



# United News Canada

NEWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA

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Winter 2023

## Vistas From the Feast

By Anthony Wasilkoff

One of the sermons I have heard Gary Antion give through the years is entitled “See the Kingdom at the Feast.” Many of you have probably heard it as well, or have heard about it. In that sermon, Mr. Antion provided a vivid portrait of what the world tomorrow would be like adeptly utilizing an array of Scriptures which describe the coming reign of Jesus Christ on earth.

The motion picture industry seeks to draw customers by preceding the main feature in a movie theatre with a series of previews of movies that are soon to be released. Usually the ‘releases’ don’t just happen at any old time. They are often aimed at holiday seasons when the public is most apt to buy an expensive ticket to enjoy a big screen cinematic experience. We, too, have been provided with vivid previews of what is soon to come to the entirety of planet earth, and not just to a theatre near you.

Moses led the children of Israel through the wilderness for 40 long, difficult and arduous years. This was a time when his energation level was often extremely high. In the end, he was not allowed to enter the Promised Land even though he repeatedly pleaded for permission to do so. As a concession, just prior to his death,

God allowed him to see the “land of milk and honey” from the top of Mount Nebo. The *Nelson Study Bible* has a very insightful comment about what this must have been like for Moses: “Though he was still in Moab, Moses was granted by God a close-up view of the land. How sad that his feet were not able to walk where his eyes danced!”

From the messages we heard at this year’s Feast of Tabernacles, we too were granted close-up views of what the world tomorrow will really be like. We felt our eyes dancing where one day our feet will walk after the Millennium begins with the direct rulership of Jesus Christ. Moses will likely lead the way amongst those who will be resurrected and His wish will at long last become reality.

though we are focusing on the four Canadian Feast sites, what you will come across will prompt memories of the Feast no matter where you were. Of special note are the carefully selected photographs. Truly a picture is worth a thousand words and especially so when we recognize so many familiar people in them.

Like Moses, we were on the mountain top during the Feast and were allowed to have a precious glimpse of the coming world tomorrow. The vista was fabulous and we enjoyed sharing it with fellow Feast-goers for eight wonderful days.

At the same time, we can reflect on this quote from Billy Graham who said, “Mountaintops are for views and inspiration, but fruit is grown in the valleys.” After keeping the Feast and receiving so much inspiration, we have now returned to our respective valleys and are sharing the assignment of bearing the fruit of preaching the gospel and preparing a people. 🌍



In this issue of the *United News Canada*, we want to provide you with meaningful reminders of the 2023 Feast of Tabernacles. Al-

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# Abbotsford, BC

By Wayne Ward

Sixty-eight brethren enjoyed a joyful fellowship this year for the Feast of Tabernacles in the peaceful mountainous community of Abbotsford. Visitors from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and the United States joined the Southern British Columbia brethren. The locally promoted fruit harvest events ongoing in the area helped the special millennial feeling grow in us as we gathered. But it was the unity of the Spirit of God that provided the elation and joyfulness we felt, everyone knowing the very special meaning of the time for which we gathered.

Anyone who wanted to was able to take advantage of several planned fellowship opportunities to be together. These included: a Meet & Greet

reception, a games social, a family breakfast, a historic tour and a 5-pin bowling afternoon. Capping off the festival was a farewell luncheon after service on the Eighth Day. Additionally, many made fellowship opportunities of their own gathering for meals and other activities.

A little gloomy rain

through the middle three days was quickly forgotten as gorgeous sunny weather completed the Feast and the Eighth Day, giving everyone wonderful memories to



Ready for Services  
Photo by Wayne Ward



Fellowship Time  
Photo by Dale Craniford



Bowling Fun  
Photo provided by Dale Craniford

## United News - Canada

**Managing Editor:** Anthony Wasilkoff

**Editorial Reviewers:** Kevin Ford, Jean Jantzen, David Palmer, Denise Ward, Linda Wasilkoff and Dale van Zant

**Layout:** Paul Wasilkoff

**National Council:** Charles Desgrosseillers, Larry DeLong, Michael Erickson, Jim Lucas, Dennis O'Neill, Cindy Ridi, Lloyd Teetaert, Anthony Wasilkoff and

Paul Wasilkoff

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UCG - Canada  
P.O. Box 144, Station D  
Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X1  
www.ucg.ca



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take away.

All in all, the Feast in Abbotsford was successful as many ex-

pressed their pleasure for having observed the Feast at this site. Hopes were renewed for another year, keeping alive that eager

anticipation of the day our Lord Jesus Christ will dwell among us and peace will reign on earth. 🌍

## Calgary, AB

*By Michael Erickson*

Over 200 brethren from across Canada and the United States came together in Calgary and rejoiced in God's Feast this year. It was a wonderful experience for several who were attending their first Feast of Tabernacles. We also had several attending from other Churches of God. A new family who has never attended a Church of God service, Google searched "Feast of Tabernacles" and attended with us on the Eighth Day of the Feast!

The messages were definitely inspired by God to teach and encourage His children

to remember why we are here and to look forward to the time when all people will have their opportunity to know God. Many people will 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 every day during the Feast

with many inspiring solos, two festival choir pieces and the popular children's choir. Everyone did a wonderful job.

We had many group opportunities to grow our relationships with each other. On the first day of the Feast, we had a group dinner buffet to kick-start our fellowship. We had two additional times during the Feast when we had group dinners for all who desired. One was a group buffet dinner supplied by our Alberta congregations for all those who wanted to attend the famous Calgary Zoo. We had about 180 in total for this event. The last opportunity for a group dinner was at an upscale restaurant and Jazz club. Several took the opportunity to have a romantic dance



*Post-Golf Tournament Meal*

*Photo provided by Tonya Erickson*



*Praising God In Song*

*Photo by Sarah Erickson*



*Dancing During the Feast*

*Photo provided by Irene Senuik*

with their significant other.

For our teens and young adults there was a Meet & Greet at the beginning of the Feast and a Bible study later in the Feast. For children there were children's lessons twice during the Feast and the opportunity for children to participate in crafts and fun activities three times after church services giving parents the opportunity for fellowship and visiting. We had an excellent seniors' luncheon with

around 70 attending with performances by adults and children. For young and old alike we had a family day at Heritage Park living museum, an impromptu karaoke night, Bible study night, miniature golf, golf tournament and a young adults' floor hockey night. Many people chose to take a day or two to take in the world-renowned sites in Canmore, Lake Louise and Banff before and after the Feast.

The weather in Calgary was unusually warm for early October, which was another direct and noticeable blessing from God for our outdoor outing days and to end the Feast, which was another direct and noticeable blessing from God. An abundance of fellowship, bonding as brothers and sisters in Christ and feasting (physical and spiritual) occurred throughout the Feast. Truly bonding as a spiritual family, rejoicing, and praising God together! 🍷

## Midland, ON

*By Anthony Wasilkoff*

Approximately 115 enthusiastic brethren gathered to keep the Feast of Tabernacles in the peaceful town of Midland, Ontario, which is situated on the shores of picturesque Georgian Bay. It was a joyous crowd with a handful of individuals keeping the Feast for the first time and others who have kept it for decades. We were especially happy to once again have attendees from outside the

country after the border restrictions of recent years.

The stage décor was thematic for the fall of the year and even included a lion (Lambert) and a lamb (Lionel). The Information Table likewise was decorated in fall colors with a much appreciated feature of a basket of luscious apples and tray of delectable sweets for attendees to sample.

We have met at the same location for several years and so the hotel staff greet us as friends and are very accommodating to our many needs. They gave us permission to use various areas of the hotel for get-togethers and even opened up the restaurant to us for a private

mead and cheese party one evening. They also allowed us to have a baptism in the pool one afternoon.

Several commented on the many well-thought-out messages. Each service had about 40 connections via Zoom. Members could say "hello" to those who had to stay at home or in their rooms because of health challenges. The Feast Videos were well received and greatly appreciated.

In attendance were a number of very talented musicians. Special music each day was wonderful and an instrumental ensemble added to the piano accompaniment each day. The choir performed admirably well. The Variety Night had 15 individual acts and was well attended.

A Seniors' Brunch on the morning of the first day kicked off the activities. This was followed by a Meet and Greet that evening.





*Information Table Gathering*

*Photo by Heidi St. Thomas*



*Sunset On Georgian Bay*

*Photo by Coreen Wasilkoff*

ing yet another meal.

A small but intense group of teens bonded over an afternoon of five-pin bowling at the local bowling alley. All of them were involved

Family Day was on Sunday and featured an excursion to the Elmvale Zoo. This happened to be the last day the zoo was open for the season. The sunny weather was perfect for walking around the zoo and even feeding the animals. Giraffes were gregariously taking

a d - v a n - tage of food offered to them. Our last activity was a farewell luncheon between services on the Eighth Day and provided members a final opportunity to spend quality time together while enjoy-

in serving in various capacities throughout the Feast which especially pleased the seniors. Overall it was a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles with a surprising number commenting that it was truly their best Feast ever. 🍷

## St. John's, NL

*By Larry DeLong*

This year 32 brethren came together in St. John's, Newfoundland, for the Feast of Tabernacles. For a number of years, the Newfoundland brethren have kept the Feast on their own. This year they were joined by fellow Canadian brethren from Alberta and Saskatchewan along with American brothers and sisters from Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, California and New York.

God blessed us with four elders to share the speaking and those messages re-enforced God's wonderful plan that promises how the character of the world must change to accept that plan and how we must never let up on our zeal to forge

ahead. Like most Feast sites we were blessed to have two messages from Mr. Shabi and the one on the opening night set the theme for the following eight days. Special music fills a unique place in everyone's heart, both soothing and lifting the spirit with very powerful spiritual messages. Everyone was very thankful that we were blessed to have special music every day, often times a challenge at a small Feast site.



*Enjoying Being Together*

*Photo by Maureen DeLong*

To enjoy the rugged breath-taking scenery of Newfoundland, we were blessed with summer like weath-



*Beautiful Scenery*  
Photo by Maureen DeLong



*Preparing for a Group Meal*  
Photo by Maureen DeLong

er. For those who arrived a day early, a member offered a free pre-Feast bus tour of the Irish Loop of the Avalon Peninsula. Then on the opening night of the Feast we all came together for a meet and greet, many meeting for the first time. As the week progressed, we had a 5-pin bowling social, a new experience for our American friends! The bowling hall was filled with laughter and shouts of

congratulations as those that had never experienced Canadian 5-pin bowling developed their skills. Another unique experience for many was participating in a traditional Jigg's Dinner supplied by a member as his service to the brethren attending the Feast. At the end of the Jigg's Dinner to much laughter, anyone that wished to become an honorary Newfoundlander was

“screached in” which means they kissed a cod fish.

Finally, on Friday evening, we began the Eighth day with a slide show of the 2023 Feast and a hymn sing.

Thank you to all who made this year's Feast so special, it was truly a great Feast. 🍷

**“Falling” from page 16.**

Humans do not have a good record of predicting the future. We think we know, but in fact we are guessing in many cases. Science is blind to the future to some extent.

However, let us not make the mistake of ignoring what we see about us. There is a limit to the number of people that can live on earth. Much of the earth cannot sustain a crop and our water supply is poor in many places. We have huge deserts where nothing can grow. We also know that there must be an end to materials such as zinc, copper, gold, silver and oil. All of those things are finite because the earth is finite.

Mankind has destroyed many areas of the earth, built cities and poured concrete over farm land in the name of progress. We realize that our atmosphere has a balance that we can damage through over-use or pollution. Our industries have polluted fresh water supplies in rivers and streams, and we harvest our forests with abandon. There are numerous species of creatures on this earth whose existence is threatened by mankind.

As the population of the world increases, we will come to a time where everything is scarce or at the edge of vanishing. That will lead to devastating wars. Greed, selfishness, pride, disregard for laws and for what is good blinds the eyes of those who may make

wise decisions (2 Timothy 3:1-7). We allow finances, self-gratification, divergent religious beliefs and so on to dictate our actions. All of those pressures make it impossible for the peoples of this world to work as one to solve the problems.

Thankfully, Jesus Christ will return to establish the Kingdom of God on earth. All forces of evil will be removed, and humans will not be making decisions that are harmful. There will be peace and harmony as God's way will be enforced and welcomed. Jesus promises to return to save life (Matthew 24:22). While we wait, let us determine to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. 🍷

# October Pastors' Meeting

By Linda Wasilkoff

Canadian pastors with the exception of Bruno Leclerc who had not yet returned from the Feast were online for a meeting on October 16, 2023. While the purpose of the meeting was to have reports on how the Feast went, what challenges there were and plans for 2024, it also gave those who work in isolation a chance to interact with other pastors to share thoughts, ideas and concerns.

The Feast site in Abbotsford was positive. The site was not booked until after the deadline to have it included in the Festival Planning Brochure and that may have been a factor in a low attendance. Another factor may have been the closeness of the Spokane site which drew some from Western Canada.

The site in Calgary went well though there was difficulty finding sufficient manpower to take care of everything. Still, the group dinners were well attended. There was a new family that had been keeping the Feast days on their own. They found us and attended the last day of the Feast.

In Midland, the percentage of seniors attending is high, but the hotel setting is good for them. It was interesting to note that when the physical attendance went down on the last day, Zoom attendance went up.

The Newfoundland brethren appreciated having a full Feast site this year with transfers in from across Canada and the USA. They were able to tack on a bus tour before the Feast began.

other important areas for conference planning. Another recommendation was to use Zoom rather than webcasting to reach the shut-ins. This allows a better way of tracking attendance, allows us to "invite" attendees which means we don't need to be worried about which songs are being used (to avoid copyright problems) and it can be more reliable than streaming.

The pros and cons of having fewer (and bigger) Feast sites in Canada were discussed. This was put forward as a possible way to enable us to find better locations and have more manpower to run them. There will need to be more thought and discussion about this as plans for next year are finalized. It was recognized that perhaps a higher than normal number of members transferred this year due to being unable to transfer out of Canada for the past few years.

This meeting, as is usual, began and ended with prayer. Another Pastors' meeting is scheduled for January. 🍁

This meeting, as is usual, began and ended with prayer. Another Pastors' meeting is scheduled for January. 🍁



# 2023 Audit

For many people, budgeting is a dreaded task. But it is one that is very important for household finances. For the church, budgeting is equally important. Additionally, since a charity's income comes from money freely given, it is important to ensure that those funds are appropriately used. Thus, each year the United Church of God – Canada hires an outside firm to audit the books according to established and acceptable account-

ing standards. This report is then sent to the National Conference for their approval.

When United Church of God - Canada began, a determination was made to be transparent. Even though anyone can go online to check on any charity's finances, the church wrote the Bylaws to require that the annual audit of the church's finances be published and made available to all

congregations of UCG-Canada. Originally hard copies were made available for all congregations. More recently, the report is published in the *United News Canada*. However, if you are a person who enjoys carefully going through financial statements and would like to see the complete printed version of the report, please contact your local pastor who would be able to obtain a copy for you to see. 🌐

## UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

For the year Ended March 31st, 2023

	Operating Fund	Festival Fund	Assistance Fund	Building Fund	Other Funds	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>							
Tithes and offerings	\$ 1,647,914	\$ 24,936	\$ 11,996	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,684,846	\$ 1,697,610
Interest income	14,520	-	-	-	-	14,520	1,964
	<u>1,662,434</u>	<u>24,936</u>	<u>11,996</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,699,366</u>	<u>1,699,574</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Salaries and benefits	929,415	-	-	-	-	929,415	977,535
Travel	128,052	-	-	-	-	128,052	67,105
Festival costs	-	27,942	-	-	-	27,942	22,166
National conferences	464	-	-	-	-	464	-
Office and general	110,521	-	-	-	-	110,521	106,009
Insurance	26,983	-	-	-	-	26,983	25,239
Telephone	6,845	-	-	-	-	6,845	5,755
Advertising	152,046	-	-	-	-	152,046	151,305
Professional fees	13,498	-	-	-	-	13,498	13,908
Hall rentals	148,609	-	-	-	-	148,609	111,506
Church supplies	19,817	-	-	-	-	19,817	21,843
Tape duplication	85	-	-	-	-	85	-
Rent	50,132	-	-	-	-	50,132	48,551
Equipment rental	13,288	-	-	-	-	13,288	13,487
Assistance	-	-	4,650	-	-	4,650	4,560
Bank and interest charges	3,646	-	-	-	-	3,646	2,943
Exchange loss	(1,208)	-	-	-	-	(1,208)	(123)
Amortization - (Notes 2(b) and 3)	3,862	-	-	-	-	3,862	4,341
	<u>1,606,055</u>	<u>27,942</u>	<u>4,650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,638,647</u>	<u>1,576,130</u>
<b>Revenue over Expenditure for the Year</b>	56,379	(3,006)	7,346	-	-	60,719	123,444
Fund balance at beginning of year	1,788,062	35,176	87,557	38,607	1,898	1,951,300	1,827,856
<b>Fund Balance at End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 1,844,441</u>	<u>\$ 32,170</u>	<u>\$ 94,903</u>	<u>\$ 38,607</u>	<u>\$ 1,898</u>	<u>\$ 2,012,019</u>	<u>\$ 1,951,300</u>

**UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
 As at March 31st, 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,646,172</b>	<b>\$ 1,593,514</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	305,242	305,210
Term deposit	4,274	654
Amounts receivable	39,406	33,938
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	5,960	5,799
Supplies inventory	<u>37,512</u>	<u>38,633</u>
Prepaid expenses and deposits	2,038,566	1,977,748
	<u>12,809</u>	<u>13,714</u>
<b>Capital Assets - (Note 3)</b>	<b>\$ <u>2,051,375</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>1,991,462</u></b>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ <u>39,356</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>40,162</u></b>
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	<u>39,356</u>	<u>40,162</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b><u>2,012,019</u></b>	<b><u>1,951,300</u></b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ <u>2,051,375</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>1,991,462</u></b>

**UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
 For the year Ended March 31st, 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>Cash Provided By</b>		
(a) Operating activities	\$ 55,647	\$ 136,175
(b) Investing activities	<u>(2,989)</u>	<u>(923)</u>
<b>Increase in Cash</b>	<b>52,658</b>	<b>135,252</b>
Cash, beginning of year	<u>1,593,514</u>	<u>1,458,262</u>
<b>Cash, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ <u>1,646,172</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>1,593,514</u></b>
<b>(a) Operating Activities</b>		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 60,719	\$ 123,444
Amortization of capital assets	3,862	4,341
Change in non-cash working capital	<u>(8,934)</u>	<u>8,390</u>
Cash from operations	<u>\$ 55,647</u>	<u>\$ 136,175</u>
<b>(b) Investing Activities</b>		
Proceeds from sale of (purchase of) investments	\$ (32)	\$ 793
Purchase of other assets	<u>(2,957)</u>	<u>(1,716)</u>
	<b>\$ <u>(2,989)</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>(923)</u></b>

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of United Church of God - Canada:

### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of United Church of God - Canada (the Organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31st, 2023, and the statements of operations and changes in fund balances, and changes in cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at March 31, 2023, and the results of its operations changes in fund balances, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Accounting Standards for Not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization's to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

July 24th, 2023  
North York, Ontario



CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS  
(Licensed Public Accountants)

# Try It Again, For the First Time

*By Linda Wasilkoff*

Okay. I have to admit I was not in the best of attitudes several years ago when, after a discussion, it was determined to start the Daily Bible Reading program on the United Church of God – Canada website ([www.ucg.ca](http://www.ucg.ca)). After all, I had just finished reading the Bible through from Genesis to Revelation to reassure myself that what I believed was truly what the Bible instructs and I was ready to start another project!

But, since my practice is to support the functions of the church, I began the Bible program that January. The first couple of years, I have to admit, I did find Scriptures that I had forgotten about, or that could be applied directly to what was happening in my life at the time.

As years went by and I continued with the program, I started noticing themes that ran throughout the Scriptures. One year, it was the frequent reminder of what God did for Israel when He brought them out of Egypt. I was well aware of the events, but had not focused on how often they were told to “remember.”

That started me thinking about how I should start looking at what has been done for me and remember blessings and instructions I had been given. I thought back to childhood recalling the various Biblical lessons my parents helped me to learn – including the impor-

tance of keeping the Sabbath and tithing!

If you are like me, you will have favourite chapters, verses and stories in the Bible. I personally have trouble with the “begat” sections. But even in those sections that I might not read because I don’t think they have anything immediately instructive for my daily life, there are glittering gems to be found.

As one’s perspective changes, whether from age or experiences, some Scriptures become more meaningful each year. Some over time have become old friends, while others suddenly provide insight and comfort that you didn’t comprehend before.

So, I learned a valuable lesson over the past few years and will again begin the Bible Reading program all over again this coming January. Why not join in and, as the flaked-corn cereal slogan says “Taste them again for the first time.” Only in our case, it will be “read it through again for the first time.”

By the way, I also learned that even when you take part in the Daily Bible Reading Program, you can still have individual Bible study projects. You can choose to read through the daily Scriptures and do something else as well.

You may wish to check out the new weekly features (Bible Personality and Insightful

Quote) on the website for further study and meditation. Or you can do a deeper study of the Scripture of the day.

The program is a helpful tool to make sure one covers the whole Book annually, does not neglect vital sections of the Bible and it even has a method by which you can listen to the Scriptures being read if that would be helpful to you. 🌐

## Website Tips

The following resources are available at UCG.ca:

- Online Bible Reading Schedule
- Weekly Bible Personality
- Weekly Insightful Bible Quote
- Scripture of the Week
- Featured Article of the Month
- Bible Study Topics List
- Holy Day Calendar
- Booklets
- Bible Study Course & Quizes
- Online Bible Flash Cards
- Online Bible

# News From Across Canada

## Edmonton Special Music

On April 12, 2023, for the Last Day of Unleavened Bread, the Edmonton congregation was blessed with special music presented by the children's choir led by Savannah Jongerius.



Unleavened Bread Tread

*Photo by Elvira Buchanan*

The choir delighted the congregation with their youthful voices singing, "The Gift of Life" by Sarah Belowus.

*Elvira Buchanan*

## Work Party

This summer, a work party of 17 in total, from the North Battleford, Saskatoon and Lethbridge congregations, set out on a mission to paint Richard and Sharon Schempp's bi-level home and garage. Sounds easy enough – but there was so much more to do than splash on some paint!

While we were there, we also sanded and re-varnished the doors, repaired and painted the window frames and spruced up the garage.



Working carefully together

*Photo by Lorrie Reichert*

Under the careful guidance and scrutiny of Maureen De-Long, we worked together as brethren. We all had our roles and understood them. This made for great efficiency and cooperation.

Painting the house was a daunting task but with good organization all went well, no accidents, no injuries especially considering the "fearless" who were up on the scaffolding, ladders and the roof. All worked like a well-oiled machine. There were cooks, scrapers, carpenters, painters, small detail painters, high and low flying painters and the all-important "gopher" that brought the needed supplies, especially water.

While the work was going on outside, there were meals and snacks being prepared inside and as everyone knows, where there is an abundance of food there is fellowship and time for jokes and laughter – as we all looked the same at the end of the day.

God was present as well, showing us His presence in His miracles. Whether it was the purchasing of the paint and supplies for 50 percent off, the motel we stayed in giving us a large discount, the protection we had from the 30+ degree heat (100 bottles of water were consumed), keeping the rain away (other than a little shower during lunch one day) and holding back the forest fire smoke which was very heavy all around except in the small town we were working in.



Working carefully together

*Photo by Lorrie Reichert*

In the end, we were reminded that just as we are interre-

lated with every person in the body of Christ, we became a body, fitly joined together, reminding us of 1 Corinthians 12:1-26, different talents and gifts from a crew that ranged in age from 45 to 80 years old, all necessary parts of the body, all having the same value and need for one another.

Everyone enjoyed the time together and were pleased with a job well done. Richard and Sharon are overjoyed and very thankful for the brethren's time, effort, love and concern for them.

*Lorrie Reichert & Adeline Sanoy*

### Vancouver Baptism

God's Sabbaths are a blessing to us, for praise, learning and rest. The July 29, 2023, Sabbath in Surrey, British Columbia, was extra special as it was the occasion of a baptism. Such occasions bring great joy, as we welcome new members into the Body of Christ!



Adam Delfino's Baptism  
*Photo by Dale Craniford*

Adam Delfino has now joined God's family and is a member of the Surrey/Abbotsford congregations. Adam's parents, Pasquale and Marianne, members of the Montreal congregation, were present for this wonderful occasion. There was a great turnout for the Sabbath, with inspiring messages from Pastor Wayne Ward and Associate Pastor David Palmer. After services, we enjoyed a delicious potluck and warm fellowship. All in all, it was a joyous day for everyone! Interestingly, one of the sermon messages was on the topic of the fruit of the spirit - joy.



Mr. Palmer, the Delfinos & Mr. Ward  
*Photo by Dale Craniford*

Adam serves very well in both Surrey and Abbotsford by leading songs, giving sermonettes and assisting with ZOOM for all three Southern British Columbia congregations. We wish our young brother all the best in his Christian walk. He anticipates the day when Jesus Christ will say "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

*Dale Craniford*

### Maritime Tour

The brethren in the Maritimes were blessed on August 4 through 14 to once again receive the annual visit from our pastor and his wife, Bruno and Chantal Leclerc, along with Sylvie (Chantal's sister). It was a packed-full trip that including a boat trip and a visit to Prince Edward Island.



Enjoying a trip on the boat  
*Photo provided by Michelle Vautour*

We were blessed with the opportunity to meet together for two Sabbaths, August 5 and 12 with a total of 16 in attendance as well as a Zoom connection for those who were not able to attend in person. The East Farnam congregation, pastored by Bruno, also joined via Zoom. Brethren drove distances from one to three and a half hours to be there. This was a special occasion especially since many don't have the opportunity to meet with other brethren throughout the year except on Holy Days. It was like a Feast getting together, hearing all the joyous chatter amongst the brethren -- something brethren living so far apart don't have opportunity to experience very often. Every time we get together a stronger family bond is apparent.



A few "Annes"

Photo provided by Michelle Vautour

Bruno, Chantal and Sylvie hosted several brethren in their Airbnb home, which was central for most brethren. Brethren shared meals and precious fellowship time together building stronger bonds of family togetherness.

Rejean and Hilda invited several brethren to join them on their boat for a trip to the dunes of New Brunswick's Kouchibouguac National Park on Monday, August 7. We attempted to catch some fish for a meal, but had no luck due to the strong currents. Nevertheless, Hilda prepared a lovely meal for us on the boat. We saw seals in their natural habitat and enjoyed a stroll on the beach. It was a lovely afternoon together.

On August 10, we planned a day trip to Prince Edward Island to visit two members, (Sam and Leona). Before meeting up with them, Mr. and Mrs. Leclerc met with two new prospective members. Meanwhile Sylvie, Lydia and I had an adventure dressing up as Anne at the Anne Green Gables store. Afterwards, we met at a family restaurant to fellowship with Sam and Leona. There was a total of seven of us, which was very special as it was

one year since Leona's baptism.



Mr. & Mrs. Leclerc

Photo provided by Michelle Vautour

Overall it was a successful and much appreciated tour and we look forward to our Pastor's return next summer, God willing.

Michelle Vautour

### Prince George Fishing Trip

Thirty-two brethren and family members from British Columbia and Alberta gathered for a fishing campout at Babine Lake in central BC August 23 to 28. The weather was perfect, and people that had never experienced salmon fishing before were able to learn a new skill. Everybody successfully caught their limit!

The Sabbath meal and two other evening meals were eaten



Campground Sabbath

Photo provided by Heidi Poffenroth

together as a group. We all had a restful Sabbath and there were five additional people joining us that day. We listened to two recorded sermons then had a wonderful dinner afterwards.



"Fish On!"

Photo provided by Heidi Poffenroth

After dark it was time for the children to have s'mores and get out the glow sticks! Other activities included, fishing, hiking, swimming, tubing, kayaking and rock tower building during the day. The evening activities were campfire singing, fellowship, as well as one stick horse race that both adults and children participated in.



Beach Art & Friends

Photo provided by Carmella Cartwright

Be sure to check your calendars and come join us next year! Dates for next year's event will be provided later.

Colette Erickson

# The Sky is Falling—Again

By Robert Berendt

When I was a child, I often heard the story of Chicken Little and the sky is falling. Chicken Little got all excited about something small which she interpreted as “the sky is falling.” Her excitement stirred up others and soon panic spread through all she encountered. The theme of climate change abounds in our world. Scientists and experts are divided about the subject at this time, and some nations are trying to enact legislature to bring about changes in areas that are deemed to be the cause.

On the other side of the scale, single warnings are sometimes ignored that could have prevented disasters. Aboard the Titanic, the radio operator Philips was busy with personal messages from passengers when a warning about the ice field was radioed from the Californian. Because the Californian was nearby, the sound was very loud (unclear) and Philips grew angry and never passed the warning on to the bridge or the captain of the Titanic. A short time later, the Titanic, heading at full steam west toward America, came upon the ice that Evans of the Californian had tried to warn them about, struck an iceberg and sank with the loss of over 1,500 lives. The problem was that nobody took the warning seriously and no action was taken.

Both of these extremes have a moral. One speaks of the problems of over reacting and getting panicky and the other speaks of under reacting until it is too late. All too often we humans react one way or the other, respond to the words and actions of another, or to what we believe to be evidence that supports our belief. Climate

change of the past is clearly evident on the surface of the earth when we consider the glacier ages and the age of giant-sized reptiles. It seems huge glaciers crept over vast areas of what is now prairie and treed ground. God worked to make the earth for humans and gave humans the ability to control and look after things on this globe, or to neglect it (Genesis 1:26, 9:2).

Our history in the Western world, is rife with a number of erroneous beliefs and statements that have brought about actions that were far from what was needed. Shortly before the Second World War, the Prime Minister of England visited Adolf Hitler and returned proclaiming that there would be peace. England did not prepare for war and suffered greatly from the wrong impression that was given, though it was sincere.

In 1967 William and Paul Paddock wrote a book called *Famine 1975* in which they stated that it was impossible for food production to keep up with population growth. At that time the population of the world was about five billion people. Today we are close to eight billion people and the warnings have subsided. That book had an impact on the Church of God.

In 1968, Paul Ehrlich published a book titled *The Population Bomb*. His opening statements were: “The battle to feed humanity is over. In the 1970s and 1980s hundreds of millions of people will starve to death, leaving only 22.6 million starved Americans alive in 1990.” This position was followed by comments from well known and respected people. On

Earth Day in 1970, Biologist Barry Commoner said: “We are in an environmental crisis which threatens the survival of this nation.” Harvard biologist George Wald said “Civilization will end within 25 or 30 years unless immediate action is taken against problems facing mankind.”

It is now 2023 and although there are places on earth where it is not easy to live in comfort, the real cause of famine and environmental crises are the wars showing the inability of man to live in peace and harmony.

There were other dire predictions in early 1970 that caused great concern to many. A book with the title: “The Limits to Growth” in 1972 stated that projected use of resources based on the exponential growth rates they expected to continue would mean that the world supply of zinc, gold, tin, copper, oil and natural gas would be completely exhausted by 1992. The same year, a scientist at the National Academy of Sciences, published a chart in *Scientific American* that estimated that all of our lead, zinc, tin, gold and silver would be gone before 1990. In that era of time, the “coming ice age” was considered more of a threat than global warming because it seems the earth had cooled slightly between 1940 and 1975. One professor warned: “The world has been chilling sharply for about 20 years” and “if the present trends continue, the world will be about four degrees colder for the global mean temperature in 1990, but 11 degrees colder in the year 2000. This is about twice what it would take to put us into an ice age.”

See “Falling” on page 6.