



## Our Best Feast Ever?

*By Anthony Wasilkoff*

Just a few weeks ago, we observed the Feast of Tabernacles. For some, it was at the local Feast site. Some of us kept it at home and watched services on-line. For others, it was a transfer to a site within our own country or to a site far away in another country. Whatever the case may have been, we will have observed a meaningful and memorable Feast!

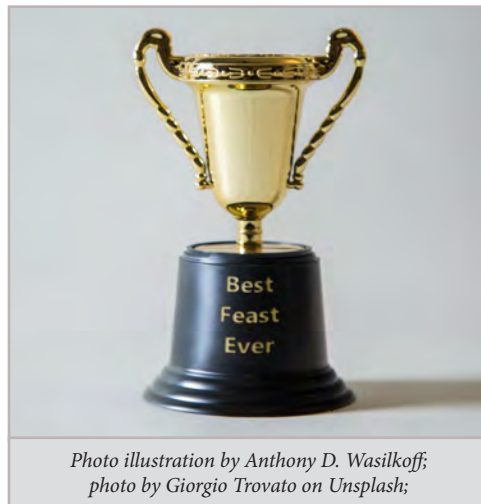
However, was it your best Feast ever? How does one go about determining if the most recent Feast observance was our very best Feast? If it was your first Feast, then the determination is easy, but after multiple Feasts it becomes more challenging.

Does it really matter if it was your best Feast ever? Can Feast observances be quantified on a scale of “good”, “better” and “best”? If so, what criteria should be used to make such a determination? So much of what we as humans experience is surprisingly subjective.

Elements of the Feast of Tabernacles are educational, cultural, social, gastronomical and, most of all, spiritual.

Several years ago an individual announced that he/she was going to have a year-off kind of Feast. The family would not be serving in any aspect of the Feast. They would not

be volunteering to help out in any way. They would only attend the activities they wanted to attend and avoid those they were not interested in. They would perhaps even skip church services in order to experience excursions and events that the local community had to offer that conflicted with the Feast of Tabernacles activity schedule.



*Photo illustration by Anthony D. Wasilkoff; photo by Giorgio Trovato on Unsplash;*

Our best Feasts invariably occur when we follow the edict identified in Acts 20:35 – it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our most meaningful and memorable Feasts are when we participate and serve the most. Psalm 133:1 proclaims, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” We see this happening in real time when attend church services at the Feast of Tabernacles. Singing together, saying “AMEN” together, turning

to the same Scripture together, taking notes together, concluding together with the closing “AMEN” -- all of these are cohesive experiences whether we were attending in person or on-line. How so? Because of the privilege of attending daily worship services nine days in a row. It is the intensity and frequency that produces the result.

We can further deduce this from Acts 2:46 where it states, “So continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all the people.”

Was the 2022 Feast of Tabernacles my very best ever? I can’t say it was for certain. However, I can say with certainty that it was among the very best Feasts I have ever observed. It was a wonderful time of caring, sharing and worshipping together! 🌍

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# Feast Reports

## Osoyoos, BC

Just as if on cue, the intense smoke from distant forest fires lifted making way for a breathtaking millennial panorama, as 118 people gathered together from near and far to praise God for the coming reign of Jesus Christ in beautiful Osoyoos, British Columbia.

Attendees congregated for the first Holy Day service followed by a Meet & Greet reception, setting the stage for a week of festive fellowship to renew old friendships and create new ones. On Tuesday, the youth were hosted to a poolside Meet & Greet barbeque followed by

volleyball and many other outdoor games. Some who were still young-at-heart joined in. On Wednesday, seniors enjoyed a picture-perfect mountain-view luncheon at the resort's Bistro outdoor patio, while some more adventurous attendees explored their own scenic mountain view with a brisk hike.

Other activities throughout the Feast included a wine tour, golfing, and there were indoor games most evenings. Additionally, individuals enjoyed personal sight-seeing and nature walks.

Since all the suites in the resort had a full kitchen and liv-



Lake view from Osoyoos  
Photo provided by Wayne Ward

ing room, it was ideal for brethren to joyfully mingle amongst themselves for meals and extra fellowship.

No matter what people did, everyone seemed to experience a truly delightful and spiritually meaningful Feast of Tabernacles.

Osoyoos has been a treasured destination in Canada for Feast-goers for several years now, and we are looking forward to another festival site there in 2023. Hope to see you there!

Wayne Ward



Outdoor activity climbing Mt. Kobau  
Photo provided by Jeremiah Patton

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## Drumheller, AB

This year 157 brethren from across Canada along with two couples from the U.S.A. came together and rejoiced in God's Feast in Drumheller. The messages were inspired by God to teach and encourage His children to rejoice together in His awesome plan of salvation for all mankind. The theme of Living Waters carried throughout the entire Feast. Messages looked forward to the time when healing and restoration of all things will take place and when the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea, and many people will come and say, "Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths."

We had outstanding special music daily including harp music, vocal solos, a quartet, adult choir and children's choir. We had piano and instrumental ensemble (trumpet, tenor saxophone and flute) accompany-



Young adults enjoying time together

*Photo provided by Carmella Cartwright*

ing our hymns each day. On the first Holy Day there was an ordination of an elder, a very special event!

There were many opportunities to grow in our relationships with each other. On the second day of the Feast we held a champagne welcome reception for all, hosted by the Edmonton congregation, with lots of fellowship, food and beverages. For our teens and young adults there was a "meet and greet" at the beginning of the festival and a Bible study later in the Feast. We had children's lessons twice during the Feast. We also had an excellent seniors' luncheon with 70 in attendance and performances by adults and children including harp, piano, singing and poetry. For young and old alike we had a Tyrell Museum day, games night, Bible Study night, family day at a local outdoor fun park, golf tournament, group buffet dinner and a dinner theatre outing.

The weather in Drumheller in mid-October was unusually warm for Canada, which was another direct and noticeable blessing from God. So many members helped serve in so

many ways, it was a heartwarming and bonding time. An abundance of fellowship, bonding as brothers and sisters in Christ and feasting (physical and spiritual) occurred throughout the Feast. It was a time for truly rejoicing and praising God together.

*Michael Erickson*

## Saskatoon, SK

This was the third year the Feast has been held in Saskatoon. Even though the Feast was later in the year we were blessed with warm fall weather. We were also blessed with attendees from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Thirty-one Feast goers met in person and eight who were unable to attend were connected via webconference.

Like most Feast sites, we were blessed to begin the Feast with the welcome video from UCG President Mr. Shabi. What a wonderful, inspiring message with which to begin!

The first social activity of the week was a bowling social. We filled the bowling alley with fellowship, laughter and shouts



Three friends in Drumheller

*Photo provided by Charlie Ellison*

of congratulations. As the week progressed our activities included a catered festival dinner, a game social with interactive games that were a big hit. This was followed by a potluck meal from the leftovers of the catered meal. The final activity was a ladies' tea. While the ladies were having their tea, the men went to the Western Development Museum, travelling back in time through the displays over the past 150 years of Saskatchewan history.

Special music fills a unique place in everyone's heart, both soothing and lifting the spirit with very powerful spiritual messages. Even though Saskatoon was a small site we had members volunteer to sing special music everyday including solos, duets, a ladies ensemble as well as piano solos.

Our members generously contributed physical items as well as money for three different local charities. It was a great opportunity to give back to the community.



Special friends in Saskatoon  
Photo provided by Lorrie Reichert



The sound crew singing hymns  
Photo provided by Lorrie Reichert

As in the previous year, one of the members brought a large jigsaw puzzle that was set up at the back of the hall. It was a center for chattering voices and laughter, all sharing in the goal of finishing it before the Feast was over.

We had three pastors on the speaking schedule to handle all speaking assignments: Sheldon Sitter, Larry DeLong and Rainer Salomaa. Mr. Salomaa spent part of his Feast with us in Saskatoon and the remainder of the Feast in Drumheller. We thank him for being willing to share some of his time with us in Saskatoon. We also thank Mr. Shabi for his encouraging messages.

All the messages were inspiring giving us a clear picture of the Millennium and Kingdom of God, focusing on our part in God's great plan and renewing the great hope we have before us.

Thank you to all who made this year's Feast so special and thank you to those who stepped up and volunteered, often times

outside their comfort zone, to fill the needs and responsibilities of the Saskatoon site.

Larry DeLong

## Midland, ON

The Midland, Ontario, Feast site had 115 registered this year. It continues to be the next best thing to an all-inclusive site! So said one of the pastors who has attended the Midland site and many other sites as well. The location in Midland is a hotel that lends itself ideally for most attendees to comfortably stay in one location for the entire week. Included in the room rate is a hot breakfast buffet each morning in a lovely eating area that is bright and cheerful. Most brethren availed themselves of this most important meal of the day and did so while joyfully mixing with one another day after day and choosing to sit with a variety of individuals through the Feast.



Stage decor, Midland ON  
Photo provided by Amy van Zant

Church services provided delectably strong spiritual food, of which Midland attendees availed themselves daily as well. The opening night message from Pres-



Midland congregation singing hymns.

*Photo provided by Amy van Zant*

ident Rick Shabi set the tone for the entire week. Sermonettes, split sermons, sermons and special music had been prepared well in advance and were then delivered daily to an appreciative audience who savored each serving. A highlight of the Feast was the ordination of a deaconess, an occasion many had not observed for a long time.

Something new this year was a Thanksgiving Dinner buffet following services on the opening day of the Feast, Monday October 10, which also happened to be Canada's Thanksgiving Day! 102 brethren partook of an abundance of turkey along with all the trimmings associated with a tasty Thanksgiving turkey dinner.

Midland is a large enough community to provide a variety of restaurants, attractions and shopping locations. At the same time, it is small enough that no matter where you go during the week, you are likely to bump into brethren along the way. This provides a bonus opportunity to experience supplemental fellowship that enhances the Feast experience significantly.

The Feast week featured the usual number and type of church-oriented activities, but

some with a new twist. Family Day, for example, instead of being outdoors was indoors in a five-pin bowling alley. Participants had a great time the day of the event but paid for it via muscle soreness for a few days! The Variety Show was a fine success. The teens and young adults were blessed to have an Escape Room experience, a Farkle Tournament, a Saturday evening Bible Study and barbeque. Special thanks go to all those who organized and all who participated in the activities.

Individual attendees made the following insightful comments. "This year the Feast was 'fulfilling' after two years of not being in Midland. What made it fulfilling was learning better how to serve without feeling stress." "The Feast in Midland was a spiritually and physically rewarding break away from the world and routine in which we live and a refreshing reminder of the world and routine in which God intends/intended for us to live." "Having three group meals added wonderfully to the occasion and gave individuals extended time to sit and fellowship with some they might otherwise not have gotten to know." "I feel more at home here than I do at home." A member overheard a hotel employee say, "When these

people leave, you can really feel it."

*Anthony Wasilkoff*

### Venice en Quebec, QC

The 2022 Feast of Tabernacles in Venise-en-Québec took place in a splendid fall panorama on the shores of Lake Champlain. The average temperature of 20 degrees was embellished with a resplendent sun except for one day when there was a little rain.

The beautiful grounds of the Château Venise, offering a pool room, tennis court, surrounding trails and adjacent family condos, allowed participants to relax and rejoice.

This Feast was marked by compassion, mutual aid, fraternization and good humour. The collaboration of each in the preparation and tasks related to the meals shared each day has greatly contributed to strengthening the bond among the 25 brothers and sisters. This period of festivities was enhanced by an evening of variety where everyone contributed their talents, a team guess-



Entertainment in Quebec

*Photo provided by Chantal Leclerc*



Members of the Quebec site enjoying fellowship in nature

*Photo provided by Sylvie Morin*

ing game, an evening of songs and hours of exchanges in front of the foyer and in the common areas. We had the presentation of Sylvie Morin bringing dances of praise with banners.

The participation of six in-person speakers for the messages during the assemblies helped to edify attendees who expressed their gratitude. The messages were brought by Yves Labrie (4), Josué Drjomadji (2), Joe Storozuk (1), Carlos Figueroa (1), Carlos Aviles (2 – from Stratford, Ontario, by videoconference), Bruno Leclerc (6). The main theme was the importance of having a strong vision of the coming Kingdom of God.

The message of Mr. Rick Shabi supported by beautiful hymns, as well as a quiz leading to an interactive Bible Study were also much appreciated. In addition to the pieces of the opening evening, the special music consisted of two audiovisual recordings prepared by two brothers, including a trio.

We are thankful that we were spared any trace of infectious diseases. We are grateful for the invaluable support of Mr. Anthony Wasilkoff in confidently booking for us the common areas and for

everyone’s prayers allowing this memorable Feast of Tabernacles 2022 at the Château Venise.

*Bruno Leclerc*

### **St. John’s, NL**

This year’s Feast of Tabernacles was truly a memorable one, for many reasons. All 15 of the St. John’s congregation and two welcome guests from the mainland were able to assemble daily at the Comfort Inn in St. John’s, Newfoundland -- North America’s oldest city and the most easterly point in North America. St. John’s is a quaint city known as the City of Legends.

For a welcome change, the weather was spectacular-warm and sunny. One could almost say it was tropical. From the full harvest moon on opening night to sundown on the last day of the Feast the spectacular weather continued. Then too, we were all in a joyous mood as we eagerly awaited the opening night service.

The Heart’s Delight room that we used for services was very comfortable. The staff were very helpful and made us feel more than welcome. There was some renovation going on at the time,

but we were able to adjust.

The daily webcast from the Jekyll Island Feast site came in loud and clear with a few glitches, but nothing serious. We chose not to take in the opening night service as it would be too late getting out. We were able to view Mr. Shabi’s opening night address at a later time.

Ellsworth Stanley’s opening night address set the tone for the rest of the Feast. In his message, “Why Are We Here”, he explained the need to fear our God, obey His command and rejoice. He also said that we should be able to go home from the Feast rejuvenated with spiritual food that would help us handle whatever the coming year brought.

We were not disappointed. The sermonettes, split sermons, sermons and special music gave us encouragement and joy in our special calling. Most speakers made the coming Millennium the main focus of their addresses.

Feast activities included a Canadian Thanksgiving turkey dinner on the first day of the Feast provided by Clancey’s Restaurant



Ellsworth & Dorothy Stanley

*Photo provided by Ellsworth Stanley*



During services in St. John's  
*Photo provided by Ellsworth Stanley*

in the host hotel. We enjoyed a fun afternoon of bowling. Some of us had very low scores, but the Squibbs out-scored most of us. Next year we should get some lessons from them.

We had an afternoon Social and Tea hosted by the Penneys

in their home in Paradise with lots of food and good fellowship. There were 18 of us in attendance.

Family Day was a great success with a Jiggs Dinner with all local vegetables from the farm of one of our members. He and his wife grew, cooked and served. It was

truly appreciated. We played Cage Bingo and enjoyed some very interesting Bible Quizzes.

Some of us were able to take in the Bible Study from the Midland Feast site presented by Mr. Jim Lucas who focused on peace and becoming peacemakers

On the Last Great Day we had a delicious meal provided by the Hotel restaurant. We were able to dine together in a private room.

We all went home from the Feast rejuvenated with plenty of spiritual food. We thank our Great God for His bountiful blessing during the Feast of Tabernacles 2022.

*Ellsworth Stanley*

## One Person's Feast Experience

*By Claudia Salomaa*

The Feast of Tabernacles 2022 is over. I have been keeping the Feast since 1966. Every year has been different, each with its own memories and places that we have attended. All have been wonderful even with the little annoying things that get in the way to test our resolve.

This year was different for me. I got sick two days into the Feast and was not able to attend services thereafter. I ended up coming home and was able to pick up services each day from the Feast site where I would have been attending, which was a wonderful blessing as I was able to keep up with the messages and what was going on there. Technology has made things so much easier.



*Photo illustration by Anthony D. Wasilkoff;  
 photo by Giorgio Trovato on Unsplash*

Having said that, listening on-line definitely was not the same as actually being at the Feast with the brethren and being in a room filled with God's people gathered together.

God has a reason for having us come together on the Feast days and the weekly Sabbath. We learn about how our brothers and sisters are doing. We learn what they need and what they are going through. Also, because you yourself may be having a rough time and feeling down, you get strength from being around God's people. That is exactly where you need to be.

As days get closer to troubled times, possibly not being able to gather, my resolve is to be with the brethren every chance and opportunity that I can to give encouragement and to get encouragement.

That is the lesson that I learned from this Feast. 🌍

# Your Crown

By Linda Wasilkoff

A few Feasts ago, one of the crafts associated with Bible lessons for children was to make a crown. That day the class of children busily cut out the shape and happily glued the “jewels” on their own specially designed crown. Each one featured the unique taste and talent of the individual. And, each crown was pointing those young people toward a time when we will all receive a very special crown.

This memory takes me back to an even more distant one. My dad was 58 when he became quite ill and had to quit work. I had already left home, but for those who were still at home, it was a difficult time. There was no income coming in because Dad was unable to go back to work. This meant that the family was also unable to attend church for several months.

Then, the Feast came. Dad felt well enough to attend, but there was still no money. My sister and her husband came to the rescue and took the family to the Feast with them even though they were in a different Church of God.

Eventually, my Mom found work and the family was again

able to make the two-hour trip to church. To their dismay, nobody welcomed them back or said “we missed you”-- not the pastor, deacons or even those they thought were their friends. It was devastating! Having been so sick and destitute and then to be ignored and slighted seemed too much.



“Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown” (Revelation 3:11).

*Photo by Markus Spiske on Unsplash*

They were hurt, humiliated, angry and disappointed. As a result, they stopped attending church.

When I visited the family farm that following summer, I could sense something was different. As we talked, I learned what had happened. What came to mind was the warning to the church in Philadelphia: “Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown” (Revelation 3:11). Until then, I had always thought it would be someone from out-

side the fellowship who might be of danger to us. Then I realized, it can be anyone that we allow to affect our relationship with God.

Later I learned that my sister also quoted this Scripture to our parents. We had independently reminded them that we must not let someone else’s bad behaviour negatively affect us to the point that we quit attending church.

Thankfully, whether because of the admonition from two daughters or because of what they came to see themselves, my parents realized it was up to them to control their own actions regardless of the actions of others. They returned to church and continued attending until their death – even stronger than before having weathered that trial.

It can be so easy to allow hurt feelings to affect what we know we should do. In reality we can never control the actions of others – we can only control our own reactions! At the Feast, or any church service or activity, there can be times when we might be hurt. But, we need to keep in mind that there is a crown at stake, a crown that must be won and not lost! 🍁



# Council & Conference Meetings

By Edwin van Pelt

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the National Conference took place on Sunday, September 11, 2022 via webconference. Most members of the National Conference were able to join the meeting.

Chairman Lloyd Teetaert opened the meeting at noon Eastern time. After some comments, Anthony Wasilkoff gave the Director of Operations address. Mr. Wasilkoff related a story about a barber he went to many years ago. Arriving at the barber shop he was met with a sign on the door: "Gone Fishing." A few days later he asked the barber how was the fishing? The barber replied that he didn't actually go fishing; it was simply a figure of speech. Our calling is to be fishers of men, as stated in Matthew 4:19 and Mark 1:9.

The Media Team report followed. Paul Wasilkoff gave an update on our media efforts in Canada. The Team is working on ways to enhance the visitor experience to our primary website, [www.ucg.ca](http://www.ucg.ca). One of the means to that end is to rewrite the articles from the "Profiles of Faith" series in the *Good News* and *Beyond Today* magazines. The rewritten articles are shorter and are then reviewed by the entire Team. The goal is to draw people to the website where they can then search more deeply into a particular subject of interest.

Rainer Salomaa, Coordinator

of the Ministerial Services Team, followed with an update on what is happening with the Church in Canada. There are currently 24 congregations in eight provinces in Canada served by 10 pastors and 15 elders. Eight baptisms have taken place this year; in 2021 there were four. Three Feast of Tabernacles sites are planned for 2022 along with some smaller local satellite sites. Work force challenges continue to be an area of concern with up to three pastors planning to retire in the next few years. A ministerial conference is being planned once again for 2023. Mr. Salomaa concluded his report with Hebrews 6:10.

Treasurer Bill Dimovski followed with an update on our financial picture. Our income for the month of August was down but was still up slightly for the year. Holy Day Offerings are up for the year. Expenses were up in August but down for the year. A planned in-person National Council meeting scheduled for June at the National Office turned into a hybrid meeting with some in attendance at the National Office while others gathered in Alberta and met via videoconferencing. As COVID restrictions ease we will see an increase in expenses as pastors are finally able to visit all their congregations once again.

After the Treasurer's Report, Lloyd Teetaert gave the Address from the Chairman. He began his message by referring to John D. Rockefeller, one of the so-

called robber barons of the early 20th century. He made his fortune in oil; when he died at the age of 97 in 1937 he was the richest man in the world. In spite of his greed and ruthlessness there are many spiritual lessons we can learn from the life of John D. Rockefeller. He had a temper; we can learn self-control. He listened and took counsel from others. He used "we" more than "I". He was reliable in his work habits. He tried not to let pride get the better of him. The U.S. Navy Seals use a "Performance/Trust" grid to determine their best candidates; trust is one of the most important characteristics a person can have. Mr. Teetaert concluded his address with 2 Peter 3:17-18.

After the reports, the ballot results were announced. The Minutes from the September 12, 2021 meeting, the March 31, 2022 Marsh, Goulding Financial Statements, the Proposed Amendments to Bylaws 5.17, 8.31 and 8.3.2, and Resolution Number 2022-02 Increase MinEx Amount by Drawing from Reserves were all passed. Elders Michael Erickson and Lloyd Teetaert as well as laymember Charles Desgrosseilliers were selected to serve three-year terms on the National Council. Mr. Desgrosseilliers replaces Jeff Anderson whose term expired.

September 10, 2023 was approved as the date for the next AGM.

Resolutions to approve the

appointment of the auditor for 2023 and for the selection of the National Council members were also approved.

The AGM ended early after the closing prayer.

After a short break, the National Council met via Zoom®. At the June 2022 Council meeting, Larry DeLong was selected to sit as the temporary Chairman for the September meeting since Lloyd Teetaert's term on the Council expired at the end of the AGM.

Jeff Anderson was thanked for his service on the Council and his input to the Council and the Strategic Planning/Finance Committee. Mr. Desgrosseilliers was welcomed to the Council.

The June 2022 National Council Minutes were approved before discussion turned to the

T1235 and T3010 forms that are required to be filed with the



Outgoing Council Member:  
Jeff Anderson

*Photo provided by Jeff Anderson*

Canada Revenue Agency along with the audited Financial Statements. A few minor adjustments

were made to the forms before being approved by the Council. The auditor's reimbursement was also approved as was the 2023-2024 Strategic Plan.

Jim Lucas gave an update on the succession plan for the Director of Operations. Our current Director, Anthony Wasilkoff, is planning to retire in the next few years.

Linda Wasilkoff presented a brief history of the National Council with particular focus on how and why the Council committees were formed. The names and scopes of the committees will need to be reviewed to be sure they are functioning as intended.

The final order of business was to select a new National Council Chairman. Mr. Lloyd Teetaert was reappointed to fill that role. 🌍

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## New Council Member

*By United News Canada*

Charles Desgrosseilliers has been appointed to the Canadian National Council. His term began this fall with the September meeting.

Charles and Judy, his beloved wife of 31 years, are members of the Toronto congregation. They are parents to five children and are "Pepe and Baba" to eight grandchildren. Charlie came into God's Church in 1980, attended Ambassador, and

while there, served at the City of David archaeological dig in Jerusalem, did two tours of duty at projects in Sri Lanka with limited time in Nepal, India and Thailand.

Since then, he has accumulated 33 years of experience in Real Estate construction, development and management. His extensive experience will be of great help to the National Council over the next three years. 🌍



Incoming Council Member:  
Charles Desgrosseilliers

*Photo provided by Charles Desgrosseilliers*

# Pastors Meeting

By Linda Wasilkoff

Ministerial Services Coordinator, Rainer Salomaa, scheduled a Zoom meeting for Canadian pastors on October 31. Only one pastor was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Salomaa started the meeting by recognizing that all pastors work somewhat in isolation and that having an opportunity to discuss personal health issues, Feast of Tabernacles, updates on the local congregations and ideas for the next ministerial conference is beneficial.

Starting from the West and going East, each pastor gave an overview of his church areas and each Feast Coordinator gave an overview of the Feast site he coordinated.

Overall, Feast Coordinators reported positive reviews from each Feast site. Generally, there were fewer attendees from outside the country, but more locals stayed to help in their local site. As is always the case, there were some who became sick during the Feast week. No serious problems were reported however.

Quebec had a French lan-

guage site. It was held in a resort where everyone stayed in condos. One of their speakers contracted COVID prior to the Feast and was unable to attend in person. He was still able to fulfil his speaking assignment by Zoom. Activities and group meals were well attended and appreciated. Further reports from each Feast site are included in this issue.

One recurring difficulty is individuals wishing to attend services who have different beliefs and wish to push their agenda.

from Church meetings or functions.”

Three individuals were baptized either right before the Feast or during the Feast. At one Canadian Feast site an elder was ordained and at another site a deaconess was ordained.

A number of pastors have had to look for new meeting halls. It is a daunting task these days to find something that is suitable while still being affordable. Many are finding that hall rental rates are going up and that many places do not want long term renters because they can charge much more for special occasion rentals. The advice was “if you have a good hall, hold on to it.”

Toward the conclusion of the meeting there was a brief discussion about post-Feast socials and winter themed socials that have

been successful. Another Pastors meeting will be held next spring. It is hoped that there will be a Canadian ministerial conference in June 2023. Mr. Salomaa asked for input on topics pastors would like to see covered. 🍁



# Annual Law Seminar

By *United News Canada*

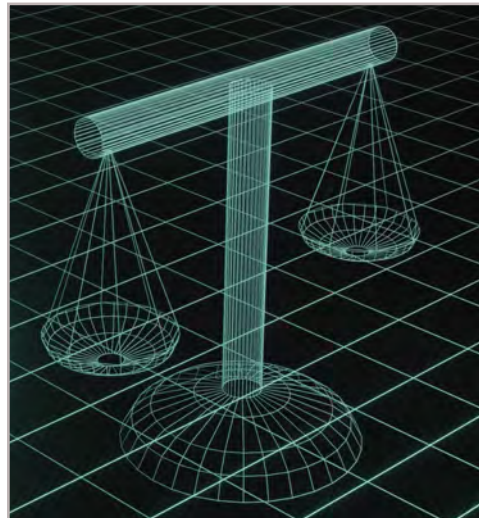
On November 10, seven church employees attended the annual Carters Law Seminar. This year, as for the past few years, the seminar was conducted online and ran for five hours. Five office staff gathered together in the church office to listen together and then to discuss what points were most applicable to the church at this time.

This year there were eight presenters. The lawyers were given 20 minutes each to cover their subject. Two guest speakers were given slightly more time. Topics this year included: Essential Charity Law Update; Qualifying Disbursements; Wrongful Dismissal Claims; Developing Trends in the Charity Sector; ABCs of Gift Agreements; Changes and Challenges with the Disbursement Quota; and How to Work Effectively with the Charities Directorate.

Each year, after the seminar, there are items for follow-up. For instance, changing legislation sometimes requires that policies be updated or that insurance be upgraded. This year one of the presentations covered wrongful dismissal claims and how to avoid them or how to handle them if they occur. One interesting tidbit for anyone who might be let go from a job is that an employer should provide reasonable time for the employee to review (and contact a lawyer) the severance conditions before he/she signs anything. Sometimes an employ-

er tries to insist that an employee sign papers immediately.

The latest Federal budget has implications for charities. Often we think of budgets as just spelling out how much money can be



Online Law Seminar  
Photo by Conny Schneider on Unsplash

spent where, but that isn't all that is in the Federal budget. They are looking at changing some of the regulations about what percentage of the charity's budget can be spent on what and how it should be calculated. There are some complicated rules associated with this through which the church will have to navigate.

Frequently the National Office receives inquiries about sending funds to Home Office for the Good Works program. The answer has been that we cannot give money to a charity that is not registered in Canada. Individuals can but a Canadian charity cannot. There is some legislation in the works that affect what can and cannot be done, but presently we

still cannot as a church donate funds to Good Works or LifeNets.

We heard from Bruce MacDonald who is the President and CEO of Imagine Canada. He discussed trends in the charity and not-for-profit sector. Many charities are hurting because of the pandemic and now with inflation. He said the flip side to this is that many have learned new ways for doing things.

Several bills are being considered by Parliament. The seminar brought the relevant ones to the attention of attendees. These, for now, leave questions in the minds of charities. Will the bills pass? Will there be clarification on some points that seem contradictory? How will they apply to us? At the end of the seminar some attendee questions were answered. When Terrance Carter was asked how to understand how one of the new regulations that seems to contradict another would be applied, he answered, "I don't know what the rationale is." Often the legislature enacts laws, but it is up to the CRA to interpret them. For some of the recent legislation, we will have to wait for the interpretation to know how to proceed.

This has been about the twentieth year that church staff have attended the annual seminar. Each year there are give-away books that cover different aspects about charity law. This year, for the first time, the church will be a recipient of one of the books. 🍁

# News From Across Canada

## Toronto Young Adults Social

The Young Adults in the Toronto congregation organized an activity on November 5. After services a number of participants met at a nearby member's home for fellowship and pizza. When sunset arrived we departed for the short trip to a local archery tag facility.

Sixteen people gathered at the arena to have a safety briefing. After carefully listening to the instructions we began a series of practice games.

Once we understood the basic principles, the supervising staff member walked us through a series of other games. Accuracy was an obvious skill we needed. Agility was another requirement - as our sore muscles reminded us in the days that followed our fun-filled hour.

Special thanks to Mark Yap for organizing the events that day. Thanks also to brethren who travelled from neighboring congregations to participate and fellowship.

*Paul Wasilkoff*

## Toronto Post Feast Social

Through the years, the Toronto congregation has held an annual post-Feast social. These changed from year to year but the intent was to share experiences from the various Feast sites attended by congregants. Because of COVID restrictions, there were no post-Feast socials for the past two years.



Toronto post-Feast social  
*Photo provided by Amy van Zant*

This year, however, a scaled down version was scheduled on October 22 when Toronto brethren enjoyed a potluck social fol-

lowing services. Tables were set up in the gymnasium and decorated with a fall theme setting the scene for an enjoyable time.

Since attendance was down that day due to sickness, our social - but not the food - was simplified. After going through the food line, members at each table shared their Feast experiences with each other. As things return to normal, we look forward to more socials to make up for the ones we missed over the past two years!

*Linda Wasilkoff*

## Robert Teetaert Ordination

Robert Teetaert was ordained as an elder on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, October 10, 2022, in Drumheller, Alberta. Robert grew up in Regina, Saskatchewan, where he attended church with his family. As a youth and young adult Robert was very involved in sports, mainly soccer, volleyball and then his passion for mountain biking. After graduation he moved to Alberta, where he pursued biking and skiing and found a job working for a construction company. In 2000, he had an industrial accident breaking both feet and his arm. The accident changed his life. Robert was no longer able to work on construction sites, so he took up finishing carpentry. Robert then decided to change professions and went to college to obtain a Design and Drafting Technologist education.

In Alberta, Robert met Synnove Erickson whom he married



Archery tag participants  
*Photo provided by Mark Yap*

in 2005. They now have three wonderful children (Scott, Emma, and Ellie). Robert was ordained a deacon in 2011 in Lethbridge. In 2015 Robert and his family moved to Prince George, British Columbia. He started working for a new company and became involved with major projects. Given his aptitude for learning and growth, his company asked him to manage teams. Likewise, he was asked to speak at church, and having been in Toastmasters gave him a good start.

Over the years, Robert has taken on more responsibilities in service to the Prince George congregation and has grown into the role he has now been ordained to. He recently began to help with the Grande Prairie congregation by giving sermons. Robert also was the Assistant Coordinator for the Drumheller festival site this past Feast.



**Robert Teetaert**

*Photo provided by Carmella Cartwright*

Robert still enjoys mountain bike riding with his family, hunting, fishing, and finishing carpentry. Robert and Synnove serve in the Prince George congregation.

*Lloyd Teetaert*

### **Toronto Deaconess Ordained**

There was an extra special occasion one day during the Feast in Midland. Patricia Romeo was ordained a deaconess following in the footsteps of her mother, Lillie Robinson.



**Trish Romeo**

*Photo provided by Amy van Zant*

This ordination had been planned for some time, but it was determined to delay until the Feast so that her aunt would be able to witness the occasion.

*Linda Wasilkoff*

### **Cortes-Gaviola Wedding**

On September 23, the marriage of Ralph Cortes and Grace Gaviola took place in Surrey, BC.

Weddings are such special events! The Surrey church hall made a fine venue for the wedding with beautifully decorated backdrops. Abbotsford Pastor, David Palmer, conducted the wedding ceremony, which a total of 15 family and special friends attended.

Adam Delfino served as best man and Hannah McDoom was

the bridesmaid. The ceremony was both touching and beautiful as the couple exchanged vows with tears of joy shed.

After the wedding service, all guests attended a fine restaurant to celebrate the marriage while enjoying a delicious dinner. After the meal, Ralph and Grace offered thanks and tributes to all guests with toasts also given. All in all, it was a wonderful experience for everyone!



**Ralph & Grace Cortes**

*Photo provided by Dale Craniford*

Even though Ralph and Grace had lived only a few kilometres apart in the Philippines, they had never met until February 2022 at her birthday party! They hit it off very quickly. Ralph proposed marriage to Grace in mid-summer, and of course, she said yes!

We wish Ralph and Grace all the best in their future!

*Dale Craniford*

### **Karen Bullerwell Obituary**

Karen Gail Bullerwell was born in Saskatoon on April 12, 1948, and spent her early child-

hood years in Dafoe, Saskatchewan. She died in North Battleford on September 10, 2022, at the age of 74 years -- just over a year after



Karen Bullerwell

Photo provided by Karen Bullerwell Family

the death of her husband, Virgil.

Karen was a member of God's Church for many years and a devout practitioner of her faith. The brethren were an important part of her life. Time spent practicing hymns on the piano at home brought her joy, as did playing them at church services.

Karen's maternal grandmother, Mrs. Werner was also a member of God's Church. Karen fondly referred to her as "Gram."

Karen loved games and puzzles. Bridge, Kaiser and Cribbage were staple pastimes in her household.

Karen worked various book-

keeping roles in the Battlefords and eventually found her permanent second career with Alumi Glass/Fortress Windows and Doors where she spent many fulfilling years until health issues forced retirement in December of 2017.

Karen was predeceased by her eldest son, Werner and her husband of 52 years. She is survived by her sons: Clinton (Rochelle) – Jack and Sam of North Battleford; Edan (Tammi) - Noah and Eva of Rose town, and Lloyd (Ashley) – Oli, Bo and Gus of rural North Battleford.

A private interment was held at the Baldwinton Cemetery.

*Adeline Sanoy*

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### *"Attitude" from page 16.*

King Solomon was so successful that he forgot the source of his success. Often in the life of a person, events come along that impact the attitude. Vanity and ego seem to present a constant pressure on anyone. Solomon's son Rehoboam became the king after Solomon died and his attitude of disdain toward his father and the people brought about the loss of all the greatness that God had blessed Israel with (1 Kings 12:10).

When Saul was king, his attitude changed from a person humble and small in his own sight to a person who grew careless with his responsibilities toward God. His attitude toward the instructions of God changed from humble obedience to careless self-indulgence (1 Samuel 15:17-23).

Since the error of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, mankind has had success or failure according to his attitude. Paul wrote the importance of attitude into his letter to the Corinthian church. "I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified" (1 Corinthians 9:27). Numerous accounts exist about people with tremendous gifts of music, art, leadership, intelligence and other abilities who have squandered their gifts because they developed an attitude that curtailed their efforts.

The success of a marriage will depend upon the degree to which a couple can maintain their focus on what a marriage ought to be and not allow changes that come to us all impact the way in which they love one another. Attitudes can change for

the better. A right, good and proper attitude is more important than education, wealth, circumstances, gifts of various talents and skills. Attitude is the supreme element in our lives as it controls all else. God is seeking those with the attitude that He can bless and use when He gives the gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23).

Through the life and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has completed His plan of salvation. It requires only the effort we humans give and that is guided by our attitude. That reward and inheritance follows a time of testing and development for each person (1 Peter 1:3-8). We have the ability to renew our attitude every day. You are in charge of yours. Check it daily for the reward is priceless (1 Peter 1:13-17). Walk humbly with Him. 🍁

# Attitude

*By Robert Berendt*

At the beginning God stated that man would have dominion over the earth and all living things. He would be able to subdue the earth and control all the animals. But Adam and Eve soon turned away from God and the result was that God did not make things easy for them. Eve would have some troubles and be somewhat dominated by Adam, and Adam would have trouble providing food, shelter and clothing (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:16-19). On top of that, God put enmity between the serpent (Satan) and mankind. God loved what He had created and was not about to simply throw it away and destroy it, but He was determined to help humans to develop toward becoming His children and heirs of all He had created (Romans 8:16,17).

Adam and Eve had to work hard, build a home for themselves, take care of providing food and clothing and bring into being a family. That family has grown into all of humanity today. It took thousands of years for mankind to really come to the place where they have control over almost everything on earth. We only need to look back a few hundred years to find people toiling by hand long hours in the fields for food. We see success in farming controlled by weather, infestation of insects, errors in judgment by many and hard work required to eke out a living in many places. We also see progress, albe-

it slow, toward lessening the load of heavy work that was required. We see plagues and diseases wiping out large segments of the population as humans struggled to understand things like the black plague, smallpox, lethal varieties of flu, infections that poisoned the body and a whole host of circumstances and events that have made life difficult and short.



The success of a marriage is impacted by attitude

*Photo by Cam Ferland on Unsplash*

History reveals a frightening account of the struggles that have happened in every corner of the world. We humans have added greatly to our own sorrows through wars, greed, selfishness, ignorance, laziness, stubbornness and a whole host of mind-sets that have prevent-

ed us from using the wonderful gifts God has given. Those gifts can be a talent for design, artistic works and all manner of workmanship (Exodus 31:4,5). They can be gifts of music, speaking, teaching, ability to learn and more (1 Corinthians 12:28-31). One example was the gifts given to Solomon (1 Kings 3:11-13). Solomon began to carefully seek God in all things and was blessed more than any other king. He built the temple that was to replace the moveable tabernacle with the zeal that his father King David had shown. God was pleased, but God cautioned Solomon with the same important lesson we must all learn. That is the attitude with which we seek and follow our Creator.

Attitude is everything as it impacts our lives and our bond with our heavenly Father and His Son. God warned Solomon to hold to the course and never go astray. God would do His part if Solomon did his (1 Kings 9:19). Solomon's attitude changed and he failed to achieve his potential. He brought idols into the temple and God turned from him.

Your attitude is the way that you think and feel about something and it shows in the way you behave. An attitude towards something or someone can change over time or suddenly, depending on what a person perceives.

See "Attitude" on page 15.

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