

A NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA



United News Canada

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 4 • JULY - AUGUST 2002

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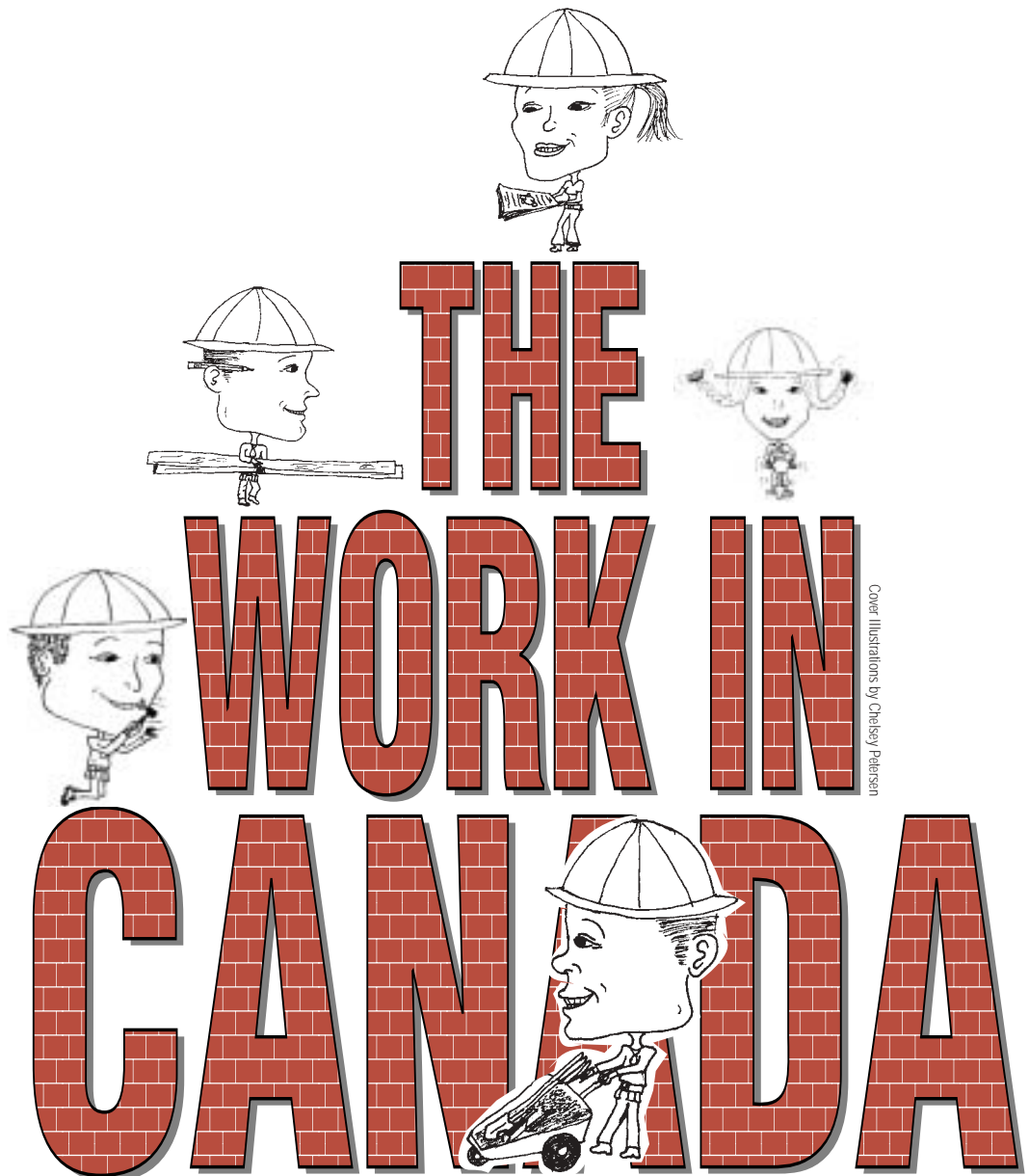
P. O. Box 144, Station D
Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X1
www.ucg.ca

TORONTO AREA
(905) 876-9966

TOLL FREE
1-800-338-7779

FACSIMILE
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Doing the Work in Canada

BY ANTHONY WASILKOFF • OPERATIONS MANAGER

*This for the day of life I ask:
Some all-absorbing task;
And when 'tis wholly, truly done,
A tranquil rest at set of sun.*

The author of the above verse is unknown. However, the words and sentiment ring oh-so-true. Ecclesiastes 5:12 states, "The sleep of the laboring man is sweet, whether he eats little or much." It was a wise philosopher who once exclaimed that a man should get his enjoyment out of his work. This enjoyment not only yields benefits during the day but also during the night. A good night's sleep is not so easy to come by anymore, it seems.

The following perceptive motto appeared on the wall of the office of the famous Dr. Charles Mayo: "There is no fun like work." Too many people can hardly wait for their work to be over so that they can finally start having some fun. Regarding this concept, Dr. Mayo wrote: "I have always liked that motto, for I believe in it. To be without work is almost to be without life. For it is work which creates interest in life."

Conversely, Richard J. Needham once wrote: "If you enjoy your work, you don't mind other people not working; in fact, you are happy to support them. But if, like most Canadians, you hate your work, you resent seeing anybody idle. You want everyone to be as miserable as you are." This, of course, was meant to be somewhat tongue in cheek.

Proverbs 14:23 proclaims that "in all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty." Proverbs 10:16 qualifies this by stating, "The labor of the righteous leads to life, the wages of the wicked to sin." Proverbs 20:11

says, "Even a child is known by his deed, whether what he does is pure and right." Our Heavenly Father learns a great deal about us by observing our manner and approach towards work. We reveal a great deal about ourselves in how we go about the daily task of making a living.

Viktor Frankl survived Auschwitz and three other Nazi concentration camps between 1942 and 1945. Tragically, his parents and other family members died in the death camps. Largely because of his suffering in the camps, Frankl developed a new method of psychotherapy, which he called *logotherapy*. At the very core of his approach is the conviction that man's primary motivational force is his need for meaning.

In his book, *Man's Search For Meaning*, Dr. Frankl wrote: "In the Nazi concentration camps, one could have witnessed (and this was later confirmed by American psychiatrists both in Japan and Korea) that those who knew that there was a task waiting for them to fulfill were most apt to survive." Dr. Frankl added, "There is nothing in the world, I venture to say, that would so effectively help one to survive even the worse conditions, as the knowledge that there is meaning in one's life. There is much wisdom in the words of Nietzsche: 'He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how.'"

Later on, when Frankl returned to practice, he lamented how so many patients would complain about the feeling of the total and ultimate meaninglessness of their lives. They

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Rainer Salomaa

ASSISTANT EDITOR/LAYOUT

Ruth Kerr

COPY EDITORS

Angie Erickson, Jean Jantzen

EDITORIAL REVIEWERS

George Carter,

Kevin Ford, Glen White

ON-LINE VERSION

Ken Kerr, Jr.

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Preaching the Gospel – Redefined

BY DAVID PALMER • VANCOUVER



Testament apostles applied the teachings of Christ to preach the gospel. The results were at times astounding. “And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:46-47). And here we are nearly 2,000 years later, and this weary world still needs the Gospel of the Kingdom.

When the 20th century Church of God began to preach the Gospel, radio gave an opportunity to spread the “Word of God” in a way that had never been available before. Growth in those early years allowed the “Church of God” to move from radio to television, and the world could not only hear the gospel preached, but could see it as well.

The gospel (good news) has been made available to this world since the very beginning. God has always had individuals whom He called to deliver His message. “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds” (Heb. 1:1-2). The gospel was preached even as far back as Noah’s time. “And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly” (2 Peter 2:5).

When we move forward in history, we come to understand that Jesus Christ was a great prophet, who came “preaching the gospel.” From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, “Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 4:17).

We also realize it took a special miracle from God on the first New Testament Pentecost to begin what today we commonly call the “Church of God,” the Church that Jesus built (Matt. 16:18). Like the prophets of old, and in the footsteps of their teacher and mentor (Jesus), guided by God’s Holy Spirit, the New

But just what do we mean by “preaching the gospel?” Does it mean publishing magazines and booklets? Preaching the gospel? Or a follow-up to the gospel being preached? When a minister delivers a sermon at Sabbath services, is the gospel being preached? When a minister, deacon or Church member visits the sick, is that preaching the gospel? Is fellowship following a Sabbath service preaching the gospel? Some Church members might say yes, but some would say preaching the gospel means being on television or having a regular radio program or at least some form of reaching the public.

So the National Council of UCG-Canada recently redefined getting the gospel to our nation as “Media Outreach.” This term allows all of us to understand exactly what we mean when we refer to preaching the gospel in Canada.



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Preaching the Gospel – Redefined

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While a Sabbath sermon, visiting the sick, fellowship and publishing Bible-based material may encompass preaching the gospel, media outreach defines a specific work of UCG-Canada.

And like Gideon's army, with our limited resources, we must rely on God's guidance to utilize the media available to us. While our media budget in Canada excludes radio and

television because of high cost, there are other methods of reaching out and preaching the gospel. We have been able to add a large number of subscribers to the *Good News* magazine and other publications, including the *Bible Study Course*. Other subscribers were reached through the Waiting Room Program, (see article on page 12), *Readers Digest* ads, the Val-Pak coupon campaign and several local initiatives including a special tape cassette program developed by Graemme Marshall (see page 12), and a special brochure campaign conducted by Edmonton Pastor Robert Berendt in Saskatchewan (see page 6).

The latest campaign of media outreach involves the Internet. The "net" is relatively inexpensive and can be extremely effective. Our Canadian webmaster, Paul Wasilkoff, has developed a new UCG web site (www.goodnewsmag.ca) as well as its companion site (www.gnmagazine.ca). These new sites will be used in conjunction with community newspaper ads as one of the key campaigns in our media outreach.

We have recorded, in audio, four basic questions and answers related to biblical prophecy. Those audio recordings, as well as the written version, are available on both web

sites, under the heading "Good News Insight" Each asks and answers (with a brief overview) some very poignant questions. For example: "Are We Living in the End Time"?

This ad graphic appears in local community newspapers, first in a test campaign on the West Coast (which is already underway), and then in various communities across Canada.



Once an individual responds to the newspaper ad by going to our Good News websites, they can either listen to the recorded question and answer, read the written version, or both. The respondent can then subscribe to the publications offered online or call toll free to the office in Toronto.

Jesus encouraged His disciples to take the gospel to the world. "Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things

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"The latest campaign of media outreach involves the Internet."



Mail: The Lifeblood of the Canadian Work

BY EDWIN VAN PELT • TORONTO



Wayne Lue processes mail in the National Office.
— photo by Ed van Pelt

What goes on behind the scenes at the National Office located in Halton Hills, Ontario? This article will look at one aspect of the work being done at the office – mail, both incoming and outgoing.

Three staff members are at the office from Monday to Friday. Three other staff members are at the office at various times throughout the week because they have many more responsibilities related to the Toronto and Hamilton congregations. We also have a volunteer receptionist who comes in twice a week.

Most of the work done at the office relates to mail. We rely heavily on Canada Post's services.

Two staff members pick up mail from our post office box in Etobicoke every day. Once at the office, the mail is date stamped, counted, and sorted into different categories. These categories include literature and subscription cards, unlabeled envelopes, labeled envelopes, invoices to be paid, returned mail, audio and videotapes from local congregations and other mail (usually advertising).

The literature and subscription cards, as well as the unlabeled envelopes, are checked against our mailing list. If the requester is already on our list the identification number is written on the card or outside of the envelope. If the requester is not on our list they are added once the address has been checked and corrected to Canada Post standards. The same processes apply to emails received requesting literature and subscriptions.

Once all the mail is resorted as much as possible by identification number, it is processed. Donations are separated and recorded on the front of the envelope. Literature and subscription requests are also noted. Comments and other interesting items are noted and filed. Questions are noted and directed to the Letter Answering Department. Other unusual requests are noted and dealt with accordingly. Invoices are processed separately and the checks are drawn once per week.

Literature and subscription request forms are completed and the requests are filled on a regular basis.

This is but a part of the outgoing mail that leaves the office. Other outgoing mail includes responses to questions, cheques for payment of invoices, literature for local congregations, and audio and videotapes.

Each month a new lesson of the Bible Study Course is sent to those who have requested the course. This adds substantially to the volume of outgoing mail.

Other outgoing mail includes our "periodical" mail. Periodicals include the *Good News* magazine, *United News Canada*, *United News*, *World News and Prophecy*, and the *Festival Planning Brochure*. These publications vary in frequency but are all sent regularly. Several times per year subscriber development letters are mailed. Renewal letters are also sent periodically. Donation statements and Holy Day Offering letters are sent throughout the year as well.

All this adds up to a lot of mail. In the first five months of 2002, we received nearly 4,000 pieces of mail and sent out over 50,000 pieces of mail. This volume is keeping the staff busy and we do our best to get the mail out as soon as possible. It's not always easy.

Keeping the mail coming and going is only one aspect of what the staff do at the office, but it's an important part. -UNC

"In the first five months of 2002, we ... sent out over 50,000 pieces of mail."

Good News Distribution Efforts

BY ROBERT BERENDT • EDMONTON

“In Prince Albert, one of our members approached the local newspaper to ask about... inserting a brochure.”

In Edmonton, North Battleford and Saskatoon, we are blessed with zealous members. We also have a small contingent in Prince Albert who are anxious to see progress, meaning introducing the *Good News* magazine and other literature to people. We know that only God the Father decides who can come – but we hope to make the literature available to aid in that call. God has blessed UCG with many very good writers who are dedicated to presenting the Word of God from the Bible in clear and easy to follow booklets and articles.

We have several projects underway in our Church areas. It is true that sometimes our plans are slowed down or delayed. That is the human side of things. There are times when God determines the timing – so we must continue to do our very best in planning and executing our projects, while God does everything else.

In Saskatoon, the members have taken the brochures that were produced a couple of years ago and distributed thousands by simply taking a section of the city and while going for a walk, placing the brochure into mail boxes. We have not made a big thing of keeping track of the success of this method, but thousands of brochures are going out. We are now in the process of producing a new brochure that will feature the booklet, *What is your Destiny?* We hope this new brochure will attract people’s attention. The brochure is not yet finalized from the production side of things, but should be available soon.

In Prince Albert, one of our members approached the local newspaper to ask about the cost of inserting a brochure. For three and a half cents each, we can mass-mail the brochure to 12,000 homes. That is a cost of just over \$400 for the whole circulation. We feel that we cannot do this in a cheaper way. We are also investigating the possibility of using small local papers in other areas. By choosing to have the brochures included in the Monday edition, we are avoiding the large number of flyers that



Spreading some *Good News*: Ann and Walter Zamonsky of the North Battleford Church.

clutter up the weekend editions.

Members in North Battleford have conducted a garage sale, the proceeds from which will go towards the brochure program in that city. The Zamonskys from Lloydminster are personally conducting a program of *Good News* distribution in their city. They have outlets for the *Good News* in the airport, bus terminal, hospital and other places. Nearly 300 *Good News* copies are sent out in each issue.

We have a small program of distribution in Edmonton. We have already used the waiting room program there (as well in the other cities) and are planning an ad in the newspaper as well as a brochure program.

We are grateful for the time to perfect our delivery systems, but can see steady progress. Each member takes a personal interest through prayer and personal example in evangelical work, some more and some less – depending on many circumstances. All are anxious to see the work grow and continue.

All are striving to “preach the gospel” and “prepare a people.” We hope to have more news to report in future editions. -UNC

Keeping Canada Warm

BY RUTH KERR • CALGARY



Making Blankets for Canada in Calgary (L-R): Shelly Molnar, Jennifer Poffenroth, Agnes Belanger, Melanie Davie, Pat Snyder, Liz Trenergy, Chelsey Petersen, Connie White, Dolly Petersen.

Missing from photo:
Heidi Poffenroth,
Della von Hollen,
Rebecca von Hollen.

Some homeless Canadians are staying a little warmer in winter, thanks in part to some industrious women in the Southern Alberta congregations.

Over the past two years, more than a dozen women in the Calgary and Lethbridge congregations have crocheted a combined total of over 60 blankets. These blankets were given to an organization that donates them to the homeless and underprivileged.

Blankets for Canada, established in Lethbridge, Alberta, in 1998, gives free blankets to “organizations that care for people without shelter and in need of warmth in Canada.” All blankets that are made and donated in a certain area are distributed locally.

A member in Lethbridge, Alberta, first introduced the Church to the project and began encouraging other women to start making

blankets, including Calgary’s Connie White.

Mrs. White presented the idea to the Calgary women in the summer of 2000 during a Ladies’ Tea. A mini “crochet class” was organized for those who had never crocheted before. Then the women got busy.

Mrs. White drums up donations for the wool and disburses them to the volunteers. She then collects the finished blankets and drops them off at a wool shop in Calgary. This shop, in turn, hands them over to Blankets for Canada.

“I thought it was a valuable project for the women to be involved with,” says Mrs. White. “They’ve put a lot of hard work and creativity into those blankets.”

For more information on Blankets for Canada, visit their website at: www.blankets4canada.ca. -UNC

Regina Festival Notice

For those planning to attend the Feast in Regina, Saskatchewan, please note there has been a change in the meeting hall. The hall that was originally booked has already become too small to accommodate everyone.

The new hall is: The Hungarian Cultural Club, 1925 McAra Street, Regina. This hall is located in the east end of the city, just off Victoria Avenue, not far from the motels we have already secured for the Festival.

—Glen White, Festival Coordinator

Doing the Work with Your Tithes and Offerings

BY KEVIN FORD • TORONTO



Therefore he (Paul) reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshippers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there” (Acts 17:17).

It has often been remarked that the apostles of the first century did not have the

many varied means of preaching the gospel that are available to us today. But it is sometimes overlooked that the converse is also true. We are not able to show up at the local Protestant or Catholic church and take over the pulpit to expound our beliefs! Nor can we simply go to our local town centre or other public area to preach the Gospel as did the apostles in those far off times. Modern laws do not permit this kind of evangelizing. Today, God’s Church is compelled to use the resources of the modern media such as the printing press, radio, TV, and the Internet, each with its significant financial cost. How has God made this possible?

The answer is the ancient law of tithing, known to God’s servants even before the time of the Mosaic covenant (Gen. 14: 20), and

practiced today by those in the body of Christ.

Today, the tithes and offerings of God’s people are used for a varied number of media programs. Perhaps the most effective is the *Good News* magazine, now published in four languages and with a circulation of nearly half a million. It is supported by other publications such as *World News & Prophecy*, *United News* and *United News Canada*. Recently, a French language publication, *Renouveau*, was added to the list. A radio program by Gary Petty airs in selected locations in the United States, advertisements are placed periodically in magazines such as *Reader’s Digest*, and the Church maintains a host of internet sites to serve a world that has become comprehensively linked by computer.

Aware that the great commission that Jesus Christ gave to His Church (Matt. 28:19-20) is two-fold – feeding His spiritual flock and the preaching of the gospel – The United Church of God supports hundreds of congregations around the world with an extensive full-time ministry, hall rentals and the many other costs necessary to local congregations. This would not be possible without the generous financial commitment made by our members and donors in Canada and the rest of the world, and for this we express our gratitude to all of God’s people. -UNC

“Today, the tithes and offerings of God’s people are used for a varied number of media programs.”

Preaching the Gospel

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whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world”(KJV, Matt. 28:19-29). We firmly believe that He is indeed “with us always.” While radio was once the method used to reach the world with the gospel, followed later by television, we see a new door has opened.

Here in Canada, despite limited resources, the worldwide web allows us to do our part in fulfilling the commission Christ gave to those disciples so many years ago. And we, who are also His disciples, can have our small part in spreading the word of God, not only to Canada, but through the “net” to the entire world! -UNC

*If you wish to view the ads on our website go to www.goodnewsmag.ca/gni.

National Council Meetings in St. John's

BY LINDA WASILKOFF & RAINER SALOMAA

The second Council meeting of the year was held in St. John's, Newfoundland, on June 6-9, 2002. All Council members were present, and on Sunday four members of the local congregation attended a meeting and gave their input.

On Thursday, minutes from the previous meeting were adopted. Daniel Berendt reported on his experiences and impressions of the General Conference of Elders meetings in Cincinnati. He encouraged the Council to schedule a National Council meeting in Cincinnati so that more members of the Council might attend the GCE.

Anthony Wasilkoff gave an update on what is being done in the National Office. Samples of an ad campaign were shown and a letter was read showing the importance of having Church congregations that are warm and welcoming to new attendees.

Ed van Pelt distributed charts that showed the growth of various areas of the Church. He explained that the main reason names are removed from the subscription list is because people move and don't leave a forwarding address. The office has tried to send follow-up letters to these people, but these are also returned.

Each pastor present gave a short update on how Pentecost went in his area. This was followed by a brainstorming session. Committee meetings followed.

The committee reports were given on Friday. The Strategic Planning Committee will check the feasibility of having a Council meeting in Cincinnati to coincide with the General Conference of Elders meeting. They are working on the Strategic Plan for 2003-04 but do not anticipate any major changes.

The Pastoral Committee related a list of items they are working on including guidelines for hall rentals for Churches, policies for ministerial transfers and Church buildings.

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Anthony Wasilkoff learns how to dance a jig, with the help of his instructor, Blanche Smith.
—Photo by Rainer Salomaa

National Council Meetings in St. John's

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The National Council and guests.

—Photo by
Eric Livermore

The Governance Committee had the task of follow-through with two proposed amendments to the Bylaws. Another technical amendment was approved to be sent to the Amendment Committee.

The yearly review of the Operations Manager was conducted during the afternoon.

On the Sabbath, most arrived at the Orangeman's Lodge (where the brethren normally meet for services) for snacks and refreshments before Church. Services were held afterwards. There were 32 in attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Robson listened to services on-line since they were unable to make the eight-hour drive.

David Smith made some introductory remarks about his mother, her death and her funeral, which had occurred earlier that week. Then he introduced Glen White, who gave a split sermon on the "Mind of Christ."

Anthony Wasilkoff mentioned, in the

announcements, that the Church is now certified to perform weddings in Newfoundland. Fern Berendt sang special music. After that, Rainer Salomaa gave the second split sermon on "Vengeance."

More snacks were served after services! Then the entire group met at the Royal Canadian Legion in Kelligrews where they enjoyed a catered meal and had a chance for further fellowship.

Graemme Marshall gave a slide show presentation on burnout on Sunday morning. Mr. Marshall pointed out that it is the accumulated effect of stress that causes the problem. He then gave hints as to how to combat burnout. All recognized this as a very real problem and appreciated the information given. Members from the St. John's congregation related the stresses in their lives and were appreciative of the presentation.

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National Council Meetings in St. John's

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The Council enjoyed the opportunity to spend a few short days in Canada's most easterly province. They even had a chance to take a two-hour boat cruise in the harbour to the accompaniment lively folk music. Some even got up and jigged, after being coaxed by Blanche Smith. The Council members felt overwhelmed by the hospitality and friendliness of the brethren.

Mr. and Mrs. Mayo of Newfoundland commented that having everyone there made it seem like the Feast of Tabernacles.

Someone else remarked that it was good to see the faces that go along with the names and voices they have heard on tapes.

Mrs. Stanley's husband was away teaching up north all winter. This last month has been very long for her. She said that the Council visit helped her get through this last month before her husband returns.

The St. John's brethren were all very thrilled to have not just one visitor but the whole Council. They know they are not forgotten. In a card that they gave to the National Council, they wrote the following, "Thank you all for coming to be with



our little flock in St. John's. A special thank you for supporting us when we thought all had forsaken us. As we say here in Newfoundland, you are all 'True Blue Christians.' God bless you all. In Christian Love, David and Blanche and our Little Flock." -UNC

"The Council enjoyed the opportunity to spend a few short days in Canada's most easterly province."



Above: David and Blanche Smith.

Left: The Newfoundland Shoreline.

—Photos by
Rainer Salomaa and
Connie White

Waiting Room Program

BY LYNN MARSHALL • OTTAWA

“A Waiting Room Manual has also been produced....”

While she was in Australia, Lynn Marshall added 850 waiting rooms of doctors, dentists and chiropractors to the *Good News* subscription list in six months. In Canada she has added 720 waiting room addresses for doctors, dentists and hairdressers. The area covered ranges from Kingston to Cornwall to Ottawa, plus the Eastern townships of Montreal, Quebec. The Waiting Room Program (WRP) effort is yet to move into the city of Montreal as we await the technology for distinguishing English- and French-speaking commercial areas.

A Waiting Room Manual has also been produced as a handy reference guide for any ladies wishing to volunteer for the program. It helps them get started and to keep up their enthusiasm as they proceed with it. A quote from the manual focuses our goal:

“Your purpose? To get the *Good News* magazine with the Truth it contains onto the magazine stand or table of a waiting

room. This makes available an opportunity of having Truth in their lives for the very first time.

“A Waiting Room Program is focused, absorbing, interesting and very rewarding.

“Titus 2:14 reminds us: ‘...and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.’

“By your participation in the Waiting Room program may you be richly blessed in every good work.”

Rural Mailbox Delivery of Extra *Good News* Magazines – Joe Moulton

Elder Joe Moulton receives some 150-200 extra *Good News* magazines from the Toronto office every other month. He then drives around the rural roads south of Ottawa. Along with member Bill Panter, they place these magazines into roadside mailboxes as they drive along. So far they have delivered some 500 to 600 magazines in an on-going initiative. -UNC

The *Good News* Audio Tape Offer

BY GRAEMME MARSHALL • OTTAWA

Following the lead of Darris McNeely in Indianapolis, Indiana, two years ago, I sent out audio tapes to *Good News* subscribers in several Australian states. There were good responses. The object was to help identify subscribers who may be responsive to Church contact in the future.

My approach differed from the U.S. tapes by presenting short messages averaging only 10 to 20 minutes in length and covering topical subjects rather than Church sermons. I present these topics on behalf of the *Good News* magazine.

In northeastern Canada this year, we have offered two tapes. The first was “United States & British Commonwealth in Prophecy” after the September 11 tragedy and, more recently,

“Why Upset Weather?” This latter tape has brought 92 responses so far, around 14.4 per cent. Next to be offered before the Feast will be either “Increasing Crime” or “When You Die, What Then?”

With each tape offer we have a dedicated member group of six or seven people who insert the letters, affix postage stamps, seal the envelopes and post the some 640 letters. It is also an enjoyable time of fellowship.

Mr. Ed van Pelt in the Toronto office is keeping track of the areas of response. We hope from this we may identify concentrations of subscribers where Public Bible Lectures might be held, or open houses for the Church conducted. -UNC

Youth and Old Age Security

BY GLEN WHITE • CALGARY

You've heard the adage, "what goes around, comes around." Scripture states it a bit differently, "So as we sow, so shall we reap." Have you found this to be true in your experience with children and young people?

The youth – those we mentor, care for, educate, teach principles, correct, encourage, sit up at night with, grieve together with – are those who become the supportive pillars we lean on somewhere in the future.

Some years ago, when I was approaching middle age, I experienced a phenomena: The rock, my Father, always my dependable foundation in life, began to look to me for wisdom and advice. My aging parent was depending upon me more and more for some physical needs as well as opinions and advice. He actually considered me a bit of an authority and a major influence in decisions. As he had once been my security and stability, now it seemed this process was making a full circle. What goes around did appear to be coming around.

The familiar scripture in Malachi 4 states that first the hearts of the fathers are directed toward the children and then the children's hearts respond to the fathers. First the mentoring, then the responsive bonding from the children. As expected, God has placed this generational cycle in motion for a very good reason.

Most of us are aware of the value the United Church of God places on our young people. There are established educational programs, Bible lessons designed for the different age groups, special youth meetings at the Feast of Tabernacles, summer camps and Ambassador Bible Center for those who can attend. However, all these programs and educational efforts are only as helpful as the mentor/teacher/parent/caring adult that is involved in the process.

Proverbs 17:6 tells us the delight of grandparents are their grandchildren. Grandparents have a great deal of influence not



only with their children but also their children's children. Often grandparents have a bit more time to contribute to youngsters than our scurrying adult children in their peak years of working.

Is God really interested in our efforts? Each year we observe the ceremony of blessing of little children by setting children apart and dedicating them to the service of God through the laying on of hands. Jesus dramatically emphasized this vital connection between the children and the adult/parent through this ceremony. He bonded the generations together, emphasizing several characteristics of little children adults need to retain and that the

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Youth and Old Age Security

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children's future is in the family of God. Christ then pointed out our adult responsibility is tutoring (Matt. 18:1-6, Mark 10:13-16, Luke 18:15,16).

Proverbs 29:17-18 says, "Correct your son..." which means instruct and guide the youth. The result is that he will be a delight in your life. Verse 18 emphasizes the need for vision. Where is all this taking us and our youth? As usual, with God's promises, to a happy conclusion.

At this point, it may be beneficial to point out some hazards facing our children. In our society children have 12 years of minimal public socialization mixed with some education before they are either thrust into adult occupations or further education. Some decades ago, our western nations retained some values of the Christian ethic of right or wrong and moral parameters. This is not so today! Several items alone should be enough to raise the protective ire in each of us. The first is the enforced legislation that homosexual instruction will be part of basic socialization in public school. The second is the age of sexual consent, which is now 14 years of age in Canada. (In some other western nations it is 12.) At the most critical time of sexual identification and development of self worth, society is pressuring children into poly-cultural standards of Sodom, instead of directing them toward godly standards.

What is it that legislators and society seek, except to force conformity to the twisted and bankrupt morality of our time?

In Psalms 127, the psalmist was inspired to write about family life from God's perspective. It is filled with meaning and direction. Note in summary:



Verse 1 - "Except the Lord build..." Unless God is the architect, contractor and decorator, all the labor and effort will just not work out.

Verse 2 - With the implementation of godly principles and instruction, we can rest confidently – a real safe and pleasant sleep.

Verse 3 - Emphasizes children belong to God (His heritage), and they are a gift to us to nurture and instruct. I often wonder if working with children matures us in the Word of God and opens our eyes to the depths of blessings for responsiveness to Scripture.

Verse 4 - To an archer, this verse adds another dimension. As an arrow is released from the bow, it is sent in a specific direction as an extension of the will and intent of the archer himself. So, too, children carry the culture and purpose of God from and through the parent. But there is more meaning in this verse. A less-than-perfect bow (parent) can send an arrow concisely to its target, but the arrow (youth) needs to be more nearly perfected to be consistently accurate. Amazingly, a perfect bow cannot send a flawed arrow directly to its mark. As an arrow is straightened and perfected in the hands of the bowman, so is the youth through the use of God's laws and instruction. Parents with perseverance and godly direction can help produce a more perfected product than themselves. Isn't this the dream of every dedicated parent?

Verse 5 - Happy is the man who has a quiver full, or at least a number of contacts with, youth. Sharing with youth is the ultimate high for many of us. The last part of this verse pictures a glimpse into their future as leaders and eventually part of God's Kingdom.

—continued on page 19

"I often wonder if working with children matures us in the Word of God..."

Congratulations, Graduates!

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2002*

**Editor's Note: United News Canada tried to contact as many graduates as possible, but not all of this year's grads could be reached before press time.*



MICHAEL DAVIES *Vancouver, BC*
Michael Davies graduated from McRoberts High School in Richmond, B.C. in June, 2002. Upon his graduation from Grade 12, Michael won a scholarship for university. He looks forward to completing a Bachelor of Computer Science degree and then working in the high-tech business field.

JEAN JANTZEN *Vancouver Island, BC*
Jean Jantzen graduated with distinction in 1996, BA with a double major in Liberal Studies and Modern English. She graduated with distinction in June, 2002, with another BA in Creative Writing, Journalism and Black and White Photography. She is writing her first novel and would like to either teach English or enter the publishing field.

DREW YAHN *North Battlefield, SK*
Drew Yahn graduated from the North Battleford Comprehensive High School. Next year he is starting his first year of Arts and Science at the University of Saskatchewan. He plans to one day become a teacher.

Calling All Chefs!

ATTENTION: Anyone Who Celebrates the Days of Unleavened Bread

The ladies of the Calgary congregation are publishing an Unleavened Bread cookbook. If you would like to contribute, please send your favorite recipes to Della von Hollen at dellavh@hotmail.com, or mail to: Della von Hollen, General Delivery, Lyalta, AB T0J 1Y0.

We are looking for recipes for bread, desserts, appetizers or menu ideas for the Night to be Much Observed. We'd also like recipes that use rice or corn flour for those with wheat allergies. If you have dairy allergies you

could send tips on converting recipes.

If you have any interesting Days of Unleavened Bread stories, send them too!

We're planning 200 pages for our book. We hope never to eat tasteless unleavened bread again!

The cookbook will go on sale this Fall.

-UNC



Second Passover in Hamilton

BY GEORGE CARTER • OTTAWA

“It is imperative that all baptized members of God’s Church should take the New Covenant Passover...”

It was a rainy night, but far more pleasant than it had been a month earlier when driving snow had prevented some of the brethren from reaching Toronto for Passover services.

This was true of some people from Hamilton, including Len and Jean Nymeyer, so it was decided to have the second Passover at their home after sundown on April 25.

It is imperative that all baptized members of God’s Church should take the New Covenant Passover: Everything else in the Sacred Calendar stems from it, and everything in the Christian life centres on Jesus Christ as our Saviour. Without the sacrifice of the Lamb of God there could be no salvation for anyone – from Adam and Eve to the very last person ever begotten as a human being. But it begins with the Church of God and the Bride of Christ.

In ancient Israel, provision was made for those occasions when a person was not able to make it for Passover, and we find this in the book of Numbers. The Church today is the Israel of God (Gal. 6:16) and we follow the instructions which our Lord has given. It is given in Numbers 9:1-14, but we need only quote verses 10 and 11 here:

“Speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘If anyone of you or your posterity is unclean because of a corpse [the original question] or is far away on a journey, he may still keep the Lord’s Passover. On the fourteenth day of the second month, at twilight, they may keep it. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.’”

These verses were read at the Nymeyers’ on April 25 which, from sunset to sunset of the 26, corresponded to the fourteenth of the second month of the Sacred Calendar for this year.

Ten people were gathered around the table, including six ladies and four men. Len and Jean had everything prepared in advance, including separate rooms for the footwashing ceremony.

During the service, George Carter reminded all present that we were just over half way in the countdown to Pentecost, and that it was vital for baptized members to have observed the Passover according to scripture before celebrating that next great Feast.

Although they had been unable to keep the Passover in the first month, they had kept the days of Unleavened Bread, they had observed that Christ was risen from the dead three days and three nights after His body was placed in the tomb, and that they were thus connected with all the firstfruits in anticipating Pentecost.

And so the bread and wine were taken in sober remembrance of this so great a sacrifice, and in thanksgiving to the one true God who devised such an awesome plan of salvation before ever Adam appeared on earth.

Surely He has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Heb. 13:5 and Deut. 31:6, 8). And this must be our comfort in these trying times, as it was for the congregations under Moses. -UNC

Omission

The article entitled “New Canadian Church Pastor: Profile of Graemme and Lynn Marshall,” in the January-February edition of

United News Canada, was originally published in the October-November issue of *United News Australia*. The writer was Elizabeth Barber, assisted by her husband, Garry.

United News Canada regrets the omission. -UNC

Saskatchewan Updates

BY ADELINE SANOY • NORTH BATTLEFIELD



Fondue Party

On December 15, 2001, the North Battleford brethren gathered at the home of Boyd and Donna Yahn for a fondue. Boyd and Donna started hosting a fondue a few years ago and it has become an annual Church activity.

The menu consists of beef, chicken, Dore Lake pike and some venison, as well as mushrooms, cheese cubes and onion rings for the fondue. Several types of batter are prepared, and you can batter the meat or vegetable, if you desire, and cook it in the hot oil.

The evening is filled with much food, fellowship and card games. There is usually a ping pong tournament going on downstairs between courses. This is likely an attempt to burn off calories to allow for that extra little morsel.

Graduation & Anniversary

In the spring of the year we have graduations and weddings. Therefore, we also have wedding anniversaries to celebrate. On April 27, UCG North Battleford got together for a potluck BBQ at the Sanoy home to recognize Gerry and Margaret Fix, who celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary on April 26. Drew Yarn, our Grade 12 graduate from NBCHS, was also recognized with a special cake. Though Drew and the Fixes knew we were having a BBQ, each one thought the special event was for the other party and they were all surprised.

Member Recognized

Karen Bullerwell was honoured at the North Battleford annual meeting of the “Voice of People with Disabilities” held in May. She was presented with the Shelley Grunerud Memorial Award.

The plaque states: *Shelley Grunerud Memorial Award 2001-2002 presented to Karen Bullerwell in Recognition of Women with Disabilities Determining Their Own Fate.*

Karen and her husband farmed in the Baldwinton, Saskatchewan area. About 10 years ago they retired from the farm and moved into Battleford with their four sons. Karen went back to school to upgrade her bookkeeping and started a home-based business. She is also employed with a local company as their bookkeeper.

Karen has been a long-time member of God’s Church and attends the North Battleford UCG congregation. Congratulations, Karen, on a recognition much deserved!



Top (L-R): Donna Yahn, Margaret Fix, back of Kristin Yahn, Shirley Rogers.
Foreground: Glen Rogers (standing), Del Rogers (seated).

Middle: Graduate Drew Yahn with cake.

Bottom: Gerry and Margaret Fix cutting their 40th Anniversary cake.

—Photos by Adeline Sanoy



Doing the Work in Canada

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

lacked the awareness of a purpose worth living for. They were troubled by the experience of their inner emptiness, a void within them. They were caught in that condition which Dr. Frankl identified as “existential vacuum.”



When we look at the life and example of Jesus Christ, we observe that He embraced a very strong sense of purpose. On one occasion His disciples were desperately concerned about His physical well being because He had not had anything to eat for quite some time. It was a noble regard on their part. Yet Christ’s reaction was somewhat surprising when He said, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work” (John 4:34). Doing the Work of God was so important to Jesus Christ, so compelling, so vital, that it was a form of sustenance and nutrition all by itself.

In the same chapter Jesus compared the people living in that area at that time as being like a vast field ripening and ready to be harvested. He explained how reaping the people around them would result in actual wages that would net fruit for eternal life. He explained how teamwork was involved and that as a result there could be joint rejoicing. He concluded by telling his disciples both then and now, “I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors” (John 4:38).

Can our vast nation of Canada be compared to a massive field of people sprawling 30 million strong from sea to shining sea? What was applicable to Israel during the time of the disciples must surely be applicable to the Dominion of Canada today. If Jesus were to make a specific comment addressed to the

people of our nation, would He not similarly say what He said in Matthew 9:36, “But when He saw the multitudes He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”

Epaphroditus was a believer who took his calling quite seriously. In Philippians 2, the Apostle Paul described him as “my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need.” What remarkable dedication this man exemplified. Later in the same chapter Paul added, “because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.” Epaphroditus was someone who was deeply committed to doing, being a part of, and assisting in the accomplishing of the Work.

Back in Matthew 9, Jesus admonished His disciples to “pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” Well, brethren, we are them. We are the laborers. Of course, we should ask God in fervent prayers that He would send additional laborers. But in the meantime, we are them – just like Epaphroditus was.

There are still many, many Canadians who have not yet heard the gospel message. They have not yet heard the good news of the coming Kingdom of God. They need to receive a subscription to the *Good News* magazine. They need to write in for our booklets. They need to enroll in our Bible Study Course. You have a part in getting the message into their hands, into their homes, into their hearts, as God grants you the means to do so.

—continued on page 19

“There are still many, many Canadians who have not yet heard the gospel message.”

Youth and Old Age Security

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Many adults feel children aren't really interested in what grown-ups have to offer. Let me help dispel this illusion with a story about the instinctive response of a child.

The youngster was trying to capture the attention of his father. The somewhat jaded father was trying to read his newspaper while his bubbling five year-old vied for his attention. The first question received a muffled grunt of response, followed by a preoccupied, "That's nice." On it went, until suddenly the father had an unexpected lapful of an excited and focused youngster. The child firmly planted his small hands on either side of dad's face, forcing the father to look him straight in the eyes. The boy asked, "Are you in there, Dad?"

Our children are reaching out. If this boy cannot reach his dad, maybe he can with one of us. If we're willing, I'm sure he will find one of us.

Let me add one more thrilling moment to further embellish the above point. Many of us have served in the youth summer camps. And we share the growth years with many of God's youth. We have them in classes at age 12, 13,

and up through the ages of 18, when they go on to graduation, jobs or university.

One thing we share in the summer camps or combined outings with the parents of our youth, is a reflection of their home life, the teenage frustrations, as well as their accomplishments. We share the mature moments as well as the temporary "hormonal" crises.

When the ABC choir performed at this year's General Council of Elders, it was marvelous to see so many summer camp graduates on that stage actively enjoying God's way of life. Later, in private conversations, I shared with these students some of our past experiences together. To perceive their personal dedication and determination to grow and serve God – it just doesn't get any better than this for a camp counselor or activity director. The generations become connected. These are our grandchildren in the faith. They are picking up the baton from our aging fingers and plunging ahead with it.

The old adage rings true: "What is sent around is what surely comes around." -UNC

"Many adults feel children aren't really interested in what grown-ups have to offer."

Doing the Work in Canada

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Matthew 24:44 cautions all believers, "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." This tells us that believers need to develop and maintain an appropriate sense of urgency. In verse 46 we read, "Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes, will find so doing." We have a lot yet to do as members and affiliates of the United Church of God in Canada. The need has never been greater. The product has never been better.

In *Words To Live By*, author Ernie McBratney has a significant list of quotes under the heading "Work/Working Hard/Work Ethics." One of those entries reads, "Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted." We have a remarkable harvest at hand. It will require hard work and determination. A further quote in the same section gives us a definitive summation: "Work as though everything depended on you and pray as though everything depended on God." -UNC

White House Dinner Gets Bible Lesson from Drew Carey

Editor's Note: Drew Carey, unconventional Hollywood comedic star, was seen May 4 at the White House Correspondents' Annual Association dinner. The event gathered President George Bush and guests from every corner of Hollywood, media and government. Whether knowingly or inadvertently (we do not know) Carey testified some truth to the full house at the Washington Hilton International Ballroom....This is a portion of that address.

WASHINGTON: "I can't watch the news lately. I know everybody, you know – I recognize a lot of people who watch the news. It gets so depressing. I mean, I just get depressed watching the news. You know what I do when I watch the news now? I turn the news off. I get out my Bible. I turn to the book of Revelation and I start just checking stuff off. Red Dragon, seven horns, ten crowns – got it. Ozzy Osborne: American's favorite T.V. dad – got it. Oh man. Twenty millions dollars, huh! You know that is barely gonna pay for your kids' therapy. I don't know why – that money's gonna be down the drain.

"Yeah, I read the Bible a lot, you know – this is crazy – we celebrate holidays in the United States. I found out just recently there are so many religious holidays we celebrate here

in this country that have nothing to do with the Bible at all. Real famous holidays, like Christmas ... it's not in the Bible. The birth of Jesus is in the Bible, but not Christmas. The tree's not in the Bible, you know, gifts ... there's nowhere that says, 'Celebrate My birthday, says Jesus.' It's...a pagan holiday that the Romans invented that we just do! But everywhere you go, I'm telling you, I've seen this so many times, you see a big nativity scene and there's baby Jesus, the manger, sheep, shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph – Santa Claus right in the middle. Like, who's that?

"Santa Claus has nothing to do with anything. Neither does the Easter Bunny – Easter is another pagan holiday that's not in the Bible. Every Easter you don't hear anything about Jesus on the cross. All you hear is about the Easter bunny. The Easter bunny this, the Easter bunny that. Why is the Christian religion the only one in the world that needs a mascot to sell their stuff? You don't see Jewish people out celebrating with the Passover kangaroo! There's no Ramadan rooster!

"Halloween's another big holiday – Satanic holiday – nobody's bothered by that for some reason. You know, fun for the kiddies!! I mean, when I was going to church they always told me, you know, Satan's the most evil one – he's the one you must watch out for. Watch out for Satan. And then, once per year the whole country says, 'Hey, let's party with this guy!' It's ridiculous!!! There's a Catholic Church down my street that used to

have Halloween parties every year. Of course they don't have them anymore because they don't want the priests to hand out candies to kids."

(Drew Carey, White House Correspondents' Association Annual Dinner: Washington D.C., Saturday May 4, 2002)

Women and Violence

WASHINGTON: A disturbing new report says more than half of American women have been physically assaulted at some time in their lives. That ranges from a slap to a punch to gun violence. And nearly 18-million women, almost one-fifth of America's female population, has been raped or were victims of attempted rape. Nearly half of all rape victims say it happened before they turned 17.

Health and Human Services secretary Donna Shalala says it's time to recognize that violence against women is a significant social problem. She reminds us that every number in the survey represents a daughter, mother, wife, or neighbour. *(American Press)*

Editor's Note: A famous Canadian political writer once warned in a newspaper interview that the sexual revolution, instead of giving women more freedom and equality, would one day result in just the opposite and eventually have an adverse effect on the female population. It would seem Pierre Berton may have been correct!