



“For I Have Determined There to Winter”

The festival seasons for another year have come and gone! Most recently all of us observed the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day. We did so either at our local site, at a transfer site or, perhaps, at home. No matter what our situation was, we no doubt, enjoyed and appreciated being able to observe another complete cycle of God’s wonderful festivals.

Many congregations these days have a post-feast social to allow brethren to share stories of where they were, what they did and what they learned. Some bring back mementos from Feast sites for give-away purposes. At the social I attended this year, I was greatly encouraged to hear so many experiences from so many locales where God’s people had assembled to observe the final Feast of the season.

As we anticipate the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread in 2017, we realize that they are nearly five distant months away. Between now and then lie the long winter months. As a youth,

I actually looked forward to winter and all that it had to offer. As I’ve gotten older, I look forward to winter less and less and look forward to spring more and more.

Genesis 8:22 states: “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, day and night shall not cease.” Psalms 74:17 adds: “Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter.” Perhaps winters in days gone by were less severe and less dreary than they are now!

A prophecy about the world tomorrow proclaims, “And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be” (Zechariah 14:8). In the world tomorrow, seasons will still exist and winter will still be one of those seasons. Winters in the world tomorrow will probably be very different from what they are like today.

However, in the world today we hunker down during the winter season and long for the arrival of spring and the beautiful spring festivals. Thankfully, through what God generously gives us at the Feast of Tabernacles and on the Eighth Day, we can do this with good success. Weekly Sabbath services and occasional so-

cial and related church functions help us to bridge the gap.

Interestingly, the early New Testament church had to contend with the same seasonal realities that we do. In Acts 27:12 we read, “And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, and there to winter; which is an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west.” In those days it was necessary to find a safe haven in which to overwinter at times of long-term nautical navigation.

As the Apostle Paul planned his journeys, he included where and how he personally would spend the winter months. Two passages speak to this. 1 Corinthians 16:6 “And it may be that I will abide, yea, and winter with you, that ye may bring me on my journey whithersoever I go.” Titus 3:12 “When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis: for I have determined there to winter.”

The articles in this issue of *United News Canada* will help you overwinter as you cherish the memories of the wonderful fall festivals and anticipate next year’s spring festival season.

Anthony Wasilkoff

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Bridge the Feast

A couple of weeks ago, my family and I went for a walk in a park near our home. The park is situated along a beautiful creek that descends over the Niagara Escarpment, eventually meandering its way to Lake Ontario. While enjoying the scenery, I realized that the creek was next to a large concrete bridge which supported eight lanes of traffic.

While I had driven over that stretch of roadway many times, I had no awareness I was, in fact, driving over a bridge. On the ground I could clearly see that the landscape below was very steep in places and contained a good number of limestone outcroppings. Were it not for the bridge, even all-terrain vehicles would have difficulty crossing the area; my van would have no chance at all!

That is the beauty of bridges: they allow us to travel from one place to another and permit us to bypass hazardous conditions, saving us time and presenting a safer way to travel.

The time between the Fall Holy Day season and the Spring Holy Day season can be long and emotionally challeng-

ing. However, our post-Feast high can act as a bridge to carry our zeal forward. Here are four ways to bridge our enthusiasm.



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1. Bridge the Time

One of the visual hallmarks of the Feast of Tabernacles is the silvery glow of the full moon. That moon is nearly always visible before or after opening night services. It is a confirmation, regardless of which site we attend, that we are starting the Feast of Tabernacles at the right time. Psalm 104:19 tells us the moon was intended to act as a sentinel, of sorts, to help us stay on-time.

In the months and weeks ahead of the Feast of Tabernacles, we can see the moon growing more and more full giving us a reminder of our time left before the start of the Feast.

That same moon will also mark the beginning of the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. November's full moon has already been reached; there are five more until April's full moon ushers in the Passover.

By observing the moon's transition of phases, we can be more aware of time passing, and the time remaining, until the start of Passover. By doing so, we can be additionally motivated to be prepared for the coming Spring Feasts while appreciating God's lunar reminder of His sacred feasts.

2. Bridge the Food

One result of following the scriptural directive of tithing is the ability to enjoy extraordinary food during the Feast of Tabernacles. Deuteronomy 14:24-26 directs us to enjoy the blessings of the previous year by feasting. For many brethren, that involves eating more often

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Victoria, BC

Nearly 400 attendees came together on Vancouver Island for a spiritual feast of God's Word. The Langford venue, located 12 kilometers north of downtown Victoria, hosted daily services along with day trips to scenic landmarks that are hallmarks of God's beautiful creation in the area.

As attendees were arriving for the Feast, the remnant of a typhoon that hit Japan was bearing down on the Pacific Northwest. Some ferries were cancelled or delayed as high winds caused rough seas. God intervened and as of late Saturday it was being called a "big bust" on the news. Everyone arrived by Sunday night and services peaked at 386 on the first Holy Day.

With many elders in attendance, daily services included split sermons and additional Bible studies present-

ed on the Sabbath. Many brethren found ways to serve others, enriching the overall Feast experience.

Rain continued during much of the Feast, but God provided windows of sunshine during both outdoor activities. Sun-splashed autumn colours spread across thousands of species throughout Butchart Gardens. Orcas and gray whales were spotted from tour boats, while harbour seals were fed along the wharf near the Empress Hotel. The annual salmon run was beginning in Goldstream Provincial Park with its historic trees and majestic canyons, trails and ocean inlet.

Indoor activities found seniors enjoying a catered luncheon, highlighted with an interactive discussion about weaving young people into the fabric of the Church. Families relished a catered evening dinner and

dance, which was studded with music through the decades. Memories of high school dances of previous decades were shared by those in attendance.

Teens and their families enjoyed a night of bowling in a private room with their own lanes. Several opted to enjoy High Tea at the Empress Hotel. A selection of various teas was accompanied by an assortment of tasty treats that are regularly enjoyed by Queen Elizabeth and the Royal Family, all served on royal-patterned china.

Planning is well underway for hosting the 2017 Feast of Tabernacles at an attractive venue located within walking distance of the main attractions in Victoria.

John Elliott

Canmore, AB

The high attendance in Canmore was 227 on the first Holy Day and hovered around 200 most of the Feast. This is above the registration number of 174. Besides Canadians who came from as far away as Newfoundland, there was a large international contingent, with attendees from the United States (many from Texas), Australia, New Zealand and Jamaica. Services began with an opening night Feast music video with a welcome from Mr. Victor Kubik. This was followed by Randy Stiver's sermon "God's Wonderful Feast of Tabernacles."

The weather was crisp in the

mornings and warmed up during the day. Often, the rising morning sun painted the snowy mountain peaks in brilliant hues of orange and yellow. On clear nights, the moon shone to illuminate the magical setting.

The atmosphere inside the meeting hall was warm and collegial. Coffee was available before and after services. The stage was beautifully decorated. Hymns and Scriptures were projected on a screen. There was quality special music, which included instrumentals, vocal solos, the children's choir and the festival choir. Fourteen speakers gave uplifting and inspiring messages focused on different aspects

of what the Feast represents. Sermon topics included: Why Are We Here?; Preparing the Bride; Briefly to the Future; Blessings and Opportunities; Are You Running?; Hope – The Final Frontier; War and Peace; Child of God; Her Name was Laura; An End and a Beginning; Why the Last Day is Great. These were uploaded to the sermon section of the church's Feast page (<http://feast.ucg.org>). Sermonette topics included: And You Shall Rejoice at the Feast, Something to Write Home About, Keeping Our Spiritual Tank Full, and Dogs and Sorcerers. Also, Randy Stiver presented an afternoon Bible Seminar on "Tracking the Twelve Apostles."

On the Sabbath, the meeting facility (the Cornerstone Theatre) was not available because a wedding had been booked, so services were relocated to the Canmore Seniors' Association. Every chair and several benches were used for the capacity crowd. The webcast from Panama City Beach came through well until part way into Mr. Kubik's sermon "From Ecclesiastes to Eternity." The technical crew used a video back-up sermon and continued from where the transmission had stopped. The

service concluded with a closing hymn and prayer. Coffee and leftover snacks from the seniors' reception were served afterwards.

Activities included festival youth instruction, a teen study, young adults ultimate Frisbee, rock climbing for the teens at Elevation Place, a ride on the Banff Sightseeing Gondola, a hike on the Grassi Lake trail (replacing a hike at Johnston Canyon), a seniors' reception and a ministerial/speakers' dinner. Some had a chance

to take a helicopter tour and to see from the air a part of Canada's most popular tourist destination.

Between and after services on the Last Great Day, a music video with Feast photos, created by Dr. Anthony Pacelli, was played. At the conclusion of the final service, some group pictures were taken at the front of the stage before most said their final "good byes."

Rainer Salomaa

Midland, ON

Vibrant autumn colours were in full display as brethren gathered in Midland, Ontario, for the Feast of Tabernacles. Brethren capitalized on warm and sunny weather to tour the quaint downtown, which overlooks a picturesque inlet of Lake Huron's Georgian Bay.

The Best Western Highland Inn & Conference Centre offered our 135+ brethren enjoyable accommodations and a lovely venue in which to fellowship over breakfast each morning. This same atmosphere gave an all-inclusive feel to our activities which were generally open to all.

The family day activity was held next door to our church services hall and was well attended by children, teens and those young at heart. Later that day, we had a games night in the atrium with each games table occupied by brethren of all ages. As the evening progressed, the younger attendees moved downstairs to the

swimming pool for additional fun.

Many brethren enjoyed the spectacular scenery of Wye Marsh. The songbirds there have been conditioned to eat seeds from the outstretched hands of visitors. What a treat it was to see so many people have a chickadee or nuthatch gently feed from their open palms. Others enjoyed strolling down the mural-graced buildings lining Midland's main street. The scent of fresh baked goods and desserts teased the appetites of anyone meandering down the sidewalks.

For the second year in a row, we had a square dance. We were directed by a professional caller who made the evening fun. In spite of many of us trying something new, our caller was able to make it easy enough that those among us with more than one left foot were able to learn.

Our seniors were treated to a heart-warming message given by Mr. Joe Horton, an elder serving

in Ohio, who reminded them that their worth to the church and, more importantly, to God is of great value regardless of age.

The Variety Night, which was held on Saturday evening, was very well attended. Garry Lucas, an elder in the Toronto congregation, was the event's emcee and even performed some musical numbers. Other acts included recitations, piano solos, duets and even a dance number.

In addition to these activities, we also had a women's seminar, Bible Study and a group buffet lunch on the Last Great Day.

On the evening after the first Holy Day, as the vast majority of the brethren retired to their rooms, the angels in heaven were rejoicing as they celebrated the baptism of one young lady as she became part of the family of God.

Paul Wasilkoff

Sainte Adèle, QC

Sainte-Adèle is located in the picturesque Laurentian Mountains. This year the fall colours were at their peak as Feastgoers arrived. Some of the locals said that the fall colours were two weeks later than usual this year and hence a bonus from above. We were treated to changing vistas with sunshine and rain during the first few days. By the end of the week, there were a few snow flurries and the trees began to lose some of their leaves.

The Feast was held in Hôtel Le Chantecler, located part way up a hill and overlooking a small lake. The meeting room had windows on three sides allowing a panoramic view of the spectacular scenery. In fact, the scenery outside seemed to blend in with the stage decorations, which included coloured leaves and assorted pumpkins and chrysanthemums.

There were 103 registered for Sainte-Adèle and 95 were present for the opening night service. The next day saw the high attendance of 135. Thereafter, the attendance averaged just under 120.

Each morning those staying in the hotel were treated to what started as a cold continental breakfast buffet. However, the hotel added in eggs, hash browns, turkey bacon and chicken sausage at no extra charge. For other meals, attendees had numerous restaurants in the area to choose from. A special offering in Quebec is the *table d'hôte*. This fare includes soup or salad, a main course, dessert and coffee for a set price – much less expensive than à la carte. Que-

bec is also known for its poutine, which was available to anyone who wanted to indulge.

Following services on the first day, a meet-and-greet occasion allowed people to either make new friends or get re-acquainted with individuals they had not seen for years. It was an excellent activity to start the week.

The messages seemed to have a theme of joy with on-going references to chain saws (you will have to ask someone who attended Sainte-Adèle how that came about). Even though the site was small, the special music was excellent. In addition to two accomplished pianists, we were blessed to have an instrumental trio of guitar, violin and saxophone to accompany hymns. All messages were given in English and a team of bilingual individuals translated into French. This was also a dedicated site for the hard-of-hearing, and it was a pleasure to watch those signing at work.

Following services on Family Day, each child ten and under received a gift bag containing a stuffed animal. That afternoon they had an excursion to Magic Jungle. Laura Ridi, from the Kitchener congregation said, “It was fantastic! I want to go back there.” Her brother, Josh, added that Magic Jungle is a big indoor playground that was lots of fun.

An additional activity for the children was the “Armour of God” project. Those as young as two were allowed to help paint and decorate the armour, which had

been prepared by members of the Montréal congregation. One of the older boys modeled the finished project for all to see on the Last Great Day.

The Variety Show was a highlight and lasted almost two hours with 100 in attendance. We were treated to instrumental numbers, singing, dancing and a lesson (with jokes) in American Sign Language. Participants ranged in age from pre-teen to senior. A family dance followed the show allowing young and old to burn off a few calories.

There were two group meals in the hotel for those who wished to take part. On Friday evening, Malcolm Murray conducted a Bible Study about Zechariah’s lampstand. On Sunday evening, we began the Last Great Day with an hour of singing hymns. Another highlight was the announcement of a baptism that took place during the Feast.

At the end of the Feast, many again said this was the “best Feast ever.” There were warm good-byes after the last service as individuals prepared to return home to many different locations across the United States and Canada. Friendships were formed and renewed. We received a provision of spiritual food to digest and apply over the next while.

Special thanks go to the Montréal brethren who worked so hard to make this a most enjoyable site and to the two elders, Malcolm Murray and Braden Veller, for transferring in to help.

Victoria, BC



Scott Delamater

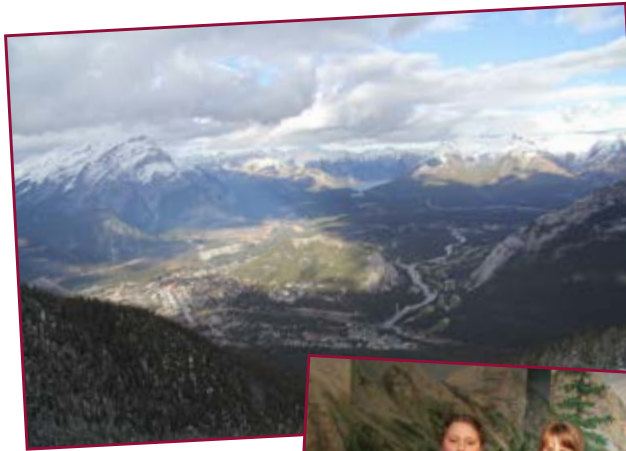


Brian Richardson



Brian Richardson

Canmore, AB



Rainer Salomaa



Rainer Salomaa



Rob Teetaert

Midland, ON



Paul Wasilkoff



Coreen Wasilkoff



Coreen Wasilkoff

Sainte-Adèle, QC



Martine Gingerich



Martine Gingerich



Martine Gingerich

National Conference Meeting Update

Twenty-one out of the twenty-four members of the National Conference were online for the annual meeting held via WebEx on Sunday, September 18, 2016, starting at noon (EDT).

The Address by the Director of Operations was the first item on the agenda. Anthony Wasilkoff began by relating a number of quotes by famous people about faith.

Mr. Wasilkoff went on to remind the National Conference that the work of the Church has been, continues to be, and always will be, a work of faith. The profound statement “the just shall live by faith” can be found repeatedly in the Bible beginning in Habakkuk 2:4. Two biblical definitions of faith can be found in Hebrews 11:1 and Romans 4:21. He then listed seven requests to make of God for the furtherance of His Work in keeping with James 4:2.

On behalf of the Media Team, David Palmer reviewed some advertising methods that have been tried through the years noting that the most successful ads were in *Reader's Digest*. He stated that television continues to be the primary source for news, sports and programs like *Beyond Today*.

Mr. Palmer shared statistics regarding websites including the number of visits for each website maintained by UCG-Canada and some of the searches conducted. The conclusion is

that most activity is from non-members. The *United News Canada* report showed that there are 494 subscribers with 35 in the United States and one in Denmark.

The Ministerial Services Team report was presented by Anthony Wasilkoff. One of the newest innovations is a monthly newsletter sent to all Canadian elders. The Edmonton summer camp was another fine success this year. One couple, Warren and Heidi Poffenroth, attended the Labor Day weekend in Cincinnati. Jim and Almeda Lucas will attend a ten-day session at the Home Office in November.

In the Address from the Treasurer, Edwin van Pelt relayed that there are about 1,400 people who support the work in Canada. Just over 70 per cent of the income in 2015 came from members. Online donations continue to increase. Since part of the Treasurer's job is to relate the information from the auditor, Mr. van Pelt read the letter that accompanied this year's audit.

In his Chairman's Address, Rainer Salomaa related advice given to him by Raymond McNair just before his graduation from Ambassador College in 1969 when he had no job or marital prospects. Mr. McNair assured him that God would provide. Mr. Salomaa then chronicled how he was offered a job in the Canadian church office, got married and then was assigned to the ministry.

He learned that Mr. McNair was right.

Mr. Salomaa then looked at the challenges of the Church today: manpower (aging ministry), financial, etc. He related our situation to that of ancient Israel as they were living in tents in a wilderness. Yet, God gave very detailed instructions for building the tabernacle. He also provided the skilled workers to complete the job. Today God is building the spiritual temple. He gives us a job to do and will provide the resources to do it with.

The National Conference approved September 17, 2017, as the next annual meeting of the National Conference.

Rainer Salomaa expressed gratitude for all the people who allowed their name to be placed on the ballot for National Council. Ballot results were announced. The minutes from the September 2015 meeting were approved. The March 2016 financial report (audit) was approved. Those selected to serve three-year terms on the National Council are: Kevin Ford, Rainer Salomaa and Lloyd Tee-taert. By resolution, these selections were confirmed.

June 10-11, 2017, was proposed for the next Ministerial Conference. Earlier in the week, meetings of the ministerial services team, media team and National Council will take place.

“Bridge” from page 2

at restaurants. Because of the extra funds available, we can try new foods: exotic cheese, fancy desserts, premium steaks and even a glass of fine wine. The meal itself is made more enjoyable by the ambiance, which includes linen tablecloths, floral bouquets, candles and cloth napkins.

We can't expect to have the same ability to have feast-quality meals all year-round. We can, however, have nicer meals on Friday evening. Sabbath evening meals can reflect some of our feast experience if we prepare special place settings. We may also make an effort to serve special meals accompanied by special beverages. This would also be a good opportunity for us to use a nice tablecloth and, if appropriate, use candles or a center-piece. These elements, when used on the Sabbath, help to bridge our positive dining experiences from the Feast of Tabernacles to the spring.

3. Bridge the Fellowship

Hebrews 10:23-25 shows us that fellowship is something God wants us to engage in. Each year at the Feast, we enjoy fellowship. We look forward to spending more time with brethren. This occurs before and after services, during shared meals and at our various activities. With so much time together we quickly make new friendships with people we meet and strengthen friend-

ships with people we already know.

This process produces a cascading effect for subsequent Feasts: we look forward to getting together again with friends we have established or strengthened at the Feast. Each year we meet more friends and strengthen more friendships leading to an ever expanding group of friends we look forward to fellowshiping with at the Feast. This adds to our positive anticipation of the Feast and certainly adds to our enjoyment and encouragement highlighted during the Feast.

Thanks to our modern technologies we can have video and audio conversations with our friends. We can send text messages. We can e-mail and we can still write old-fashioned letters. All of these mechanisms help us extend our fellowship from the Feast.

4. Bridge the Bible Study

During the Feast of Tabernacles we receive the equivalent of nine weeks-worth of sermons. This daily immersion in the Bible and daily instruction gives us our most important benefit: spiritual food. This spiritual sustenance allows us to grow spiritually. It has been suggested that it is beneficial to review our sermon notes each day at the Feast in order to ensure we remember the most important points; more importantly, if we remember the points we are more able to

apply those points in our lives.

Our notes need not stay in our notebooks. To bridge the Bible study of the Feast we have the opportunity each week, whether on a Friday evening or during our personal time on the Sabbath, to review our Feast notes. If we go through our notes on one sermon or sermonette each week we will progress almost half way to Passover. If we review each message twice on the same schedule, we will make our way to our Passover preparation time.

We know from 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that regular Bible study is good for us. As individuals we grow when we actively spend time reading the Bible. Congregations grow when the members of the congregation are growing. Why not add a review of the sermons that so inspired us at the Feast to our daily Bible study regimen?

We leave the Feast of Tabernacles with a positive outlook, full of zeal. The period of time after the Feast and before Passover can be difficult. Not only is it physically dark due to the winter season in our northern latitudes it can be spiritually challenging too. It is the longest stretch of the year without any Holy Days; it is a time punctuated with many holidays we don't observe. These six months can still be beneficial to us if we use bridges, like the ones mentioned above, to take us from one Holy Day season to the next.

News From Across Canada

Pastor Retirement

As a young man, Dennis Horlick attended Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland. After graduating, he taught elementary school for two years. Following his baptism in 1969, he moved to Toronto. There he met and married Paula (nee Kyle). They have two daughters (both of whom are married) and two grandchildren.

In addition to teaching, Dennis worked in the radio industry in Sales and Management for almost 30 years before being hired as a pastor. He tirelessly worked for the Church



provided by Paul Wasilkoff

for 12 years before retiring on August 1 of this year. During that time, he pastored congregations in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. He also helped to formulate plans to spread the gospel in Canada as a member of the Media Team and served on the National Council.

On September 20, the National Office held a luncheon retirement party for Dennis.

There he was presented with a gift commemorating the occasion. Even though he was retired, Dennis continued to actively co-ordinate the Feast in Sainte-Adele.

We appreciate the care and concern Dennis and Paula extended to the congregations they served and express heartfelt gratitude for their service

UNC

Windsor Picnic

The beautiful Lakeview Park in Kingsville, Ontario, was the setting for the second annual Windsor Church Picnic. The park is located on the northern shores of Lake Erie. Across the horizon, on a clear day, you can see the tourist attraction known as Pelee Island. Pelee Island is famous for its wineries, and it is a hunting ground for pheasants.

Visitors came from near and far including some from the Toronto, Peterborough, and Detroit. Another very special guest surprised everyone and came all the way from California! Twenty-one enthusiastic brethren prayed for sunshine and cooler temperatures (as the summer months were very hot and humid). Thankfully God provided us with a slight cool breeze and an array of sunshine shimmering through the towering trees.

The children frolicked in a nearby playground while some

walked on the beach. Others indulged in a bean-bag-toss game in which some (we will refrain from naming names) were more skilled than others.



provided by Pat Read

The highlight of every picnic is, of course, the food! The menu consisted of colorful green salads and different versions of potato salad with an abundance of healthy raw vegetables and wonderful home-baked desserts and biscuits, and, with much anticipation, the crispiest deep-fried chicken you have ever tasted!

Scripture reminds us how wonderful and pleasant it is when brethren dwell together in unity (Psalm 133). It is imperative and essential that we have social gatherings as the Windsor brethren did; and accomplish the directive in the passage.

Jo-Anne Read

Women's Enrichment Weekend

The Toronto congregation hosted its third Women's Enrichment Weekend on November 12-



provided by Amy van Zant

13, 2016. God provided excellent weather, which was especially important since more than half of the 40 ladies in attendance travelled a great distance to participate.

After the regular Sabbath service, the ladies gathered at the National Church Office to enjoy a catered meal, which was followed by two speeches and a lively session of table topics centred on the weekend's theme of Armour of God. The ladies returned the next morning for two sessions of round-table topics.

One lady mentioned she has attended workshops for women in conjunction with her work, but this weekend had more substance for her to take home.

After enjoying a lunch of homemade soups and sandwiches, some stayed on to contribute to do volunteer work for the church. Others departed shortly



provided by Amy van Zant

after lunch – but not before exchanging e-mail addresses with the promise of staying in touch for prayer and support.

The weekend activities may have occurred over only a 24-hour span of time, but the friendships formed during the weekend will last long into the future.

Preparations have already begun for the next Women's Enrichment Weekend in the fall of 2017.

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New Council Member

It was just over three years ago that Kevin Ford retired from working at the National Office. For many years he was the accountant.

Kevin is an accomplished musician and has been the music coordinator and a pianist at several



provided by Martine Gingerich

Feast sites. In addition, many will be familiar with the hymns Kevin composed for our hymnal.

Kevin loves hot weather and beaches. He also has a passion for Formula 1 motor racing. Hopefully, he will still have time for some of these well-deserved pleasures as he commits to a

three-year term on the National Council.

His accounting background and knowledge of the requirements for charities will be invaluable to the Council as a whole as it provides oversight to the work that is being done here in Canada.

UNC

Lesh/Gardner Wedding

Travais Kevin Bixler Lesh and Stacey Lynn Gardner were married after Sabbath services in Clairmont, Alberta, on August 6, 2016. The groom's father, Douglas Lesh, officiated. They sealed their vows before a gathering of 46 in attendance, including Stacy's parents who traveled from Kitimat, British Columbia, to be there for the occasion.

Some traveled from Prince George. This included Mike Erickson who participated in the wedding ceremony by asking God's blessing through the laying on of hands. Others, including Travais and Stacy themselves, traveled from the Okanagan for the big day. A luncheon was held after the ceremony to congratulate and fellowship with the newlyweds.



provided by Doug Lesh



Travais and Stacy met in Kelowna during the 2015 Feast of Tabernacles. Stacy was baptized in December of 2015 and Travais was baptized the following April. They reside in Kelowna and attend services in Peachland with their two young children, Sara and Jack.

UNC

Midland Baptism

The Feast of Tabernacles provides the children of God an opportunity to experience a foretaste of what it will be like to live forever in a world no longer ruled by Satan.

It will be a world that is unlike anything that we can imagine: a world that is peaceful; a world where no one will have to fear; a world that will experience a mind and attitude of oneness and unity.

Perhaps that is why the Feast in Midland, Ontario, was a place where one could almost hear the angels in heaven rejoicing.

Monday evening, as the vast majority of the brethren had retired to their rooms and the pool



provided by Patrick Read

had returned to its calm mirror-like condition, a lady from the Windsor, Ontario, congregation was baptized into the family of God.

Slavica Rodonic accepted the calling from God and pledged her commitment to follow her Savior and soon coming King Jesus Christ.

The baptism was conducted by Patrick Read, pastor of the Windsor congregation, and assisted by Keith Haab who also assists in ministering to the Windsor church.

Two members of the Windsor congregation, along with Slavica's two small children, were able to witness the event and be part of the family that rejoiced with her.

I am sure the angels in heaven rejoiced that evening as Slavica and many others became part of the family of God at the Feast of Tabernacles this year.

Patrick Read

Sheperd Obituary

Joseph Sheperd, long time elder in God's church, died on October 5, at the age of 83.

Mr. Sheperd, along with his wife Bobbi, served the United Church of God congregations on Vancouver Island. He was being treated for cancer and it was a blessing that God took him quickly, sparing him from suffering.

The Sheperds were called into God's church while Joe was in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was due to be promoted into the diplomatic corps with a possible posting to Russia since Joe



provided by Bobbi Sheperd

spoke Polish and understood the Russian language. Instead, they made the decision that he would leave the RCAF after being called into God's Church.

They were baptized in 1964. Mr. Sheperd then spent many years as a manager in the British Columbia medical system in Victoria.

Joe reached a 40-year milestone on Pentecost 2016. First ordained a deacon, he was ordained an elder on Pentecost 1976. In addition to his service as an elder on Vancouver Island, Joe also served a three-year term on the UCG-Canada National Council and was a reviewer for *United News Canada*.

Mr. Sheperd is survived by his wife Bobbi, their son David and daughter Shirley.

A memorial service in his honour was held in Victoria on October 29, 2016.

David Palmer