



The Best Feast Ever?

How special it is to return from the Feast and hear brethren say that they kept “the best Feast ever.” Is this automatic? Is it a matter of time and chance? Or is it, perhaps, merely a figure of speech?

Successful FOT observance occurs as the specific result of God’s special and tangible blessing. Keeping the Feast of Tabernacles requires bonafide faith, obedience and courage. Many brethren have personal stories of keeping the Feast when it was very difficult for them to do so, but our Great God opened avenues to enable them to keep the Feast successfully—even under adversity.

James 4:2-3 admonishes us, “ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” Sometimes we are not blessed very much and wonder why. We may eventually realize we have not been praying for God’s divine blessings. The Great God enjoys blessing His servants, but He expects them to *ask* for His blessing. Further, it is possible to ask for the right thing but for the *wrong* reason.

What kinds of things should we ask for when it comes to keeping the Feast of Tabernacles? We should ask our Heavenly Father to guide and direct all of the preparations for each Feast site: preparations that commence in the Home Office and each National Office and with every Feast Coordinator months before the festival begins. Even a week or two before the Feast, much preparation is required. Those involved with this would appreciate our earnest prayers.

We should pray for God’s protection for His people around the world as they travel to, while they

selected and rehearsed before and then performed during the Feast. We should pray for the pianists, the instrumentalists, the vocalists, the choir directors and the choirs.

We must remember to ask God to provide for brethren who will be keeping the Feast at home with the aid of DVDs or perhaps the Internet. We especially consider those who have been unable to attend the Feast with fellow brethren for many years but still faithfully keep it at home.

It is important to ask God to bless every Feast site with good weather. Some years the Feast experience has been somewhat dampened by inclement weather. I recall one year when it snowed during the Feast and then, after we returned home, we experienced several weeks of lovely Indian summer. However, if we specifically ask far in advance, we may well receive beautiful Indian summer weather during the Feast itself.

We can pray for sufficient numbers of volunteers for the smooth running of the Feast and for the spirit of service, harmony and cooperation. We can pray to be a proper example to the world and for an occasion for non-Christians and fellow-Christians to see Christ in us as we keep the Feast joyfully.

As we prepare to keep the 2013 Feast of Tabernacles, let us ask ourselves “Will it be the best Feast ever this year?” With God’s gracious blessing, it certainly can be!

Anthony Wasilkoff



United Church of God, an International Association

keep the Feast and as they return to their respective homes. We can pray for protection for the properties, livestock and other possessions of the brethren while they are away keeping the Feast.

It is important to ask God to guide and inspire the preparation of messages that will be given, as well as for inspiration of the speaking and the hearing. It is important to ask God to guide and direct all of the special music that will be

In this Issue:

The Feast of Trumpets.....	2
A More Perfect Tabernacle.....	3
UCG/IA President Visits Canada.....	4
June National Council Meeting.....	6
Church/Corporate Members.....	7
Kansas City Singles' Event.....	8
New Council Members.....	9-10
One Way and Another.....	11
News From Across Canada.....	12
God's Fall Feasts.....	16

The Feast of Trumpets: Christ's Second Coming

Her daughter-in-law gave her a small flower-shaped box. She was puzzled since the box felt light and empty. In the box was a round pin with the words: "I'm going to be a grandma." It was an announcement of a coming baby – the first for the couple after two years of marriage. The baby will also be the first grandchild for both sides of the family. The future uncles and aunts are all excited about this new addition to the family. New topics, such as such as experiencing pregnancy for the first time, morning sickness, parent readiness and experiencing the baby moving have been added to the weekly family dinner discussions. Everyone is happy and thankful to the giver of life – our Creator God.

The fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets is the next glorious event that will happen to this earth according to God's plan. This is the moment that believers anticipate. It signals the second coming of Jesus Christ and the birth of the first humans to be born as spirit beings in God's Kingdom. It is the first phase of God's plan. The second phase will be during the Millennium and the third phase will be in the second resurrection.

God created humans with the ultimate purpose of making them

part of His family in His coming Kingdom. Every human will be offered that opportunity to learn and live according to God's way of life and according to God's time as He planned it.



123RF

Just as a family eagerly awaits the birth of a new life, God is also excitedly waiting for the coming birth of His physical creation into His family as the fulfillment of His plan. There will be great rejoicing in heaven and earth when that day happens (Luke 15:7). Rejoicing will be in the whole creation that groans waiting for that great day (Romans 8:22).

Jesus instructed His disciples and all believers to pray, "Thy Kingdom come." In the book of Revelation, those who were martyred prayed for God's intervention in this world. Yet they were told to wait for those whom God would yet call who would have the same fate as they (Revelation 6:11).

For the time being, God instructed His disciples to continue doing the work of preaching the gospel unto the entire world and teaching converts about God's way. Just like a baby who needs to be nurtured to grow physically, believers must also grow and mature spiritually to be born as spirit beings into God's Kingdom. We should continue assembling together (Hebrews 10:25) as this is an opportunity to learn and share God's way with one another.

The government and gifts of God are provided for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ until we come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man and to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:12-13).

Every family anticipates the coming birth of a new member into the family. God is definitely rejoicing that His plan of salvation – to bring many children to glory – will come soon. Heaven and the whole creation are excitedly waiting for that day when new members of God's family will be born into His Kingdom. May God speed that day!

Sixto Yap

UNITED NEWS CANADA

Managing Editor: *Anthony Wasilkoff*

Editorial Reviewers: *Michael Caputo, Kevin Ford, Denise Masse, David Palmer, Joseph Sheperd, Linda Wasilkoff, and Dale van Zant*

Layout: *Paul Wasilkoff*

National Council: *Larry DeLong, Bill Dimovski, John Erickson, Michael Erickson, Dennis Horlick, Patrick Read, Rainer Salomaa, Lloyd Teetaert, and Anthony Wasilkoff*

United News Canada is automatically sent to all members of United Church of God-Canada, and is free to all who request it.

Your subscription is provided by the voluntary contributions of members and co-workers of United Church of God-Canada.

Donations to help share our free publications are gratefully accepted and are tax-deductible where applicable by law.

© 2013 United Church of God-Canada
PO Box 144, Station D
Etoicoke, ON M9A 4X1
www.ucg.ca

Reproduction in any form without written permission is prohibited.

Canada Post Publications Agreement # 1487159.



A More Perfect Tabernacle

When we think of the Feast of Tabernacles, we often shorten our conversation to simply “the Feast.” Have you ever considered the other word in God’s command to keep this annual festival – the word “tabernacle”?

We come to the Feast with great enthusiasm to hear inspiring messages, to enjoy good food, to fellowship with old friends and make new ones. God fully expects us to do this. He wants us to enjoy ourselves to the fullest. God ordained that we experience the Feast as a joyous physical occasion. But how often, as we are busy making arrangements to get together with friends to take in the various activities, do we pause and reflect on our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ? In Hebrews 9:11 the Apostle Paul wrote, “But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.” What exactly does that mean and how does it relate to the Feast of Tabernacles?

When we attend the annual festival, what is our relationship to “the Tabernacle built without hands?” If we leave the true Tabernacle, Jesus Christ, out of our Feast we will miss one of the most important lessons of the festival. We need to realize that God, through the holy day plan of salvation, is molding a more perfect you. The Feast of Tabernacles is a very important part of that overall plan!

We observe the Feast in the physical, but what about the

spiritual application? Jesus came to magnify the law emphasizing faith, justice and mercy, as explained in Matthew 23:23. He expounded the rich meaning of the commandments, and, in a subtle way, gave a spiritual insight into the Holy Days, of which He is the focus, including the Feast of Tabernacles.

Notice these instructions to ancient Israel: “And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it” (Exodus 25:8-9). Israel made a physical sanctuary after the

Jesus Christ is the True Tabernacle of God, yet the Church that Jesus built is also recognized as the “body of Christ.”

pattern given, and God dwelt or tabernacled among His people.

The Apostle John tells us in his Gospel, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:1,14).

There are two interesting points related to these Scriptures. The word “became” (“made” in the original KJV) can be translated assembled or built. The word “dwelt” is described as: reside (as God did in the tabernacle of old, a symbol of protection and communion) or

tabernacle. So we could read John 1:14 “And the Word was (assembled, built or constructed) of flesh and (tabernacled) among us.”

Even today, He tabernacles among His people. Recall what He promised His disciples, “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him. Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, ‘Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him

and make Our home with him” (John 14:21-23). The original King James Version uses the term “abode” – a dwelling place, a place of residence, the place where He resides, where He tabernacles.

Jesus Himself made it clear that He is the True Tabernacle. “So the Jews answered and said to Him, ‘What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ But He was speaking of the temple of His body” (John 2:18-19, 21).

Jesus Christ is the True Tabernacle of God, yet the Church that Jesus built is also recognized as

the “body of Christ.” “And God has put all things under the authority of Christ, and he gave him this authority for the benefit of the church. And the Church is His body; (Temple-Tabernacle) it is filled by Christ, who fills everything everywhere with his presence” (Ephesians 1:22-23 NLT). His body, by metaphor, is also the Church, which simply means those called into the Body are the tabernacles of God, in whom dwells the spirit of God.

“Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man” (Hebrews 8:1-2). “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building” (Hebrews 9:11 KJV). The writer is explaining that the building is not the physical structure with four walls and a ceiling. The building,

(tabernacle) is Jesus Christ, who said “I will build My church.”

“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house (Greek for house is “OIKOS” meaning temple, tabernacle, tent, or dwelling). For this One (Jesus) has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by some man; but he that built all things is God” (Hebrews 3:1-3). “But Christ as a Son over His own house, (tabernacle) whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end” (Hebrews 3:6).

The Apostle Peter explained it this way: “You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5).

Recall Peter’s statement related to his death: “Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle” (2 Peter 1:14).

Notice Paul’s explanation in a letter to the Church in Corinth. “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Corinthians 5:1). Do you not know that your body is the temple (tabernacle) of the Holy Spirit which is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

The Feast of Tabernacles is a good time for us to comprehend that we are part of the spiritual tabernacle of God. We must be the light that shines through a dark world by following the example of our true and more perfect tabernacle, God’s beloved Son Jesus Christ.

David Palmer

UCGIA President Visits Canada

While Victor and Beverly Kubik have visited Canada many times, the June visit was the first in Mr. Kubik’s new role of UCGIA President.

They arrived in time to attend the June meetings of the National Council which were held on June 20 and 21 at the National Office. They stayed for the National Conference and the Ministerial Conference meetings.

During the Council meetings, Chairman Rainer Salomaa shared his experience of attending his very first Council of Elders meeting. Michael Erickson gave a report on behalf of the Canadian Not-for-Profit Corporations Compliancy Task Force. The Task Force was requested to continue so as to complete additional documents required by the CNCA.

The National Council gave formal recognition and thanks to Kevin Ford for his years of service to



Anthony Wasilkoff

the church. Kevin retired at the end of June this year. His replacement in the National Office, Dale van Zant, was introduced to the group.

A Compensation Committee was formed. This committee will be composed of all non-salaried council members and will have the task of annually reviewing the salary ranges for employees.

Victor Kubik was asked to relate lessons he has learned from serving on boards. He reminded the Council that boards are to govern through policy and that the purpose of a board is for fiduciary responsibility. He stressed that it is crucial to keep accurate minutes that record everything that has been decided.

On Friday evening, the Kubiks, along with all others in town for the ministerial conference, were invited to a barbeque at the Wasilkoff's home. This provided a good opportunity for everyone to get better acquainted with both Victor and Beverly Kubik in a relaxed setting. It also gave Mr. Kubik the opportunity to get acquainted with Canadian elders.

On the Sabbath, Rainer Salomaa and Victor Kubik gave split sermons in Toronto while David Palmer traveled to Kitchener where he gave the sermon. All had a quick buffet meal following services and then went back to the National Office for the official start of the 2013 Ministerial Conference. That evening, Mr. Kubik spoke on "Helpers of Your Joy" and "Maintaining Doctrinal Integrity." The evening session concluded around 8:30,

which was early enough to allow most attendees to get back to their lodging for a good night's sleep.

On Sunday morning, the annual meeting of the National Conference occurred. This was the first time since UCG-Canada's inception that all Conference members were invited to attend a face-to-face meeting. All but two elders (Richard



Beverly Kubik

Berendt and Bruce Bird) were able to attend. The first item of business was to ballot for several business matters. Beverly Kubik assisted the secretary in counting the ballots.

Among other items, the amended bylaws were approved and two new National Council members were appointed: Lloyd Teetaert and Bill Dimovski. Rainer Salomaa was reappointed to the Council. The National Council later also reappointed him as Chairman.

The address by the Director of Operations had the theme of "doors." He covered scriptures referring to "open doors" and related them to doors that have been opened for preaching the gospel now and in the recent past.

This was followed with reports from the Media Team and Ministerial Services Team. The Treasurer's address showed that the income

is holding up reasonably well and that there are many areas of positive growth in the Church.

The Chairman's address used the theme of "bookends" showing that our beginning in January of 1996 was similar to one bookend, while the ratification of the bylaws required to continue as a charity is like another bookend. He reviewed many of the names of people who have served on the National Council since its inception.

In the afternoon, the Ministerial Conference resumed with Home Office employee, Paul Wasilkoff, giving a demonstration of the new UCG Ministerial Website. Following that, a DVD by Vernon Hargrove was shown. It was entitled "Marriage: A Church of God History" and gave the background of how the church has understood divorce and remarriage doctrinally and administratively through the years. It included the steps and rationale used by the church today to render decisions about divorce cases.

At the end of the day, Victor Kubik graciously answered many questions that had been submitted to him ahead of time as well as some that came from the floor.

We are very appreciative of the support of the Home Office in supplying two individuals to speak at these three meetings in June. We were also very thankful that both Mr. and Mrs. Kubik were able to be present for most of the sessions as well as to meet so many brethren at church on the Sabbath.

June Meeting of the National Council

The annual face-to-face meeting of National Council was held in Toronto June 20-23. Because of the make-up of the current Council and the ability to utilize the National Office for meeting space, this is the least expensive venue for the meeting. As usual, the first item of business was to adopt the minutes of the March meetings.

Rainer Salomaa gave a description of his experience as he attended his first Council of Elders meeting in June. He reported that the COE will be meeting again in August when one item of business will be a review of the Treasurer, which occurs every three years.

Michael Erickson gave a report on behalf of the Canadian Not-for-Profit Corporations Compliancy Task Force. He read the penalties for charities that do not meet the new government requirements and deadline. The Council requested that the Task Force continue working on additional documents related to the CNCA.

Edwin van Pelt reported that two months into our fiscal year we see a slight increase in income. Membership is once again increasing. Anthony Wasilkoff and Dennis Horlick updated the Council on what the Ministerial Services Team and Media Team are working on. Each of these teams had met the previous day.

The National Council gave formal recognition and thanks to Kevin Ford for his years of service to the church. He officially retired at the end of June. Kevin's replacement in the National Office, Dale van Zant, was introduced to the group.

Paul Wasilkoff gave a presentation on blogging on ucg.org. This is a way members can become directly involved in the work. Brochures were available to be taken for the local congregations. What would be especially helpful would be a blog that would be of special interest to the Canadian audience such as something about Canadian holidays.

The Strategic Planning/Finance Committee reviewed the government requirements for keeping registries. These include directors of all past and present National Council, National Conference and Officers. The Committee recommended keeping both a hard copy and electronic copy for each registry in the National Office. Larry DeLong proposed and the Council



Victor Kubik

approved meeting dates for the next year. The Committee proposed that the Council continue to meet face-to-face only once a year. For the foreseeable future, meetings will be held at the National Office to save money.

The Governance Committee recommended and Council approved a method for choosing a chairman

for the Council prior to the current chairman's term expiring. Patrick Read reviewed a proposal for revising the Sexual Misconduct Policy, which was approved. Two additional related policies were approved for youth protection. It was noted that there needs to be additional policies created for the protection of vulnerable individuals.

Victor Kubik was asked to speak on lessons he has learned serving on boards. He reminded the Council that they govern through policy. Boards are responsible to be sure funds are responsibly allocated. He expressed the need to keep accurate minutes that record everything that has been decided.

During a short meeting Sunday, the National Council had to select a chairman. Rainer Salomaa was re-selected to serve in this capacity for another three years. Next, it was determined that Mike Whyte would be appointed to the Amendment Committee and Ellsworth Stanley will act as an alternate for that Committee.

The Council then approved two resolutions. One was to form a Compensation Committee which will be composed of all Council members not employed by the Church. The second resolution was to have the Director of Operations proceed with necessary paperwork for continuance as a charity.

Token gifts were presented to the two outgoing Council members, Ellsworth Stanley and Garry Lucas.

Linda Wasilkoff

Church/Corporate Members

On June 23, 2013, the National Conference ratified a revised set of bylaws enabling the United Church of God – Canada to apply to Industry Canada for continuance as a registered charity. This is required for all charities as spelled out by the June 23, 2009, updated Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (CNCA). The deadline for a continuation application is October 17, 2014. The application for continuance along with our revised bylaws was sent by the Director of Operations from the National Office. These were received and processed and we are now registered under the Act. The church has received a Certificate of Continuance effective July 7, 2013.

This was all necessary in order to allow the church to issue donation receipts for income tax purposes and to operate under the laws that regulate charities. It is advantageous for a charity to be incorporated. In a blog entitled *Why Every Charity Should Consider Incorporation*, Alexandra Tzannidakis wrote, “A corporation is a much more durable structure; it is its own ‘person’, independent of its members, and therefore will survive any amount of personnel turnover. It is certainly the more likely structure for dealing with a large or dispersed membership.”

As an incorporated registered charity (incorporation was originally granted on June 12, 1997), UCG-Canada is required to have a governing structure. That structure is the National Conference, which includes all ordained elders in Canada, plus two laymembers. (We have chosen to use this spelling to show their corporate position in the church.) The members of the National Con-

ference select nine National Council members to act as the governing board of the church. That board selects a Director of Operations (at this time Anthony Wasilkoff) to be in the role of chief executive officer to oversee the day-to-day operation of the church.

To clarify between the corporate structure and the spiritual body of the church, one of our bylaws states:

“The United Church of God – Canada has two functions: that of a Corporation and that of a church. The Corporation is established to operate the business of the charity, being compliant to applicable laws and legal requirements and ensuring that the donations received are properly accounted for and properly disbursed. The Corporation is composed of the members of the National Conference. The Church is the spiritual entity which teaches, nourishes and guides people in the Christian faith and in Christian living. While those who are baptized as a result of the Church’s spiritual work are called members of the Church, they are not members of the Corporation unless they are serving as a member of the National Council. The Corporation does not set doctrine but may determine how it is applied. The Corporation does not ordain ministers, but does participate in the decision making process of who will be ordained as ministers. The Corporation does not determine who may be baptized, who will be appointed as pastors or other spiritual matters. Likewise, even though input may be sought from members of the spiritual Church or congregations, they are not considered to be members of the Corporation” (Bylaw 5.1.19 United

Church of God – Canada).

What this means is that when our Bylaws speak of “members” it is speaking of the members of the corporation – the National Conference members. When we speak of church members we refer to those who are baptized and have filled in a form giving the church the right to consider them members – something that is necessary partly because of Canada’s privacy legislation. We encourage all who have not yet done so to consider becoming members. Membership means that a person is automatically on member mailing lists and may ballot for local candidates for the National Council. It also enables the church to have a more accurate count of attendees who consider themselves to be members of the church.

1 Corinthians 14:40 instructs that all things should be done in decency and in order and 1 Corinthians 14:33 states that God is not the author of confusion.

On the other hand, trends in society are on the path to maximize individualism so much so that a growing number of people are reluctant to be part of what they call “organized religion” – making it seem on a par with organized crime. Some see the word “organized” as a hint of menace and control. Some people just do not want to make a commitment.

The spiritual body of Christ is not meant to be disorganized. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Paul writes: “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit

we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.” Paul goes on to show that God sets us in His body as it pleases Him (verse 18) and that all are necessary (verse 22). He also shows that spiritual gifts are given to the church for the good of the entire body.

Among the gifts are “helps” and “administrations” (verse 28). *Barnes Notes on the New Testament* says that the word *helps* “means, in general, those who in any way aided or rendered assistance in the church, and may refer to the temporal affairs of the church, to the care of the poor, the distribution of charity and alms, or to the instruction of the ignorant, or to aid rendered directly to the apostles.”

Barnes Notes about the word *administrations* says, “This word is derived from κυβερναω *to govern*; and is usually applied to the government or steering of a ship. The word occurs nowhere else in the New Testament ... distinct offices may not be here referred to, but that the same persons may be denoted in these expressions as being distinguished in various ways; that is, that the same persons were called ‘helpers’ in reference to their skill in aiding those who were in distress, and ‘governments’ in regard to their talent for doing business, and their ability in presiding in councils for deliberation, and in directing the affairs of the church. There is no reason to think that the terms here used referred to permanent and established ranks and orders in the ministry and in the church; or in permanent of-

fices which were to continue to all times as an essential part of its organization. All that is clear is that there were those who administered government in the church. But the passage does not determine the form, or manner; nor does it *prove*—whatever may be true—that such an office was to be permanent in the church.”

From its inception, the United Church of God—Canada has been blessed to have had 33 different people serve on the governing board. All have brought unique talents and insights. For them, it has been, and continues to be, a labour of love to help direct the work of preaching the gospel and preparing a people in an **organized** manner to the glory of our great God!

Rainer Salomaa

Kansas City Singles Event

From July 3-6, 41 singles from five church groups (31 from UCG) and from 23 states and Canada met in Kansas City, Missouri, for a spiritually uplifting weekend with the theme “Pursuing Perfection.”

On July 4, the weekend began in earnest as attendees fellowshiped over breakfast. Later, participants carpooled to the Zona Rosa shopping district for lunch at the Granite City Brewery, followed by laser tag or shopping. After-dinner activities included a bus trip to Kansas for a fireworks display followed by dessert, coffee and games at the hotel.

On Friday, there was a tour of the Harley Davidson Factory, group

photos at the Liberty Memorial Tower and visits to museums. Later that day the group toured a local coffee roasterie. For the day’s final outing, the singles divided into groups for personalized tours of African, modern and Chinese art at the Kansas City Art Gallery.

Back at the hotel, singles ate an authentic K.C. barbecue. They then broke into four teams for volleyball and played with enthusiasm. Sabbath evening included more fellowship, dessert and coffee.

Two seminars filled Sabbath morning. “The Proverbs 31 Woman” broke the final chapter of Proverbs into practical and spiritual applica-

tions. “The Proverbs 31 Man” focused on how a man must stay close to God to nurture his wife into becoming a Proverbs 31 woman.

Sabbath services included a sermonette titled “Does God Want Us to Remain the Foolish of the World?” The sermon was titled “Challenges” and focused on the troubles to come and how Christians must prepare now by making godly decisions.

After Sabbath, everyone enjoyed a dance that ended at midnight. Many stayed up even later to fellowship.

Nadine Franko

New Council Member: Lloyd Teetaert

Lloyd Teetaert grew up on a mixed farm in southern Manitoba. In the mid-1960s, his dad received a *Plain Truth* magazine from a neighbour. That eventually led to the family coming to church. Right out of high school, Lloyd moved to Regina where he did construction work for a church member.

In Regina, he met a young lady who had also recently moved to the city. He married Helen Stilborn, who had also grown up in the church as an elder's daughter. Lloyd and Helen have two children (Beverly and Robert).

After working for the church member for 14 years, Lloyd was given the opportunity to purchase the company, which he operated for seven years. During those years Lloyd was able to take his family with him as he worked in smaller towns in all corners of Saskatchewan. In 1994, Lloyd started a temporary job for the winter with Brandt Agricultural Products Ltd. That temporary job led to full-time employment. He has been with the company ever since and is now the Receiving Manager.

As the family was growing up, Lloyd was involved in the church's Youth Lessons, YOU and Feast of Tabernacles. He and Helen were blessed to originally have both sides of their families in the church. Now Lloyd and Helen have their immediate family in United Church of God.

Lloyd and Helen have four grandchildren. Their daughter, Beverly, married Kurt MacPherson

and they have two boys and live in Indian Head, Saskatchewan, which is approximately one hour east of Regina. Their son, Robert, married Synnove Erickson and they reside in Lethbridge, Alberta, with their son and daughter.

Lloyd's experience of growing up in the church, as well as the experience of being a manager in the work force, will be of value to the National Council. He is organized and detail oriented, which will help with his committee responsibilities. Lloyd is a very up-beat individual who always has a ready smile.

The Teetaerts have been very active in the local congregation. He was ordained as an elder on the Last Great Day in 2004. Until then, the Regina congregation had no resident elder.

Regina is a small congregation with an average of 12 attending weekly and another five that are connected to services by phone. Several years ago, the congregation hosted National Council meetings in the city and organized a bowling evening after services for members and the Council.

The Teetaerts frequently open their home to visitors. Rainer Salomaa, pastor for Regina, is invited to stay at their home whenever he is in town. Over the past sev-

eral years, Lloyd and Helen have travelled to several overseas Feast sites to meet and serve brethren in less prosperous nations. There they enjoy experiencing the culture unique to the areas.

Lloyd and Helen have a family connection with another National Council member. Their son, Robert, is married to the daughter of John and Collette Erickson.

Lloyd likes to garden, do side construction jobs and travel. Of course, one of his favorite hobbies is being a grandfather to his four grandchildren!



Victor Kubik

Over the past several years, Lloyd has taken time off work to attend the General Conference of Elders in Cincinnati. There he has become acquainted with how our form of governance works. He also has been able to meet many elders from around the world. He was Feast Coordinator for a few years when UCG-Canada had a Feast site in Regina.

Lloyd was appointed Chairman of the recently formed Compensation Committee of the National Council. This committee will be reviewing salary ranges of church employees on an annual basis to give recommendations to the Council whenever they see a need for an adjustment.

New Council Member: Bill Dimovski

Bill Dimovski was selected in June to serve a three-year term on the National Council. He first became interested in God in his teen years. His family belonged to the Macedonian Orthodox church, but he had difficulty accepting their religious beliefs.

When Bill was 16, he saw an advertisement in the TV Guide for a booklet, "Who Was the Real Jesus?" He requested the booklet and that led to additional literature and eventually an invitation to attend a mid-week Bible Study. He attended services for about a year, but quit because of family concerns. After seven years, he felt a spiritual void and began to search for the church once again. He resumed attending church in 1982. He and three others were baptized that same year.

Returning to God's Church provided the direction he needed. It was a time of tremendous growth for himself and the church as additional congregations were begun in the Toronto area. Bill enjoyed being a part of preaching the gospel.

But then came the time of doctrinal changes which were frustrating and trying. Bill thought the doctrinal changes would revert back to what he had come to believe, but they didn't. Eventually, he determined that he could no longer belong to a church that was teaching contrary to God's word and made the decision to stop attending. He began to attend UCG-Canada in 2001. Bill says: "There have been many lessons learned during this time but

God is always with us regardless of the situation we find ourselves in. I appreciate belonging to UCG, being able to fellowship and have the opportunity to serve in bringing hope to a world that is in desperate need."

Bill brings extensive accounting experience to the National Council, which will be helpful in budgeting, financial reporting and other financial matters. He attained a CGA accounting designation that provided him with increased management responsibilities. His involvement with the church and serving various capacities over the years gives him a strong understanding of how the Church functions and the needs of the brethren.



Anthony Wasilkoff

As a deacon in the Toronto congregation, Bill has many local responsibilities. He assists in the kitchen and with the set-up and clean-up of the church hall. He is also involved with the Young Adult group and is the coordina-

tor of the Social Committee. Bill enjoys the diversity of the congregation that has members from many different parts of the world, each with their own distinct culture. He enjoys the richness of the many talents and abilities that contribute to a vibrant and caring congregation. Perhaps that is why one of his favorite scriptures is Romans 8:28. Of that scripture he says, "We need to always believe that God will use many events in our lives and weave them together to produce what he knows to be the very best for us."

Sabbath services are important to him. He says, "My favorite parts of Sabbath service are singing of hymns and the sermon. Throughout the week we give thanks and praise to God on an individual basis but during services is when we can collectively offer our gratitude with joyful voices. The delivery of the messages allows us to listen to God's word expanded on various matters, as reflected in 2 Timothy 3:16."

Since no one in his family is a member of the church, Bill counts fellowship with the brethren on the Sabbath as a highlight of the week. He notes that "being with others of like mind is so important in strengthening our bond and drawing closer to each other."

Watching major sporting events, when he has time, is a hobby for Bill. We hope he will still find time for this during his time on the Council!

One Way and Another

This is the gist of some recent correspondence between a man who clearly reads his Bible, and the response of a minister in United. It may hopefully be instructive to some of our readers.

One Man's View

Did you know that Adam knew what he was doing when he ate the "Forbidden Fruit"? You may not believe it, but he loved Eve so much that he didn't want her to go through "Death" without him. Whatever happened to Eve, Adam wanted to share it with her — though it would be "Death" as God had promised. (Do you love your wife this much?)

There is a passage (1 Timothy 2:14) that proves Adam was not deceived. It says, "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."

The last Adam (Jesus Christ) did the same thing—and even to a greater extent. He loved us so much that he gave up His life for us and made the first Adam's transgression null and void. He took away death and offered us an eternal life. He combined "the Spirit of God" with the "flesh of Men" and offered it on the cross. He was in the grave three days, rose from the grave and offered us eternal life if we believe in him. In this way we could be "Joint Heirs" with Him in the "Kingdom of God."

A Minister's Response

It is an incredible thing isn't it, that Christ - through Whom and

by Whom we were made - should give up all His power and glory to come and live and die as a man, to pay the penalty for our sins and so rescue us from death!

Poor old Adam never really knew what hit him. He had a marvelous physique and a wonderful brain, and was imbued with great intel-



Woodcut by Gustave Doré

ligence. He was given a woman who matched him perfectly. He was responsible for her but did not take that responsibility as he should have. Easy for us to say in hindsight, and he probably quickly learned it after the fact.

It was not for love of Eve that Adam accepted the forbidden fruit from her hand and took a juicy bite. There she was standing before him vibrantly full of life, contentedly chewing on a chunk of the fruit that was supposed to kill them, and his immediate response was, "Well

now, how about that?" So he took an experimental bite and lived on, but was driven from the Garden of "Easy Living" so to speak, and sent out into the world and labored himself to death thereafter, as Christ explained to him would happen before clothing the pair of them and sending them out.

Adam should have immediately responded, "Eve, what have you done?" Then explained to her what a great mistake she had made. God fully expected them to sin, to go their own way and do their own thing, because that is what freedom of choice is all about, and mankind in general still doesn't get it. We have all followed in their footsteps, but

God will even yet rescue us from the consequences if we will learn the lesson and start doing things the right way.

Jesus Christ will soon return to claim His holy bride, the Church, and subsequently restore Paradise to this long suffering world. There is much for which we may always be thankful. All things will come in their appointed time, as our great God has planned from the beginning.



News From Across Canada

Ottawa Winterfest

On February 24, the UCG-Ottawa congregation joined in a fun-filled day at the cabin on Joseph Moulton's farm. The weather was picture-perfect with lots of snow for horse-drawn sleigh rides through the wooded forest. For the young-at-heart, there was ball hockey on the frozen pond and snowboarding down the banks.



Horses taking the driver for a ride (photo by Isobel Nichols)

Meanwhile, inside the cabin, a cozy fire and plush chairs made it ideal for fireside chats throughout the day while sipping on hot chocolate. The food was delicious with several kinds of chili, salads and breads topped off by a mixture of desserts.

It was an enjoyable day with lots of food, fun and fellowship for all.

Dennis & Paula Horlick

Seniors' Tribute

Every year, UCG-Toronto honours seniors by hosting a Seniors' Tribute Social full of stories, tributes, and food! This year, the event was held on the Sabbath of March 30.

After a spiritually nourishing service, a program was held in the sanctuary emceed by our very own Gaetan St-Denis. The program included various poems read by the youth, a song, some funny stories from various people, including seniors, and favourite scriptures that our seniors shared with us. After some laughs and some insight, everyone was invited into the gymnasium for a sit-down potluck.

The gymnasium was decorated in purple and blue with various scriptures referring to the wisdom of the aged including Job 12:12, "Wisdom is with aged men, And with length of days, understanding" (NKJV). The seniors were given honour throughout the whole evening, getting first dibs on the seats and, of course, the food. Seniors also were given bookmarks from the youth as gifts.



Last-minute preparations in the cafeteria (photo by Anthony Wasilkoff)

After much socializing and enjoyment, the evening came to a close. It was a wonderful time to give tribute to our seniors, to learn from them and to just enjoy each other's company.

Jessica Schut

Mother's Day Tribute

On May 11, 2013, the Toronto congregation once again enjoyed a Mother's Day Tribute. Dennis Horlick gave a timely sermon reminding us of some of the duties and responsibilities of a Christian Mother including being a model of integrity, being a teacher of the scriptures, teaching proper respect, fear of the law of man and God and giving loving and firm discipline.



Ernesto Yabut - Mother's Day Tribute (photo by Anthony Wasilkoff)

This year's theme was "Honouring our Women" and the men in our congregation stepped up and were responsible for the decorations, set-up, cooking and clean-up for the social. The men outdid themselves, and everyone enjoyed a delightful array of delicious salads, main courses and desserts for our potluck meal.

After the meal, in keeping with the theme, we honoured our women by getting to know them better. The tribute to our women included short stories or little unknown facts about some of the women in the congregation. The congregation then attempted to guess who the woman was. The ladies then had an opportunity to explain their stories, which included everything from shoving peas up her nose as a

child, fear of punishment, checking belly buttons for trees, adoption, her first pair of shoes, near-death experiences, relatives buried in Westminster Abbey, and so much more depicting different joys and hardships experienced by the ladies.

The participation and sharing of so many of the women made this a very warm and unifying experience and everyone went home with a smile on their face and a new appreciation for the women and mothers of our congregation.

Jim and Almeda Lucas

Vancouver Pentecost

It was a very special Pentecost weekend in Vancouver this year as special guests from near and far joined the Vancouver congregation for both the weekly Sabbath and Pentecost services.



Peter Eddington delivering a message
(photo by Nicolas Sherry)

Special guests included Peter and Terri Eddington from the Home Office in Cincinnati, along with Bill and Rae Eddington from Melbourne, Australia. We were graced with the presence of LeeAnn Luker, widow of Dennis Luker, along with elders Seldon Olson and Carl Anderson and several visitors from

the Sedro Woolley and Seattle, Washington congregations. Also present was Don Goodger, an elder from Melbourne who serves in both Australia and Singapore, and his wife, Dawn.

Bill Eddington, former member of the Council of Elders, gave the Sabbath sermon on "The Focus of a True Christian." Peter Eddington (Bill's son), Operations Manager for Media and Communication and producer of the Beyond Today television program, delivered the Pentecost message, titled "Will You Be God?" It was an in-depth look at the doctrine of the trinity.



Ghyslaine Palmer, Terri Eddington and LeeAnn Luker
(photo by Nicolas Sherry)

Both Sabbath and Pentecost messages were excellent. The friendship and fellowship shared with our American and Australian visitors following services allowed for members and ministry alike to enjoy great food, warm and friendly fellowship.

David Palmer

North Battleford Baptism

Brethren in the North Battleford congregation are happy to have a new member added to the congrega-

tion. Jill Monique Chenard was baptized by Robert Berendt on June 7, 2013. Jill has been attending with UCG in North Battleford since last fall. She is the mother of three children – two daughters (Madison and Sara-Lee) and a son (Landon).



Jill Chenard and family
(photo provided by Jill Chenard)

Jill works as a teacher in North Battleford and, on June 5 in Saskatoon, she received her Education Administration degree from the University of Saskatchewan. Congratulations, Jill, on both your baptism and educational achievement.

Adeline Sanoy

Saskatoon Barbeque

The rain stopped, the brethren gathered together and then the fellowshiping and eating began. On Saturday, July 13, 2013, the UCG-Saskatoon brethren gathered at the home of Bill and Annette Wall.

Our host, Bill, did a great job of barbecuing burgers and hot dogs. Annette provided delicious desserts. Other members added salads, pickles, etc. to the meal.

We were all wishing Joe Kozenko the best as he departs for ABC in

Cincinnati soon. Joe was recently baptized and we welcomed him to the church. He has been attending the congregation for a little less than two years.



Joe Kozenko and Bruce Bird
(photo by Darlene Buck)

It was a great evening. We will miss having Joe in our congregation while he is attending Ambassador Bible Center.

Darlene Buck

Saskatoon Baptisms

On Friday morning, July 5, pastor Robert Berendt baptized two individuals who attend the UCG-Saskatoon congregation. The original intention was for the baptisms to take place in the South Saskatchewan River, but the water was too high and murky from recent floods



Joe Kozenko and Robert Berendt waded into the lake
(photo by Evan Manning)

in the mountains to the west. Joe Kozenko and Darlene Cymbalisty from Saskatoon were happy to make the four-hour drive from Saskatoon to the lake.

Even though the weather was not perfectly sunny, the water was a balmy 68 degrees Fahrenheit and the wind was not cold. Joe and Darlene have been attending services for some time. Joe's family was in the church many years ago and Darlene is a new attendee. Joe is on his way to the ABC program in Cincinnati. Congratulations to the both of them on this very important step in their lives.

Robert Berendt

Birth Announcement

Ben and Samantha Moulton of the Ottawa congregation are pleased to announce the arrival of their first child, Lincoln Richard Moulton. Lincoln was delivered at the Winchester District Memorial Hospital on January 26, 2013, at 8:07 a.m.



Lincoln Moulton
(photo by Samantha Moulton)

He weighed eight pounds and eight ounces and was 22.5 inches long. His cousins, Addison and Xander, anxiously awaited his arrival. Lincoln is the first grandchild on his mother's side of the family and the third grandchild for Richard and Michelle Moulton of the Ottawa congregation. He is also the 27th great-grandchild for Joe and Mary Moulton, also of the Ottawa congregation. He is a wonderful addition to our family!

Samantha Moulton

Beresford Obituary

John Beresford, a deacon in the Vancouver Island congregation, passed away on June 24, 2013. He will be greatly missed by his family and the many brethren who knew him.



Lorraine and John Beresford
(photo by Bobbi Sheperd)

John was born in 1921. He served five years with the RCAF in WW2 and later developed a very successful plumbing-electrical business. He gave up that business when he was called into the Church of God in 1970. John

served the Church in many ways including as a song-leader and speaker. He and his wife, Lorraine, traveled far and wide in their RV getting kids to summer camps and other church activities.

John was a very enthusiastic person – one who looked forward to the Kingdom of God with excitement. He would often say, “the Kingdom will be here . . . soon.” One of John’s favorite activities was going to Tim Horton’s where he usually had a sweet “goodie.” When kidded about partaking in those sweets, especially ice-cream, he had a great response: “At MY age, it can’t do me any harm.”

He is survived by his wife, Lorraine, and his daughter, Donna.

A memorial service was held for John in Nanoose on July 13 at the hall used for Sabbath services.

Joe Sheperd

Henderson Obituary

Betty Henderson died peacefully on May 29, 2013, in Prince George, British Columbia, after a short two-month decline in health. She was preceded in death by her husband and one daughter.

Funeral services, conducted by Rainer Salomaa, were held in Telkwa on June 3. Her son-in-law, Mark Robertson, from Australia, gave the eulogy and another son-in-law, Don McClenagan, sang “The Holy City”. One of her great-granddaughters, Kaitlyn Anderson, read an Irish Blessing.



Betty Henderson
(photo by Duncan McClenagan)

Betty was born on October 16, 1926, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. She had a twin brother, Bob, and an older brother, Bill. Her parents had immigrated to Saskatchewan from Birmingham, England, and Edinburgh, Scotland. They later moved to British Columbia where Betty chose a career in nursing. She later met and married James. They moved to the Kispiox Valley and spent their lives farming. James also worked in the forest industry as a tree faller. Betty kept a beautiful home and worked hard raising seven children in an era of no electricity and few household gadgets or conveniences. She leaves behind 19 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Betty had a spunky personality. She loved music, flowers, sunshine and, of course, cheesecake. She was steadfast in the faith and in her love and devotion to God and His word. She will be remembered with appreciation and fondness by many.

Rainer Salomaa & Pam McClenagan

Jonsson Obituary

Aaron Gordon Jonsson of the Saskatoon congregation passed away suddenly at his home on July

14, 2013, doing what he enjoyed – working on his van in his shop. His funeral was held in the Bradwell Community Hall and was officiated by UCG elder, Bruce Bird.

Gord was born on December 29, 1941, in Comox, British Columbia. He lived most of his life in British Columbia. Six years ago he moved to Bradwell, Saskatchewan to live with his son, Robert, his daughter-in-law, Kristina, and his grandson, Philip.

Gord is survived by his wife of 38 years, Lynn McNeice, his sons, Gary and Robert, his daughter, Tammy, and their families as well as four sisters and two brothers in the Comox Valley. He was predeceased by his parents and one brother.



Aaron Jonsson
(photo provided by Tammy Comeau)

Gord was a handyman, often doing mechanical work, welding etc. He also enjoyed reading, learning and helping others.

He was a faithful member of God’s church since the early 1970’s and believed strongly in God’s laws and promises.

Darlene Buck

God's Fall Feasts

Four of the seven annual Holy Days that God calls “My feasts” (Leviticus 23:2) fall closely together in the month of Tishri, the seventh month of God’s sacred calendar.

The first, the Feast of Trumpets, introduces the autumn festivals. It represents the culmination of the present age of man and signals the intervention of God in the affairs of man. It depicts the return of Jesus Christ to the earth to establish the Kingdom of God. The seventh angel sounding the last trumpet signifies that “the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of the Lord and his Christ” (Revelation 11:15 NIV).

The second is the Day of Atonement, a most solemn Holy Day. It pictures the removal of the primary cause of sin so that unity with the Creator can occur. It was the day on which the responsibility for the sins of the world was laid upon Satan (the Azazel goat). The blood of the Sacrificial goat (symbolizing Christ) was taken and offered for the cleansing of the people (Leviticus 16:20-22). The specific instructions on when and how to keep this festival are found in Leviticus 23:27: “It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls.” How do you afflict your souls? The same word translated “afflict” here is used in connection with fasting in Psalm 35:13 and other verses. We fast during this time to draw closer to God.

The third, the Feast of Tabernacles, is an annual reminder of our temporary state (1 Corin-

thians 5:14). The name “Feast of Tabernacles” is derived from God’s command to ancient Israel to build temporary “tabernacles” (also called “booths”) to live in during the festival. These reminded them of their release from slavery. As with these temporary dwellings, our physical life is transitory (2 Corinthians 5:1-2). This lesson is reinforced when we travel to a site of the Feast of Tabernacles and stay in temporary dwellings. The festival reminds us that we are mortal and that we need of a literal transformation so that we may have eternal life.



iStockPhoto

God did appear in the tabernacle of old with Israel (Exodus 25:8-9), though their sin cancelled the relationship. The meaning is still great for Christians today, as the Father and Son now dwell within the converted person and within the church (John 14:2).

The seventh Holy Day is separate from the Feast of Tabernacles with its own distinct meaning. It, too, is a solemn day of rest (Leviticus 23:39). In Revelation 20, John makes a clear distinction

between the first resurrection (at Christ’s second coming) and the second resurrection (at the end of the millennial reign). While the first resurrection is to eternal life, the second is to a physical, flesh-and-blood existence. The dead will be resurrected and taught the truth and be given a chance to repent, obey God and receive forgiveness. We find an allusion to this theme in Revelation 20:11-15. All the dead (those not previously resurrected) stand before God. The books (Bible) were opened to their understanding and their judgment begins. We believe this period will last for 100 years (Isaiah 65:15-25). This final period of judgment completes God’s plan of salvation for the world. At the end, all humans will have been judged after having been given a fair opportunity and those who succeed go on to eternal life. But those who fail go to the second death (Revelation 20:14).

And so we come to the end of another cycle of God’s Holy Days. There is a long pause from the seventh month to the first month when the cycle begins anew. We are to rejoice in the wonderful loving care of our Creator and strive to be pleasing to Him. Keeping the Holy Days greatly increases our understanding of the plan of salvation and gives us the training we need to be part of the Kingdom of God. That is why the days are joyous and meaningful – celebrating the most awesome future that can be imagined.

Robert Berendt