward. But have we instinctively shifted our position from “What can we do for the Church?” to “What can the Church do for me?”

As Aaron and Hur held up the arms of Moses to win the war, we must hold each other and the elders of the church up in prayer, in accountability and in love. In *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Armstrong asked what part does the individual local member have in taking the gospel message to all the world. He answers “Much.” He goes on to relate that members and ministers are a team. He also said that without continual encouragement those in charge could not bear up under the pressure, frustrations and trials.

Have you seen the commercial of the Special Olympics where six are running a race? One individual falls down in the middle lane and the girl stops, goes over and helps him up and then you see all six contestants arm in arm holding up his arms and running toward the finish line together and break through the ribbon together. It was a heartwarming scene and I pray that we can be more like them.

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