



United News Canada

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Summer 2022

A Place Where We Feel At Home!

By Anthony Wasilkoff

When the apostle Paul wrote to the new converts in Thessalonica, he described them as being part of a body and not as individuals. In the formative years of Christianity, conversion invariably led to new converts becoming part of a fellowship of believers. Each Christian, new or old, needs a church home and also a home congregation. As a result, we have a place where we can feel at home.

In the lively musical *Oliver!*, one of the famous songs welcomes Oliver to their group with the words, “consider yourself one of us.” As an abandoned orphan, Oliver had no place to turn to and was taken in by a group where he found consideration, concern and acceptance.

Acts 2, the Feast of Pentecost chapter, describes early Christians exemplifying remarkable amenities of home. Beginning with verse 44 we read, “Now all who believed were together and had all things common and sold their possessions and goods and divided them among all, as anyone had need.” It is beautiful to see how the brethren were looking out for each other.

Verse 46 adds, “So continuing daily with one accord in the

temple and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.” They worshipped together and they ate their meals together. The family that eats together stays together. The church that eats together also stays together.

Did you know that the apostle Paul had a home congregation? As much as he travelled, the apostle Paul still had a home base he kept coming back to. Although Jerusalem was definitely headquarters, it was not the apostle Paul’s home congregation. The home congregation of the apostle Paul was none other than Antioch! In Acts 14:26-28 we read, “From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed.” This Antioch was the home congregation of the apostle Paul.

Although headquarters was at Jerusalem, his home congregation was in Antioch. Verses 27-28 add, “Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. So they stayed there a long time with the disciples.” Paul and company stayed for an extended time enjoying the com-

pany and camaraderie of the brethren in Antioch.

What are the benefits of having a home congregation? In a home congregation there is connection, encouragement, accountability and responsibility. All of these are vital for spiritual progress and development.

Is there such a thing as an independent Christian? This is a valid question. The answer is, “not for long”. Christians do not survive for long on their own. The New Testament example features viable congregations where brethren assembled to worship regularly, received meat in due season and fellowshiped faithfully with those of like mind. Pentecost pictures the founding of the church, a place where we can truly feel at home. What an awesome blessing! 🙏

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Confusing Languages

By Linda Wasilkoff

When one thinks of the account of the Tower of Babel, it is hard to imagine how confusing it would have been to try to relay a set of instructions to someone with whom you had been working for days, weeks or even years and suddenly find that you could no longer communicate.

These days there can be a similar, although less dramatic, problem as different generations use various platforms to send messages to each other. Older individuals will tend to send emails with more formal language. Younger individuals tend to prefer other methods including text, Microsoft Teams or other digital channels. It isn't just the platform used that can create difficulty. It can also be how formal or informal the tone of the message, the abbreviations used or even how something is spelled. That doesn't even begin to touch on possible misuse of Emojis (who knew that different colours have different meanings!). Apparently each communication platform has a different set of rules that can result in misunder-

standings and even hurt feelings.

When you are working with those of a different generation, it is important to understand a bit of where the other person is coming from and how they think. I well remember being asked by my children why I was shouting at them when I was texting. I had not yet learned that typing in capital letters signified shouting.

Anyone learning a new language can run into difficulties. What seems to be obvious to a person speaking their native language may be very confusing to someone just learning it. Even expressions used in different parts of the same country can be misunderstood. When I first visited Newfoundland I was told that if someone referred to me as "me ol' trout" I shouldn't feel insulted. This expression is a wonderful term of endearment!

These are just a few instances of how confusing languages can be. The opposite was true on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit was first given in

such a dramatic way. That time people were confused not because they couldn't understand what was being said, but rather that they were hearing in their own language when they knew those speaking didn't know how to speak the language of the Parthians, Medes, Elamites, etc. We are told that the people were amazed and some, perhaps to underplay the miracle, even accused the apostles of being drunk.

This was so different from the confusion that happened during the Tower of Babel. It would have been more a matter of surprise and astonishment. It is helpful to realize that the tongues were actual languages and the gift was to give better understanding to those who heard them.

As we approach the Feast of Pentecost, we most likely won't hear anyone speaking in tongues. We can, however, be very thankful for this miracle that was highlighted on that Day of Pentecost – the giving of the Holy Spirit that we now find indispensable in our daily lives. 🍷

United News - Canada

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Wasilkoff

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Using Our Talents to the Maximum

By Dale van Zant

As we approach Pentecost, it is a good time for us to take stock to determine how we are going to better ourselves as we continue to do God's work.

Some may feel quite content with the past year and are eagerly looking forward to the Feast. Others may feel that they could have done better in whatever area they are reviewing such as spiritual growth, dealing with a negative emotion or attitude. The desire is for self-improvement as well as to better serve others.

There needs to be recognition and application of talents – those gifts which have been given to us by God to be used, enhanced and applied on an ongoing basis. Each of us has talents – and they are as varied as we are as individuals. George Lucas, the movie-maker remarked: "Everybody has talent; it's just a matter of moving around until you've discovered what it is." The key is not in having a particular talent or even applying it, but in applying it to the maximum. Not settling for or being content with "good enough."

We cannot be content with just reaching the minimum to get the job done or to complete an assignment whether it is at school, at work and especially in dealing with our families and brethren. We need to do the best we can with what we have. It is not only wise and effective, but our duty as well.

Woodrow Wilson, a former

American president stated: "You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand."

God does not want us to just be good enough – to meet the minimum and say "I've done something. I tried – that's good enough." He wants us to use what He has given us and face situations where they can be used to the utmost. He does not want us to be mediocre or lukewarm but focused and deliberate with goals in sight and action taken to the max. He does not want us to take a Laodicean attitude – one of lacking zeal and just coasting.

We find in Revelation 3:15-16, "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth."

We cannot act half-heartedly. We must commit ourselves and apply what He has given us or step aside and let someone else do the job.

Jesus applied this principle in the parable of the Ten Minas in the Luke 19 starting at verse 12. Here every servant received one mina from their Master and was instructed to increase its worth. The Master delivers his praise and admonishment to those servants who had

received money to invest for their master based on what they did with it. He rewarded the ones who had used the money (talent) to best of their ability and they were rewarded accordingly but He was very displeased with the servant who only wrapped his talent in a handkerchief and was too fearful to use it. The Master responds in regards to this servant in verse 26, "For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

The servant who did not try to accomplish anything out of fear foolishly thought that what he did was right—that being fearful would be seen as acceptable but it was not. He was lukewarm – he took the Laodicean middle of the road attitude – he took his failure and tried to make it into a positive but that is not what God wants. Jesus clearly states that God expects us to use what He has given us – to improve upon it – to increase its founding value – to make things better – to glorify Him.

We, too, can take the approach of saying that whatever we do is okay – good enough (for us that is). Or, we can focus on our talents and those of others – recognize them, appreciate them – use them to the maximum without limit and then realize our reward of service and fidelity to the work of the Lord and know that we have done all that we could with what we had, so that we too can be pleased with the level of satisfaction which comes not from our mouth - but God's. 🍁

National Council March Meeting

By Edwin van Pelt

The National Council held its first quarterly meeting of the year on March 7. All members of the Council were present along with a few guests. Anthony Wasilkoff opened the meeting with prayer.

Lloyd Teetaert, National Council Chairman, reviewed the minutes from the previous Council meeting. Some minor edits were noted. The edited minutes were then approved.

Paul Wasilkoff provided an update on the most recent Council of Elders meetings. He noted three areas that would affect Canada: changing to a new database provider, selection of a new president and a new logo for the United Church of God and Beyond Today.

Director of Operations, Anthony Wasilkoff, provided a National Office update. He discussed the average Sabbath service attendance for January 2022. A health update was also given on behalf of Lindsay (Len) Parker of Bricket Wood, England. The Ministerial Services Team looked forward to planning for the spring Holy Days as COVID-related restrictions are being eased or eliminated. Looking further ahead, Feast of Tabernacles plans are underway. Overall trend lines are positive. New people are contacting us. A big challenge continues to be ministerial manpower.

Dennis O'Neill gave the Me-

dia Team update. The definition of media has changed over the past few decades. The old media broadcast sent the message out. Now, media brings people in. We want to do both and need to be sure our website (ucg.ca) is up-to-date and easily accessible. A redesign of the website is in the works. Most of our current efforts involve older and longer articles that can be edited down to a few hundred words. A reader would then be encouraged to delve deeper into the subject on our website. There is still much work to be done in these areas.

Bill Dimovski gave a financial update. Income is estimated to be slightly above budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022. Expenses are lower primarily due to COVID but, we expect increased expenditures as restrictions are lessened. One of our banks sent a representative to visit us. We were able to voice our concerns over the lack of customer service. Late receipt of bank confirmations required for our annual audit will be addressed in the near future. Our annual audit will commence with the office visit in early June. Preliminary work will be done prior to the visit.

The Strategic Planning/Finance Committee chair, Michael Erickson, reported that preservation of cash and liquidity is important. An area of concern is rising costs related to the Feast of Tabernacles. A new email address has been set up specifical-

ly for donations to the Festival Fund. A rollout will be coming soon. The Strategic Plan is in the process of review.

The Compensation Committee had nothing new to report for this meeting.

Governance/Ethics/Pastoral Committee chair, Jim Lucas, gave a brief report. He noted that the review process for the Director of Operations is being updated. There is also a need to address the upcoming retirement of Director of Operations. The Committee is working on a process for a replacement.

The Compliancy Task Force report was given by Michael Erickson. Some minor edits were made to a few policies and the edits were approved by general consent. New or revised policies take effect when the Council approves them. Several other policies were updated; all were approved unanimously.

The proposed amendments to Bylaw 5.1.7, 8.3.1, 8.3.2 were presented by the Secretary. The Amendment Committee had already given their consent to proceed and the Council had no objections to them being forwarded to the next step.

The ballot results for the approval of the 2022-2023 Strategic Plan, Operations Plan and Budget were read. A total of 29 ballots were sent to National Conference members with 27 valid

ballots received by the deadline. Each of the Plans and Budget were approved.

The next round of Council meetings is scheduled to be held June 16 and 17. The travel date, if allowed, is Wednesday, June 15.

Chairman Teetaert reminded the committees of the requirement to record meeting minutes. He mentioned that Committee roles need to be updated. The purpose is to make sure the committee members are aware of their roles.

Sheldon Sitter brought up new business, which will be further discussed during the June meeting.

The Council meeting concluded after a closing prayer by Dennis O'Neill. 🍁

Pastors' Meeting

By Linda Wasilkoff & Rainer Salomaa

Nine Canadian pastors met by Zoom on April 4. The meeting was chaired by Rainer Salomaa, Ministerial Services Team Coordinator. Following an opening prayer, the group watched a short, but moving, tribute to Patrick Read.

Each pastor gave an overview of the area(s) he oversees. Some congregations are suffering from attrition due to individuals moving out of the area, health difficulties and death of members. Others have left due to doctrinal difference.

One benefit from COVID restrictions and the necessity for online services is that some brethren who are unable to attend due to distance or health can attend online services. The downside is that sometimes they are choosing to tune in to webcasts/zoom from other than their own congregation, thus losing the closeness that a church home provides. Another plus, is that having online Bible Studies has made mid-week Bible Studies accessible for more brethren.

Two pastors are planning tours of scattered brethren this summer. Bruno Leclerc hopes to visit the Maritimes and Anthony Wasilkoff is hoping to visit Newfoundland. There are a few younger men who are stepping up to start giving sermonettes and help in the local congregations. It was noted that the Winnipeg congregation was once again able to meet in-person – the first time in two years! Plans are under way for Windsor to resume in-person services during the month of April.

Each pastor gave an overview of what will be happening in his area(s) for Passover. All areas have plans in place to serve the needs of the brethren.

The Feast Coordinators gave updates on how festival planning is going. Drumheller should be a normal Feast as will Osoyoos although with slightly lower capacity. The Southern Ontario site ran into a snag and a possible alternate site was being sought, but a contract with the Midland site was negotiated in the end. Newfoundland, Quebec and Saskatoon will all have local sites, but should be able to han-

dle a few additional people from outside the area. Quebec is in need of having some additional French speaking families attend.

The pastors then discussed what effect COVID has had on the congregations. Some areas have had greater or lesser restrictions than others. Several congregations lost their rented location as a result of restrictions.

Concerns were expressed is that some attendees are staying home and watching online feeling that it is easier than getting dressed and attending church. This means people are missing out on being part of a church family. Another concern is the trend for “itching ears” – looking for exciting new teachings. Some people have stopped attending because they believe the church should have taken a stronger stand for or against such things as wearing masks or vaccines. Others are still fearful of a group setting. Still others are fearful of using Zoom.

Several pastors commented that perhaps some type of hybrid service will continue after re-

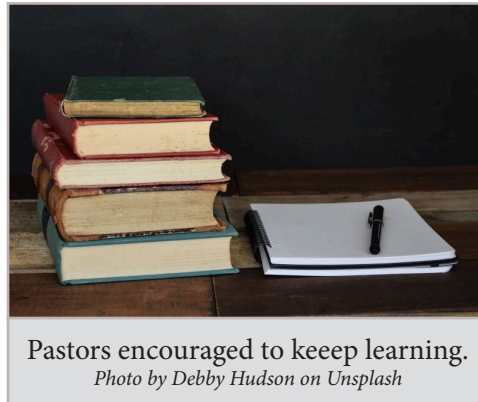
strictions are lifted to allow those who are shut-ins a chance to feel they are still a part of the congregation.

One of the trends noted was that more people seem content to stay at home rather than come to services. There have been some manpower shortages as individuals pull back from key jobs in the local congregation. Another trend is that new people aren't looking for a church where they can learn, they are often looking for a church that will accept their beliefs. Some from independent churches continue to want us to perform certain duties for them such as baptism or marriage.

Sheldon Sitter is holding weekly Bible Studies for young adults in Canada and beyond. They are going through the Fundamental Beliefs. He has some young people helping with the scheduling and organizing.

The last item on the agenda was a report from Michael Erickson on a seminar he attended showing the importance of educating those involved in making sure policies regarding protecting youth are being properly followed and that those involved are adequately educated to do so.

Pastors were encouraged to keep up with professional development. New pastors were encouraged to become certified in "Prepare and Enrich" – a resource tool used for marriage and pre-marriage coun-



Pastors encouraged to keep learning.
Photo by Debby Hudson on Unsplash

selling. Another tool recommended is "Taylor Johnson Temperament Analysis." Feast Coordinators were encouraged to enrol in "RCMA" (Religious Conference Management Association). All these help to increase the pastor's ability to serve more effectively.

A question was asked about a proposed amendment to the Constitution. Rainer Salomaa gave some background information about it. Paul Wasilkoff further explained the job of the Council of Elders was to review to see if there was a technical problem with the proposed amendment before forwarding it on.

The meeting lasted three hours and allowed the pastors to have time to share ideas, thoughts and challenges. It was suggested that another meeting be scheduled shortly after the Feast of Tabernacles. 🌍

Support the Feast

By United News Canada

Have you attended a conference recently? Perhaps it had something to do with your work or a special hobby. Through the years several of the coordinators for the Feast of Tabernacles have attended meetings of the Religious Conference Managers (RCMA). While that organization is able to have various hotels and resorts to help underwrite the expenses of these meetings, there is still a charge to attend the conference.

Being able to gather together at a Feast site is truly a blessing.

We not only see dear friends and make new ones, but we picture the coming Millennial reign of Jesus Christ here on earth – something we look forward to with great anticipation.

Feast sites are booked after much searching and negotiating for the best possible rates. In addition to the cost of hall rental, there is also the cost of equipment rental, printing costs and second tithe assistance for those who do not otherwise have adequate funds. Those costs can quickly add up.

To be able to continue providing Feast venues as well as to enable those who have insufficient tithe to be able to attend, we all need to help. Please consider giving a portion of your festival tithe to help meet these expenses. It will be greatly appreciated.

To donate to the festival fund, you can mail a cheque or money order to the National Office or donate online with Interac eTransfer using festival_funds@ucg.ca as the recipient email address. 🌍

Laymember Selection Process

By *United News Canada*

In January of 1996 a group of members met in Calgary to form what was to become the United Church of God – Canada. One of the first items on the agenda was to determine how to set up the governing board for the church. There it was determined to tap into the talents available in the local congregations to find qualified individuals to serve on the National Council.

Once that determination was made, a process had to be formulated. There had to be a determination as to who would qualify to be selected to the board. It was quickly determined that only baptized members should be selected. The next question was: “How do we determine who are members?” Canadian Privacy Legislation considers religious affiliation to be as confidential as a person’s medical history. So, we cannot call someone a member unless we have that person’s express permission. So a special membership form has been created so that we can conform to legislation and be able to answer the question as to who is a member of UCG-Canada.

Of course, there is no requirement for a person to fill out the membership form. There are a number of baptized individuals who choose not to do so. They are all welcome to participate in the local congregation, but for legal reasons, the church cannot

call them members of the church. Thus, they are not eligible to take part in the nominations process or to be a laymember nominee.

This summer, UCG-Canada will once again go through the laymember nomination process. Since each National Council term is for three years and there are two seats reserved for laymembers, this process is carried out two years out of every three.

It is interesting to note that since the inception of UCG-Canada, sixteen laymembers have served on the National Council, and some have served two terms. We greatly appreciate those who have been willing to commit the time to serve on the board through the years. We have had professionals (doctor, chiropractor, accountant, teacher, etc.), businessmen and retired individuals. Each one added something positive to the functioning of the board.

Equally important are those who allow their name to be included on the ballot after carefully weighing whether they would be able to fulfill the duties. By being selected to be on the ballot, these individuals have shown that they have the respect of members in their local congregation, which is a great recommendation. They also demonstrate a willingness to serve.

Each year that there is a ballot to fill a laymember position

on the National Council, the National Conference has between six and 12 names from which to choose. All have something that would positively add to the functioning of the board. For those of you who have in the past been on the ballot but were not selected, our collective thanks go to you. Please do not be discouraged or feel rejected. Allowing your name to be on the ballot helps with the overall process and is greatly appreciated. It gives those who are making the decision the ability to carefully weigh the needs of that year and choose who seems to best fit the need. 🍁

Stats At A Glance

The following provides information on the work of United Church of God–Canada as of April 7, 2022.

- Members: 429
- Co-Workers: 147
- Donors: 489

- BT* Subscribers: 18,609
- English Booklets: 37
- English Study Aids: 17
- Most requested title: *The Book of Revelation Unveiled* (18,263)

- PA** Subscribers: 1,415
- French Booklets: 24

* BT = *Beyond Today Magazine*

**PA = *Pour L'Avenir Magazine*

News From Across Canada

Camp Wildrose

Registration for Camp Wildrose, located in Alberta, is now open. If you are interested in attending, please visit the ucgedmonton.org website and click on the Registration link. This year's camp dates are July 13 -17.

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Eastern Alberta Sabbath

On the Sabbath of March 26, there were 18 brethren from British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan gathered for a lovely worship service at the Spahich ranch. UCG Pastor, Sheldon Sitter, joined the group and delivered a message about preparing for the Passover, explaining how we can partake of it in a worthy manner.



Brethren at the Spahich home.
Photo by Kevin Spahich

After services brethren visited and talked about how these types of gatherings are like a mini Feast! Being geographically isolated, it is nice to be able to get together and do things like this as we grow and learn from one another.

A big potluck complete with beef and lamb followed. Then

many engaged in some entertaining games in the evening. It was particularly exciting that more than half of those in attendance were under the age of 20.

Kevin Spahich

Vancouver NTBMO

Fellowship on the Night to Be Much Observed is a very special time. With COVID restrictions in force, the Vancouver congregation had not been able to gather together for the past two years. This year, with COVID restrictions relaxed, a home fellowship was organized. Gracious hosts, Alex and Marlina Escasinas, offered warm hospitality to six other brethren. It was a delightful evening. The night began with some piano playing and a hymn-sing, followed by a prayer of thanks for a delicious meal.

The dinner had an international flavour, with dishes from St. Lucia, Fiji and the Philippines. Mmm! Delicious! Following the meal, an overview of the evening's meaning was presented. This was followed by an interactive Bible knowledge game with questions and answers and charades. It proved to be great fun while learning! The questions



Fellowship and food in Vancouver.
Photo by Dale Craniford

focused on the theme of the Passover season.

All in all, thanks to God, the Night to be Much Observed was a delightful success! Also, there is appreciation to all who contributed. We look forward to doing it next year, God willing.

Dale Craniford

Hamilton NTBMO

The Hamilton congregation moved into a new hall in January 2020. We've been eagerly awaiting being able to use this same hall for the Night to Be Much Observed ever since. Due to easing COVID restrictions this spring we were finally able to gather for a meal!



Hamilton brethren in their new hall.
Photo by Paul Wasilkoff

The tables were all decorated with lovely electronic candles that featured critters reminiscent from the plagues of Egypt. It wasn't our typical potluck for this evening. However, we did enjoy a joint bring-your-own-meal occasion together.

We look forward to being able to gather together for additional food and fellowship as conditions permit.

Paul Wasilkoff

Windsor Holy Day Service

Each year during Passover, we all rejoice at the meaning of the death and resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.



Mrs. Read and the Wasilkoff Family
Photo by Marilyn Anderson

This year on the Last Day of Unleavened Bread, April 22, the Windsor brethren welcomed their new pastor, Paul Wasilkoff, who conducted his first in-person service to us as a congregation. His wife, Coreen, and their three sons (Logan, Anthony, and Jayden) accompanied him from Hamilton. We met in our new meeting facility in Windsor.

Added to our happiness of the day, Jo-Anne Read, wife of the late Patrick Read who was our former pastor, was in attendance. It was her first visit to the congregation in many months.

Through Mr. Read's work nine years ago, our Windsor congregation was established and during this year's holy days, the baton was passed to Paul Wasilkoff. Though small in number, God called a few to do His Work. Regular attendance after COVID is a dedicated eight, but attendance on this special Holy Day Sabbath was twenty. We pray to the Lord of the Harvest to add to His Work in this area.

Marilyn Anderson

Kathleen Buchanan Obituary

Kathleen Thompson was born in St. Andrew, Jamaica. She married Jack Buchanan who preceded her in death.

After finishing secondary school in Jamaica, Kathleen worked at a number of trades. She was a talented and sought after seamstress. She emigrated to Canada in 1968 and settled in Toronto where she worked at the Granite Club as well as the Laura Secord company. Most of all, she was the matriarch of her family and was addressed as "Grandma" by many.



Kathleen Buchanan
Photo provided by Buchanan Family

Mrs. Buchanan became a member of the Church of God in 1988 and attended the Toronto congregation as long as her health permitted. She leaves behind two children (Dorothy Powel of New York, and Hazel Christie of Atlanta, Georgia), one brother (Uriah Nugent of St. Elizabeth, Jamaica), three grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

A funeral service was conducted by Jim Lucas for her on March 25.

Walter Zamonsky Obituary

Walter Zamonsky was born in Grandview, Manitoba, to John and Thelma Zamonsky on April 25, 1931.

Walter and Annie were married in June of 1960 and were called into the Church shortly after their marriage. They then sold their farm and moved into Winnipeg to be closer to the church.



Walter Zamonsky
Photo provided by Zamonsky Family

Walter worked in construction and, while living in Winnipeg, he was ordained a deacon. He served the church faithfully in that office for many years.

In 1976 the Zamonskys moved to North Battleford and then later to Lloydminster. After they started attending with UCG, they moved back to North Battleford to be closer to church.

Walter is survived by his wife, Annie, their daughter, Barbara, a sister Jenn and his brothers, Bill and Harry.

Larry DeLong officiated the funeral on April 13, Mr. Zamonsky was interred in the Woodland Memorial Gardens in North Battleford.

UNC

Adeline Sanoy

Tribute to Joseph Moulton

By Julie Morasse

Dad was born in 1924 and grew up in the Landsdown area of Ontario. Later his family moved and settled in the town of Prescott. He attended a one-room schoolhouse until he was in the eighth grade. He told stories of walking with his siblings to and from school and having to carry the youngest in the winter when the snow was too deep.

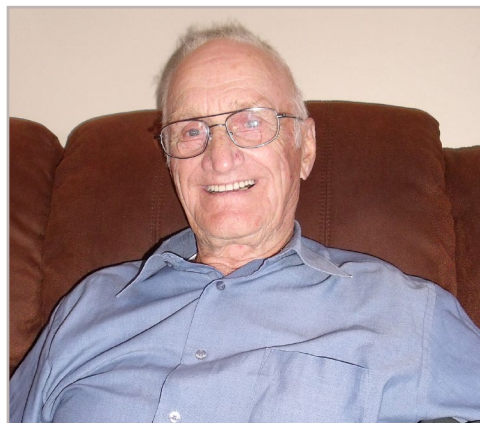
He was one of nine children, four girls and five boys. One of his first jobs was as a grocery delivery man. He told stories of going into people's homes and waiting for them to give him a grocery list. It would take a while because they would start chatting with him and have him do different chores around the house.

When he was 18 during WWII, they were conscripted into the Armed Forces. Dad chose to enlist in the Royal Canadian Navy and he was on the HMCS Restigouche. When the war ended, he was undecided on a job, so he worked on the merchant ships as a wheelsman, steering the ship up and down the St. Lawrence River during the summer as he had done before going into the Navy. If you ever met up with my dad, he had lots of stories and experiences on the ship that he shared, it was amazing the memories he could recount.

Dad met Mom when he was 22 and then they married in 1948 and were happily married for 73 years. They purchased a dairy farm in 1950 and he worked a lot of different jobs and was well known and respected in the community. They started their family in 1949 and had

ten children, seven boys and three girls, Dad picked the girls names and Mom picked the boys names - she had quite a job to do, and he got off easy!!!

My Dad was introduced to the Radio Church of God by his father who was listening to the Mr. Armstrong on the Wheeling, West Virginia radio station and insisted my parents listen. My Dad had a passion for God and His way of life and loved to talk about the Bible to whomever would listen.



Joseph Moulton

Photo provided by Julie Morasse

In the late 1960s, the Ottawa/Montreal pastor, Mr. Carn Catherwood, came to visit my parents in their home in on the farm. When he arrived, the family was sitting down eating their family meal and he sat with them and chatted. He invited the family which consisted of eight children at that time to the next sabbath service and they never looked back. Mom and Dad were baptized in 1967 and become Deacon and Deaconess in 1970 and he was made an Elder in 1987.

Dad attended his first spokesman's club in 1967, the evening of

his baptism. When Mom asked him how it went, he said "fine as long as they don't ask me to get up there and speak." Well, they did ask him and he accepted and from there he gave sermons, sermonettes and Bible studies for years and counseled many throughout his life.

The Moultons held many church activities at their home including a children's camp, a square dance, horse drawn carriage rides, corn roasts, lots of hymn sing-alongs and hosted many overnight visitors all while maintaining his life as a dad and farmer.

I remember as a child going to the Cornwall church - about 45 minutes away. My parents were always the set-up and take-down crew. Mom played the piano for the hymns and Dad was the song leader. They never stopped. Both were and are great examples of servants. My Dad had a passion for serving the people, and he did it with a smile on his face.

When I was born, he announced the birth and said they were going to name me Orpah, he did that just to get a reaction from the people, and he was successful. He had a wonderful sense of humor and I will miss that!

My Dad gave us lots of things to live up too: he was a very hard worker; he had a lot of integrity; he put God first in everything and loved his family to the fullest. We could learn a lot from my Dad. He was a big part of our lives will be missed greatly. He would want us to continue in God's way as he knew this was the only way! 🌍

“Condemnation” from page 12.
grace abounded (Romans 5:16, 20).

Paul went on to say that since grace has been offered, we should no longer live in sin (Romans 6:1-40). Repentance involved the grateful receiving of the wonderful gift of forgiveness God offers. Then knowing the great cost to God, we struggle with all our might to never sin again. It is the same message given by Jesus’ disciples on the Day of Pentecost after Jesus left them. Peter said to those who were cut to the heart by the knowledge they were responsible for the death of Christ, that they were to repent – to acknowledge sin and go the opposite way – and be baptized in Jesus’ name for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:36-42).

Paul clarified the teachings of the apostles which came from Jesus Christ and most certainly did not believe that “once saved, al-

ways saved.” Paul went on to warn converted people strongly by teaching them that once they had accepted the forgiveness of God in Christ and then to fall away into some sin that would again require repentance, it would be impossible for them to be renewed (Hebrews 6:4-8). His lesson was that if the product of conversion brought bad fruit, it would be rejected and burned.

Jesus later inspired John to write words of caution to the seven churches which were in Asia (Revelation 2:3). These were baptized members who had begun to “go and sin no more” when they had been forgiven. They were clearly in danger if they lost their zeal, fell back into sexual sin or idolatry or any other form of sin. The danger was death in the lake of fire. Condemnation is real and does exist. The gift of forgiveness was costly to God and must be

treasured by all who accept that gift. It does not give us the right to simply live as we please.

God truly does understand us. He knows that we humans will take the wide and easy road given the opportunity (Matthew 7:13-17). He knows that Satan is our enemy, and God demands that we resist Satan and anything that is evil which emanates from Satan (I Peter 5:6-10). At our resistance, Satan must leave. Resistance to sin as defined by God is what allows His nature to grow within us (2 Peter 1:1-4).

Judgment is a process that could lead to condemnation. God wants everyone to be saved, He knows that all who refuse and turn away will have to be condemned to death for all eternity (Revelation 20:13-15). Never let Satan lead you against God as he did Adam and Eve, saying “you shall not surely die” (Genesis 3:4). 🌟

The Day of Pentecost

Excerpted from UCG Family Study Guides

Pentecost comes from the Greek word *pentekoste* which means fiftieth, referring to the method of calculating the date. This Holy Day is also called The Feast of Weeks or The Feast of First Fruits.

What does the Day of Pentecost picture?

It pictures those God is calling to be part of His family. Those being called now are called first fruits because they are part of the smaller, first harvest. God will call a greater number during the sec-

ond, larger harvest.

Jesus Christ is called the first of the first fruits because He is the first Son to be resurrected into the family of God (1Corinthians 15:20) – the firstborn of many brethren (Romans 8:29).

What gifts were given on the Day of Pentecost?

When the Israelites left Egypt and camped at Mount Sinai, they were given the Law on the Day of Pentecost.

On the first Pentecost after

Jesus Christ was resurrected, God gave his Holy Spirit to those who obeyed and believed (Acts 2:1-4).

How do we observe the Day of Pentecost?

The Day of Pentecost was commanded to be observed throughout all generations (Leviticus 23:21). It is an annual Holy Day that was sanctified, made holy and set apart by God. On that day we are to gather together so that we can learn more about God’s plan and His law. We are also to bring an offering. 🌟

Condemnation

By Robert Berendt

The words condemn and condemnation bring negative thoughts to mind. According to the *Chamber's Concise Dictionary*, they mean to pronounce guilty and (pass) sentence. In the spiritual realm, the word condemn has meaning for eternity. Vine's Expository Dictionary explains that the Greek word *krima* denotes (a) the sentence pronounced, a verdict, a condemnation, and the decision resulting from an investigation and (b) the process leading to a decision. Another Greek word *krisis* denotes (a) "the process of investigation and the act of distinguishing and separating, hence a judging, a passing of judgement upon a person or thing," and (b) "sometimes it has the meaning of 'condemnation' and is virtually equivalent to *krima*".

When Peter wrote that judgment has begun at the house of God, he used the word *krima* (I Peter 4:17). When Jesus spoke of judgment in Matthew 23:33, He used *krisis* to convey His meaning. He was speaking to the scribes and Pharisees and warned about the "condemnation of hell."

The words condemn and condemnation occur about 65 times in the Bible. Words like judge and judgment occur hundreds of times. Jesus spoke about judging and condemnation in the gospel of John. He stated: "and come forth - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation." In the King James Bible, 'damnation' is used while the New King James

uses 'condemnation. Some translations use the more neutral word 'judgment in this verse.' Jesus was given the authority to execute judgment because He is the Son of Man (verse 27). It is sobering to read these words, which should give us a strong reason for self-examination.

Some have decided that there is no condemnation or damnation at all. The teaching is that the death and sacrifice made by the Father in sending His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to die for mankind has removed any guilt or reason for judgment no matter what a person does in their life.

One evangelist spoke strongly about the account of a woman being caught in adultery and being brought before Jesus to be stoned. It is an interesting account because the scribes and Pharisees specifically brought the woman to Jesus to see what He would say about the sentence of Moses of death by stoning. One would wonder where the man was since she was caught in the act, but their motive was to try and catch Jesus in something that they could use to accuse Him. In this beautiful account, Jesus knowing exactly what they were thinking, at first seemed to ignore them, but finally said: "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." Humans have a great ability to shut their eyes to their own sin, but in this case, slowly, one by one the accusers left. Then Jesus turned to the woman to ask if anyone had condemned her and she said "no one" whereupon Jesus said: "Neither do I condemn you;

go and sin no more." (John 8:3-11).

Some have taken this to mean that no matter what we do, we will not be condemned. God has responded with great anger and fury at times against the sins people committed. Finally, He sent Jesus "not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:16, 17). It is a great error in understanding in thinking that God no longer condemns a person for their sins.

When Peter wrote about the judgment that had already begun in the body of Christ - the church - he cautioned that if the righteous are "scarcely saved" then the ungodly and sinners have no chance (I Peter 4:18).

Clearly one's actions are to be carefully examined in light of the forgiveness God offers. When Jesus was sent to save this world, God did not offer an ironclad promise of eternal life to everyone even if they are evil and sinful. He sent Christ so that the potential for salvation would be given - that the world through him might be saved. Here it is obvious that the word "might" clearly shows it is a possibility but not a certainty.

The woman was forgiven because she was repentant, and Jesus gave her instruction to go and sin no more. That is the same instruction that is given to Christians. Paul wrote in a clear and powerful way that Christ was sent as a gift from God resulting in justification and not condemnation and that

See "**Condemnation**" on page 11.

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