

A NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA



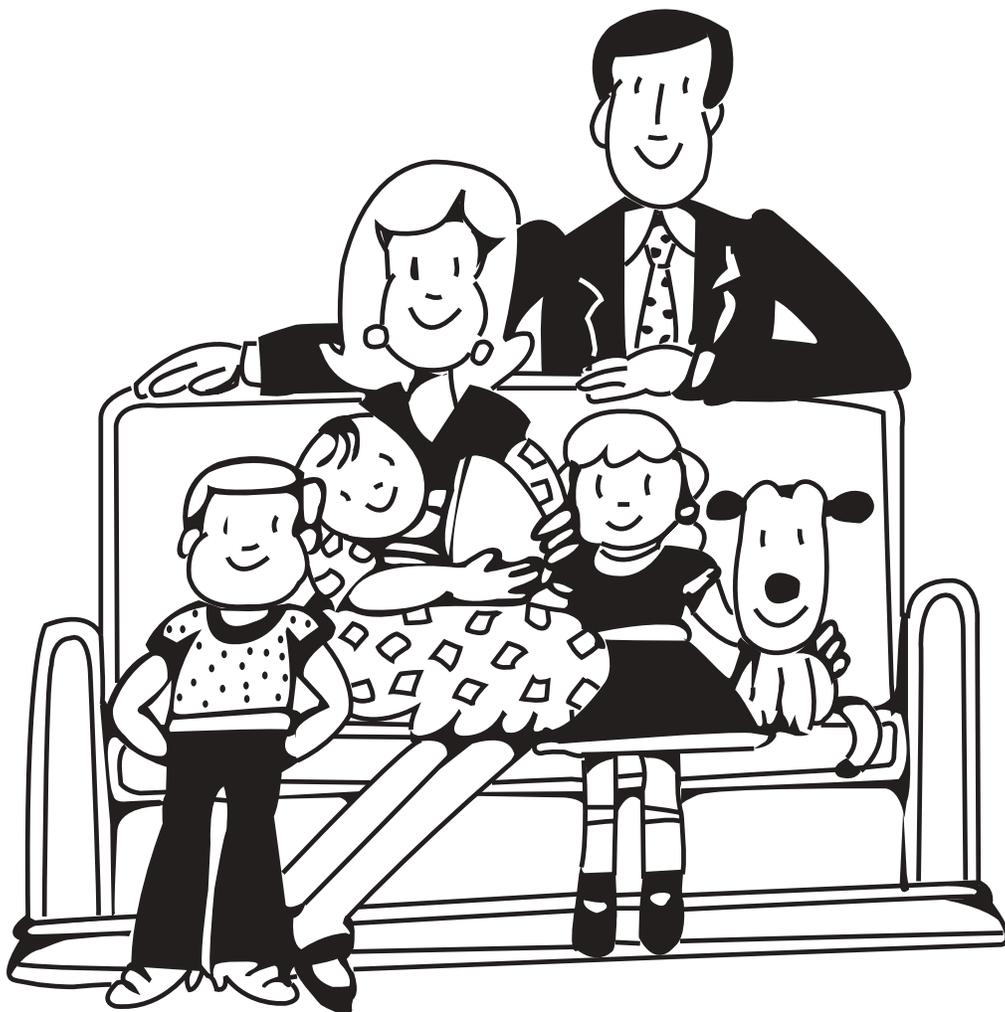
# United News Canada

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## Contents...

Family Matters	2
Marriage	3
Grandchild Brings Joy	6
You're a Grandparent	8
King David's Family	9
War Against Family	11
North Battleford	14
Cdn Council Meetings	15
Law Seminar	17
Sermon on the Mount	19
Countdown to Feast	26
World News Watch	28

## Family Matters



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Marriage: A Wonderful but Serious Thing • A Grandchild to  
Bring You Joy • Lessons Learned from David's Family  
So – You're a Grandparent • Satan's War Against the Family

# Family Matters

BY RAINER SALOMAA • EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

We've decided to make this first 2003 issue of *United News Canada* one that is devoted to the theme of families. Why is that?

Well, let me briefly share with you some disturbing statistics and statements to show how modern families are under attack. Make no mistake – Satan is out to destroy the building block of society. One reason why Rome fell was that families broke down and suffered from a high divorce rate.

Please note the following:

Between 1981 and 1996 the number of single-parent families in Canada grew nearly 60 per cent and common-law families grew a whopping 159 per cent.

During that same period, the number of children living in households with legally married parents actually declined.

The number of children living in a single-parent family grew 44 per cent and the number of children living with two parents in a common-law relationship grew an astounding 241 per cent.

Twenty per cent of Canada's children, before they reach their sixth birthday, will have to deal with their parents' separation.

If present trends continue, half of the children today will spend at least part of their childhood in single-parent homes.

It portends a world where almost every child will have several "moms" and "dads," perhaps six or eight "grandparents," and dozens of half-siblings.

Scary, isn't it?

The *New York Post* reported that the seniors in a Minneapolis high school were given "kits" from Planned

Parenthood before the prom. Each package contained condoms, confetti, breath mints and a discount coupon to a Planned Parenthood clinic. No wonder genital herpes infections are soaring and AIDS is out of control!

Something has to be done to salvage the family unit. Following the flap over his comments about *Murphy Brown*, Dan Quayle wrote a short essay entitled, "Why I Think I'm Still Right." He said, "A two-parent household, with a mother and a father, is still the best place to raise a child."

In proclaiming National Family Week during his presidency, former President Ronald Reagan said, "Strong families are the foundation of society. Through them we pass on our traditions, rituals and values. From them we receive the love, encouragement, and education needed to meet human challenges. Family life provides opportunities and time for the spiritual growth that fosters generosity of spirit and responsible citizenship."

We are devoting this issue to the family because it is an important topic. The family is the cradle of culture. It is the strength of a nation, a stronghold of civilization. It is the center of life's most intimate moments enacting events of marriage, birth, initiation of children into society, and death. Most importantly, God is a family. He is expanding His family. He is the Father. The Church is the mother. Christ is our brother. Called-out Christians are brothers and sisters in Christ.

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named" (Ephesians 3:14-15). For this reason, we devote this issue to the family. -UNC

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# Marriage: A Wonderful but Serious Thing

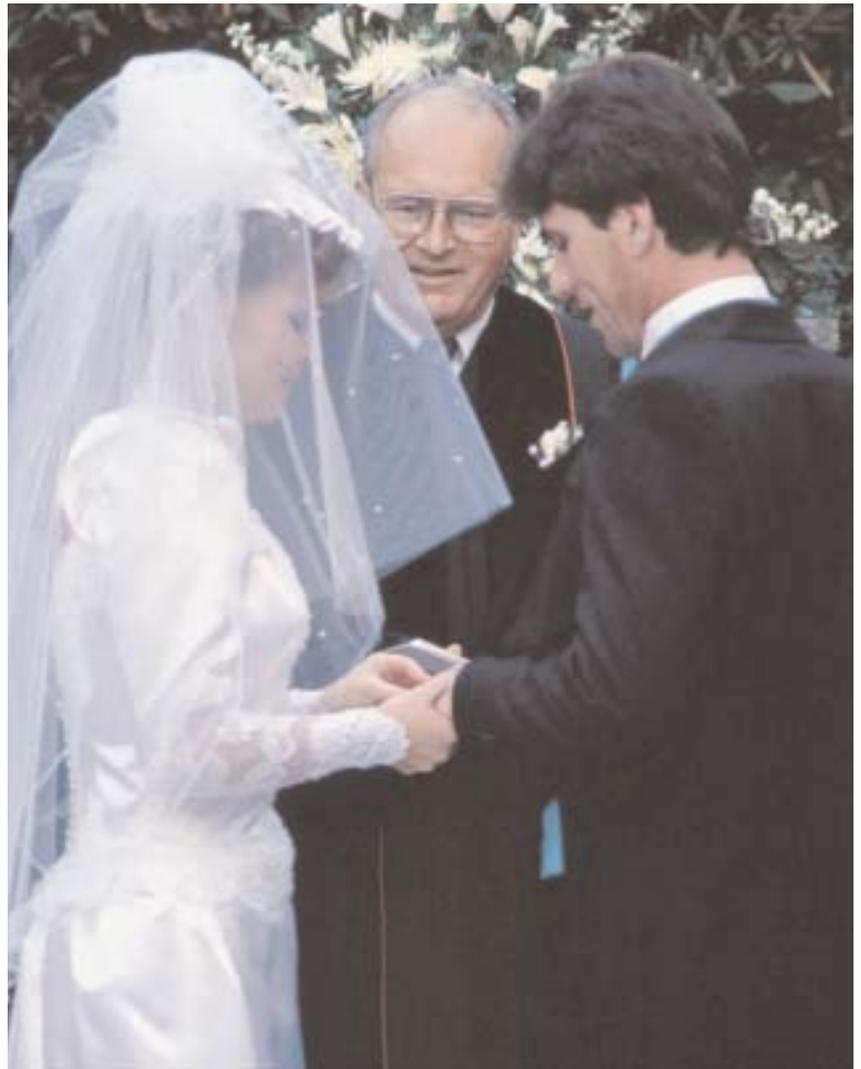
BY ROBERT BERENDT • EDMONTON

Our loving Creator made us male and female and stated that this was good (Genesis 1:27-31). God then showed us the wonderful potential of a marriage by inspiring the words of their union in Genesis 2:21-25. (By the way, when a rib is carefully removed from the human body, it regrows perfectly, so Adam was not “ribless” the rest of his life.)

In Matthew 19:4-6, Jesus Christ referred to the potential for happiness within marriage that God gave. There are eternal lessons to be learned in this holy union. Not only are humans happier when they work toward a family relationship that is godly, but children (who take the better part of two decades to reach adulthood) need the stability of a home with mom and dad to have the best chance of becoming mature and responsible adults. The eternal lessons are derived from the parallels that marriage makes with the ultimate relationship of mankind and God (Ephesians 5:30-33).

Now that we can see the importance of this marvellous institution that holy matrimony is intended to be, let us take a look at some of the realities of life. We all know that we humans are imperfect and usually come into marriage with a lot (or a few) mistakes as well as gaps in our character. It seems to take a lifetime to “get it all together” and then when we seem to have made real progress, life is about to end. In fact, that is the essence of what life is all about – reaching that level of knowledge and building character.

God has made us all with hormones that kick in around the teenage years. He expects adults to teach the young self-control and, when maturity arrives, enter into marriage to reach the highest level of human interaction. Mankind is good at ruining and destroying the beauty of God’s creation and it is no



different in marriage. For this reason, God has set some strong and clear guidelines for our lives.

Marriage is a holy union because it is an agreement a man and woman make with God to love, cherish, honour and be true to one another. In Mark 10:9 Jesus states this fact very strongly. “Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” It is to our peril and great unhappiness that we all too often take these words too lightly. Though no one should have to live in an abusive situation, marriages are to be treasured and preserved through every effort we can exercise.

—continued on page 4

# Marriage: A Wonderful but Serious Thing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



“Marriage is based on trust.”

Two of God’s Ten Commandments clearly address this important phase in our lives. God says: “You shall not commit adultery;” and, “You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.” He also stated in no uncertain terms that those who practice adultery, fornication (which includes sex without marriage), will not inherit the kingdom of God (I Corinthians 6:9-11). The commandments are written alongside “You shall not kill,” and are just as serious. We will not go into those aspects, but it is important to realize that God takes our marriage vows seriously because the results of a broken marriage are long-lasting and devastating. He wants us to be as happy as possible in this life and therefore He tells us how to live. We have the right to choose whether we will be happy or miserable. We should note that at conversion, even a person who has come out of a miserable and sad state can have a fresh start in the sense that they are made clean and pure by Jesus’ blood. Of course, once made pure by this precious blood, God expects us to remain pure (Romans 6:1-3).

In Ecclesiastes 9:9, God tells us to live joyfully with the wife (or husband) whom you love. This is a two-way street. Marriage allows us to express the deepest kind of love to one another – a love based on trust. Without trust, a marriage cannot survive – at least not a marriage that is godly and happy. Psalm 128 speaks of children like olive plants around the table of their parents. That is their real mom and dad having meals together and living like a family. That is what God wants for us, although we do not always reach that ideal. Both partners in a marriage have the responsibility of doing their part.

Marriage is based on trust. When two people fear God, they will try harder to live as He directs. God intends for a marriage to last a lifetime; therefore, before marriage people need to be sure they have many things in common. Religious beliefs rank very high on that list. We need to give more time in counseling and planning – not to fear this wonderful relationship, but to try and ensure that it is as happy as possible.

It is a strong beginning for a long and happy marriage when each partner comes to the other as a virgin and gives themselves only to one another. That is the foundation of trust. The “Proverbs 31” woman bears noble and highly-prized qualities. She is worth more than gold or diamonds and “the heart of her husband safely trusts her.” She will be discreet and will guard her honour and that of the family with great care. Needless to say, the husband will also exercise these qualities. This is God’s intention, but in real life, we know there are mistakes that happen. Accidents can happen and other factors can create problems for us. We live in a society that has lost its sense of correctness and chastity. The heartache, depression,

—continued on page 5

# Marriage: A Wonderful but Serious Thing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

loneliness and misery we see all about us are a result of choosing to disobey God somewhere along the line. Recovery is possible to some degree, but never complete.

Malachi 2:11-15 expresses God's anger with men who "deal treacherously" with their wives. He also refers to marriage as a holy institution and "wife by covenant" (or husband). God's people are different from the rest of the world in that they strive to obey God and live according to His word. We want to be like Him, and in marriage we are able to learn and to express many of His attributes. Love, sharing, giving, forgiving, wisdom, kindness, trustworthiness, patience, nobleness and goodness are a few that come to



mind. The marriage will reflect the degree to which husbands and wives are succeeding. Our marriages reflect our godliness. None of us are perfect and we are all walking this path together. Understanding our frailties and our need for a close mate will go a long way towards making our lives as happy as they can be within the conditions we find ourselves.

Life does come to an end and all human marriages end with the death of either one of the partners. Often, it is at a sorrowful time such as this that a person fully realizes the blessing that a partner who is trustworthy, helpful and supportive has been. God created us to be social creatures. We need relationships and we need one

another. He says it is not good for a man (or woman) to live alone (Genesis 2:18) and thus marriage provides us with companionship into our old age. The accomplishments and adventures of life are shared by one another in such a close way, that we do come to grasp in time what was meant when Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" (Genesis 2:23). We are to be as one in

marriage and that reflects the ultimate goal that Jesus Christ so carefully recorded in John 17. Verse 21 states: "That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."

Marriage is wonderful. God intended it for men and for women. This society has so twisted and distorted that

godly intent and concept that we find ourselves at war with the society we live in. God's way is worth dying for and it is worth living for.

Husbands and wives, and the young people who will one day be husbands and wives – you have choices to make. We who have lived the biggest part of our lives hope and pray that the choices you make will allow God to bless you every day of your lives. Open your doors and let Him come in. Then there will be peace and contentment, excitement and adventure, that leave no regrets, no scars, no sorrows and no tears. Marriage is from God and intended for all people. Use it wisely. -UNC

"We need relationships and we need one another."

# A Grandchild to Bring You Joy

BY ANTHONY WASILKOFF • OPERATIONS MANAGER



The author's grandson, Logan, poses with great-grandpa.

—Photo by  
Coreen Wasilkoff

It has been noted that the only time Sigmund Freud ever cried was when his grandson died. The death of little Heinerle Rudolph resulted in Freud's first-ever depression. Three years after the fact, Freud told a confidant that it had been impossible for him to enjoy his life since the loss of the lad.

When Joseph finally revealed his identity to his estranged brothers, he directed them to hurry back home and bring their father to start a new life in Egypt. Joseph added the following details: "You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have" (Genesis 45:10). One of the joys of parenting is to see one's children safely grown and marrying and starting to raise families of their own. Scripture describes offspring as being "a heritage of the Lord" and "a reward" and so they are.

Similarly, grandchildren are a heritage

and reward not only to the two parents but perhaps even more so for the four grandparents and possibly even great grandparents. It is with good reason that an adage says grandparents are parents who are given a second chance!

Psalm 103:17-18 states, "But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to such as keep His covenant, and to those who remember His commandments to do them." God's limitless

love and concern transcends the fleeting life spans of human beings. Most parents want their children to have a better life than they did. This carries over to their children's children as well.

According to the *NIV Study Bible*, "The close identity of a man with his children and of children with their parents, resulting from the tightly bonded unity of the three or four generation households of that ancient society, is alien to the modern reader, whose sense of self is highly individualistic. But that deep, profoundly human bond accounts for the ancient legal principle of 'punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.'"

Psalm 128:5-6 proclaims, "The Lord bless you out of Zion, and may you see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life. Yes, may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!"

—continued on page 7

# A Grandchild to Bring You Joy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

One of the finest blessings a person can experience is to live to see grandchildren born and to help them with the chore of growing up. I recall when my own dad would come to visit with my wife and me some years ago now. One of the joys of his visit was to spend some quality time with his only granddaughter. He would take a chair into her bedroom and wait patiently for her to wake up from her nap! I still have pleasant memories of something as simple as him taking her for a walk. I would watch this and marvel wondering why he hadn't been that patient with me when I was growing up. On another occasion he witnessed me disciplining my son for some misdemeanor. Then he took me aside and admonished me for having been too tough on him. I wondered why he didn't follow his own advice when I was little. As I remember he had often been pretty tough on me when I was a child.

Proverbs 17:6 says, "Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father." We see this happening in virtually every congregation of the Church of God where little boys and girls are whisked away from their parents right after services conclude by adoptive aunts, uncles, grandmothers and grandfathers. This gives the beleaguered parents a welcome break and allows the adoptive relative an opportunity to practice and share important nurturing skills.

Proverbs 13:22 instructs, "A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous." Sinners sometimes manage to acquire an amazing amount of wealth. However, it will not do them much good in the long run nor for their heirs. On the other hand, a decent man is able to parlay his acquisitions with a mind to giving his grandchildren a good start in life if at all possible. A little can go

a long way when properly planned for.

One of the most heartwarming passages for me with respect to this topic is found in Genesis 50:23 where Joseph's golden years are described: "Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation; the children of Machir son of Manasseh were also born on Joseph's knee" (NRSV). This may be a strange expression for us. It simply means that the children mentioned were just like his very own children. One of the first surprises that a grandparent experiences is how quickly he or she becomes bonded with a grandchild. You might expect that it would take a series of many encounters over a long period of time. However, the truth of the matter is that the connection develops almost instantly. This is why Sigmund Freud suffered his first depression as he did.

In his second epistle to Timothy, Paul writes, "When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and I am persuaded is in you also." This passage has intrigued me. How fortunate Timothy had been to have a mother and grandmother both of whom were believers. What a head start, what an advantage it gave him in living his life. Conversion is described as "genuine faith" in this passage by the RAV. It is something that actually "dwelt" in human beings as if it were something quite alive and growing. Certainly not lifeless and inert.



—continued on page 8

# A Grandchild to Bring You Joy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

“Now I wonder...if our grandson will...become a fourth generation believer.”

My father-in-law and mother-in-law were baptized back in 1954 by a couple of young ministers on a baptizing tour conducted by the Radio Church of God out of Pasadena, California. My wife was baptized in 1967 and so this makes her a second-generation believer. Our son and daughter-in-law and daughter are all baptized and so this makes them third-generation believers. Now I wonder, with bated breath, if our grandson will similarly be summoned to the faith in God's good way and in God's good time and become a fourth generation believer.

Paul Harvey, in one of his inimitable presentations, wrote: “We tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse. For my grandchildren, I'd like better. I'd really like for them to know about hand-me-down clothes and

homemade ice cream and leftover meat loaf sandwiches. I really would. I hope you learn humility by being humiliated and that you learn honesty by being cheated. I hope you learn to make your own bed and mow the lawn and wash the car. And I really hope nobody gives you a brand new car when you are sixteen. It will be good if at least one time you can see puppies born and your old dog put to sleep....”

Paul Harvey had much more to say about how he wanted to be sure his grandchildren would grow up without being spoiled and doted upon unduly. We can be confident our Heavenly Father may be enlisted to be sure those results come about for all the grandchildren in the collective Church of God. -UNC

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## So – You're a Grandparent

BY GLEN WHITE • CALGARY

Times have changed from the familiar scenario of our grandparents settled in their comfortable retirement location, often in the countryside, readily accessible to the family with a short afternoon drive.

If you're like us, you're often still working past the big 65, and the shortest distance to the nearest grandchild is a full day's drive away. The furthest grandchild is accessible by plane or telephone; however, the telephone conversations are fairly one-sided since he or she is just putting sentences together.

Somewhere between the former concept and the present reality, those grandchildren are out there and needing papa and nana.

What can we do to supply the experiences and memories these blessings from God will need as they mature to meet life on life's demanding terms?

Cards, birthdays, gifts and phone calls when they are old enough to converse will help establish communication as well as quality visits, when the opportunity presents itself.

When you do have the children, are old habits of, “go watch TV, or play in the other room” or other old habits perpetuated? Or does something special happen when they go to grandpa's and grandma's house?

—continued on page 22

# Lessons Learned from King David's Family

BY GRAEMME MARSHALL • OTTAWA



**How can we understand God's testimony of King David as "a man after My own heart, who will do all My will" (Acts 13:22), when we see his failed family example?**

God had a destiny for the shepherd boy chosen to be the King to bring expansion to the nation of Israel. The outcome of his life's walk with God culminates in becoming millennial King of future Israel (Ezekiel 37:24). How do we put into focus his failed family relationships?

## Culture

There must have been times as a new father that David rejoiced in a newborn son or daughter. Like us, he no doubt delighted in their childhood. But as a father who had at least eight wives plus "more" and some 20 children plus "other

sons," he could not, as one man, emotionally supply what they all independently needed. Polygamy was not God's intent. The lesson could have been learnt from the patriarchs, or the recent example of Saul and his harem. Sadly, culture played its hand with David who, following Saul's precedent, took on the tragic chain of events leading to the breakup of his family.

Each generation seems bent on having to learn for themselves. The royal harem, with its palace intrigues, could only produce an unequal love from a father. Busy with expanding the kingdom, he may have had little time for children except favorites, like Absalom. Regrettably, David's inner character did not rub off onto the son he loved most.

Events came to a head in adulthood when eldest son Amnon raped his beautiful half-sister Tamar (2 Samuel 13). Her brother Absalom was outraged, and hatred for his half-brother turned to a burning desire for revenge. If at this point David had punished Amnon, the royal family might not have split asunder so disastrously. But David, though "very angry" with Amnon (2 Samuel 13:21) apparently did nothing. From the sparse biblical record, he seemed unable to discipline his grown children. Is it evidence of a lack of early child training? Proverbial wisdom loudly proclaims, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Because David failed to act with Amnon, Absalom took justice into his own hands by ordering his servants to murder his half-brother. Absalom then fled to his grandfather, the King of Geshur, and remained in exile. After five years he was restored to the palace court.

—continued on page 10

*"Regrettably, David's inner character did not rub off onto the son he loved most."*

# Lessons Learned from King David's Family

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

“How...  
could [David]  
punish  
Absalom for  
murder, when  
he himself  
had eluded  
the  
murderer's  
fate?”

David appeared unaware or unable to prevent this son's ambition that led to a successful palace coup against his own father. Here a much-loved son would not return that love to his father. (Is this a type of the heavenly Father loving a sinful, uncaring world?) When David later gives orders before engaging Absalom's rebel army he says, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom" (1 Samuel 18:5). But David's commanders knew a rebellion could not be successfully crushed if its leader wasn't executed. Yet on learning the death of Absalom, David uttered his heartbroken cry of mourning and grief, perhaps mixed with self-reproach for his tragic inability to influence as a father: "O my son Absalom – my son, my son Absalom – if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!" (2 Samuel 18:33). This depth of emotion is expressed later with Christ weeping over Jerusalem, in Paul's wish to be accursed for his brethren's sake, and is it not true of us? If only we had power to effect change to the course of errant children or people.

## Passion and the "stripes of men"

Lovingly, God forgives sin, as with David's, but there is a price to pay – the law of cause and effect. To wayward but repentant children, God converts the effect of our sin into needy purifying. As He dealt with David, so He'll deal with us. He will forgive, but He may also use the rod. He will restore us to favor, yet require us to drink the bitterness our sin brings. We learn through David's family tragedies that when we choose an action we also choose its consequences.

David's bitter harvest started with Bathsheba's newborn child. An innocent baby died for the sin of its parents and a three-fold prophecy unfolded as the prophet Nathan revealed God's judgment. Because David despised God's commands by murder and adultery, "the sword shall not depart from your house...I will raise

up an adversary against you...your wives will be taken from you...and because you did this secretly, I will do this publicly...and the child will die" (2 Samuel 12:10-14).

God was not going to allow David's pagan enemies conclude His King could have an heir through murder and adultery. All was fulfilled. The "stripes of the children of men" was God as Father disciplining His children for sin (2 Samuel 7:14). God was chastening David his chosen, while David's own children are yet to face future repentance. For David, paying the price unfolded in his inability as a father to lovingly guide a polygamous household.

## David's innermost dilemma

When Amnon forcibly humiliated his half-sister similar to the way David treated Uriah's wife, what could David do? He was looking in a mirror. In Amnon's sin he was confronted by his own unbridled passion. In Amnon's murder two years later, David encountered again his own blood-guiltiness with Uriah. Absalom's fratricide might never have happened if David had taken measures to punish Amnon. But how could he administer the penalty due his son's sexual impurity (Leviticus 18:6,9,29) when he had evaded it himself? How, too, could he punish Absalom for murder, when he himself had eluded the murderer's fate?

## Even in death there is failure

The account of David's dying doesn't illustrate a loving devoted family hovering around his bedside. Instead, cold-hearted political forces were at work. Adonijah, the next firstborn, is more concerned to be the next King than about his dying father. He initiates a crowning of himself supported by Joab the military commander and Priest Abiathar. How could a son be so uncaring, so openly ambitious? Perhaps it's not too unlike family squabbles today over inheritance before one has even died!

—continued on page 23

# Satan's War Against the Family

BY JEAN JANTZEN • NANAIMO

Family continues to be bombarded on every front. Satan leaves no stone unturned in an effort to topple the basic building blocks of society. His onslaught comes from spreading his corrupting influence throughout society.

Look at a few recent headlines:

- Ontario Court Orders Government to Recognize Gay Marriages
- Quebec Rules Opposite-Sex Definition of Marriage is Discriminatory
- Canadian School Board to Ban Lord's Prayer
- Family Fears Risks of Godless Society
- Study Finds Teen Self-Harm Common
- Quebec Youth Face Extortion from Peers
- Couples' Children Removed from Home for Spanking
- Federal Government Needs to Keep Child Poverty a Priority

Many believe the anti-spanking movement is found in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child. This is a document signed by every federal government in the world, with the exception of the United States. Focus on the Family feels that "the Convention views children as individual rights-bearers, separate from their families of origin, with the State as their ultimate guardian." What better way to destroy the family than take away the authority and rights of the parent!

"[F]amily values are mere political lip service and the family is valued insofar as it can support commerce," writes Valdas Anelauskas, a Lithuanian journalist and former anti-Soviet dissident, in his book *Discovering America As It Is* (1999). "American ultra-capitalism itself is the primary cause of family and moral

breakdown and the destruction of positive social values in America. What else could be the result of a belief system that teaches the supremacy of greed and the divinity of cash? Such an evil system simply has a fundamentally anti-social, anti-community, and anti-family character."

He asks, "Within such a context, [the notion greed is good] where are the values of kinship, of community, of public good? What place has altruism, friendship, spirituality, aesthetics, love or even decency?" As Dana Mack, a scholar at the Institute for American Values, states in her book *The Assault on Parenthood*, "American culture itself is 'family-hostile, child-hostile culture.'"

He goes on to say that "millions of American [and Canadian] families are surviving these days, just barely, by holding down three, four or sometimes even more part-time jobs and working increasing amounts of overtime. These families struggle to make ends meet, knowing that they are but a couple of paychecks away from disaster. Because of all the rigid economic pressures, American parents are now devoting much more time to earning a living and much less time to their children than they did a generation ago."

Satan's attack on the family in the halls of education is relentless and brutal. Anelauskas writes, "Not only is the amount of money spent on public education pathetically small compared with the reckless and suicidal military spending, but the American educational system is purposefully designed to make people, to borrow Adam Smith's phrase, 'as stupid and ignorant as it's possible for a human being to be.'"

Anelauskas comes up with some surprising statistics. The number of home-



—continued on page 12

# Satan's War Against the Family

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11



schooled students who have left the public education system is roughly 1.5 million.

A devastating look at the current state of public schools in America – and the resulting revolution in home schooling – is the topic of the November 2002 edition of *Whistleblower*. Titled, “The Flight from Public Schools,” the issue documents the increasingly bizarre curricula (from “jihad games” to “celebrating the dead”), notorious “zero-tolerance” discipline (suspending children for playing cops-and-robbers on the playground or giving a cough drop to a friend) and increasingly overt sexual indoctrination (homosexual propaganda now taught beginning in kindergarten). It shows how and why the government’s education system has become so controversial that former U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett now publicly

exhorts parents on national television to take their children out of the learning institutions over which he once presided – and to homeschool them instead.

## Let's Understand Columbine

The Phyllis Schlafly Report (June 1999) gives the facts on “Why Columbine?” She says, “For the past 25 years, the prevailing dogma in public school teaching has been Values Clarification (as in the tremendously influential 1972 book titled, *Why Columbine?* by Sidney Simon). Values Clarification teaches students to reject “the old moral and ethical standards and since there are absolutely no absolutes, students should engage in personal ‘decision making’ about behavior instead of looking to God, the Ten Commandments, parents, church, or other authority which teaches that behavior should conform to traditional morality.”

The *New York Times* concluded, “Indeed, Eric Harris and his sidekick, Dylan Klebold, did ‘build their own value system,’ which allowed them to kill 13 people at Columbine, then take their own lives. Harris and Klebold were not dumb or underprivileged; they came from affluent two-parent families. Professionals who evaluated them concluded that Harris was ‘a very bright young man who is likely to succeed in life,’ and that Klebold was ‘intelligent enough to make any dream a reality’” (*New York Times*, April 23, 1999).

In the book, *Dumbing Down Our Kids: Why American Children Feel Good About Themselves But Can't Read, Write, or Add* (1996), Charles J. Sykes informs us that education reforms of the 1990s are not new. “Such ideas, the latest being Outcome-Based Education, have been tested and retested for decades in thousands of

## America's Children

According to the Children's Defense Fund, “every day in America:

- six children commit suicide,
- 13 children are homicide victims,
- 14 children are killed by firearms,
- 81 babies die,
- 280 children are arrested for violent crimes,
- 443 babies are born to mothers who had late or no prenatal care,
- 781 babies are born at low birth weight,
- 1,403 babies are born to teen mothers,
- 1,827 babies are born without health insurance,
- 2,430 babies are born into poverty,
- 2,756 children drop out of high school every school day,
- 3,436 babies are born to unmarried mothers,
- 5,753 children are arrested,
- 8,470 children are reported abused or neglected,
- 11.3 million children are without health insurance
- and 14.5 million children live in poverty.”

*Discovering America As It Is* (1999)

—continued on page 13

# Satan's War Against the Family

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

schools. And they have failed.... The present, according to educationists, is the only reality worth knowing."

A natural outgrowth of this Postmodern philosophy is the dominant assumption among educationists that children are "frail and easily damaged psychological growths" that need to be liberated from "oppressive" influences such as family, traditional morality, and even conventional spelling and grammar. Literature and history are no longer important guideposts; moral courage, arduous choices, and virtue are useless. Feelings, say the educationists of today, are the only necessary compass.

The school becomes a "village," where children are taught they should turn to the schools' "experts," instead of parents.

The dumbing down that Sykes details has much to do with the "religion of self-esteem." In their zealous sensitivity to self-esteem, many teachers are willing to overlook ignorance and laziness. Sykes reminds us, "The square root of 99 is still 9.9498743 no matter how a child feels about it. Self-esteem cannot be dispensed; it must be earned."

## The Family Debate

Gary Bauer, president of the family advocacy group, the Family Research Council, tells of the time a few years ago when he first realized that the nature of the family was up for public debate.

"That night, on *Nightline*, we reopened the polygamy debate in America, and no one seemed to notice, no one except the individuals that took the time, that night, to call both my office and my home, and to leave messages on the answering machine that were so vile I could not share them with a mixed audience, messages threatening my wife and my children.

Because I had done what? Because I suggested that God intended men and women to live together in stable, monogamous, heterosexual relationships, faithful to each other, something that, just a few years ago, there was no argument about in America."

Copy editors and style guide writers are working on ways to make sure words that reflect or reinforce the traditional family are purged from the language. Robert Knight, director of the Cultural Studies Project at the Family Research Council, remarks that "editors are increasingly replacing 'mother' and 'father' with the gender-neutral 'parent' in textbooks, newspapers, and magazines. Such editing choices, says Knight, are meant to abolish readers assumptions that families are traditionally composed of a man and woman."

Those who stand up for truth pay the price. In the news recently, Chris Kampling, a teacher of Psychology in Quesnel, is having his license revoked because he said it is wrong to teach homosexuality to children – he felt family values were under threat. The school board is up in arms about his views.

And let's not forget another of Satan's powerful vehicles – one close to his heart – music! According to the book, *The Emerging Generation*, "the average teenager consumes six hours a day of rock music! It is their most devoted companion. It's their teacher, preacher, and guiding light! It dictates every detail of their life – from what they wear...to what they believe!" Dr. Alan Bloom, in *The Closing of the American Mind*, writes, "It is their passion; nothing else excites them as it does; they cannot take seriously anything alien to music."

—continued on page 25



# North Battleford News

NEWS & PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY ADELINE & PETER SANOY



*Left:* Peter Korneluk concentrates on cooking his food "just right."

*Below:* Marianne Braatan and Theresa Duhan discuss a very serious topic while Darlene Buck watches for a Kodak moment.



## Combined Services and Fondue

On Sabbath, December 14, 2002, there were combined services in Saskatoon at the Riviera Motel for the Saskatoon and the North Battleford brethren.

After services most of the brethren gathered at the home of Al and Dorothy Kostyna for a fondue. There were three areas set up with fondue pots and varieties of food to cook. The tables fairly groaned under the selection of foods, including Dore Lake Pike, beef, chicken, and mushrooms for the fondue pot, plus vegetables, fruit and a sweet tooth's dream-come-true dessert table!

Later, some of the brethren joined in a sing along, while others just played games. The most fun however seemed to be the time spent in fellowship, with much laughter. -UNC

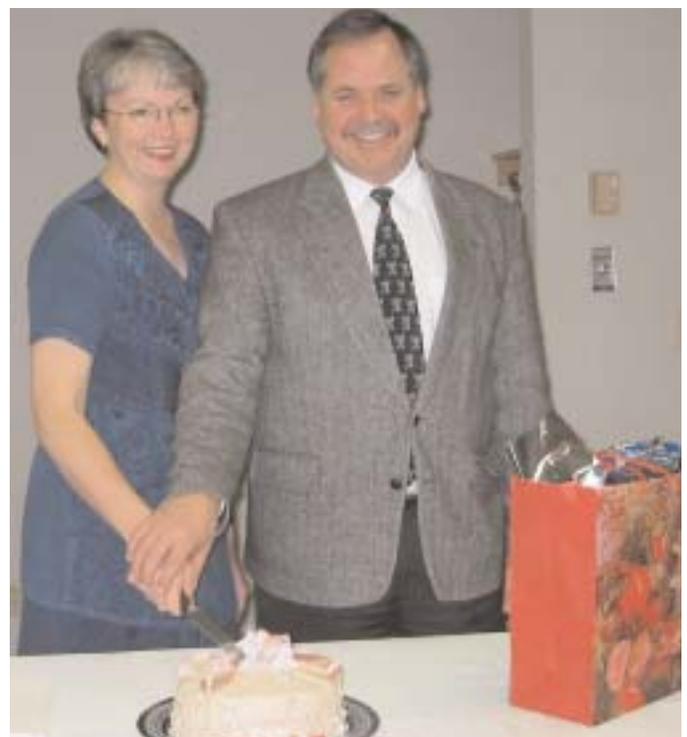
## 25th Anniversary

The North Battleford brethren recognized Boyd and Donna Yahn on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary. (The official date is December 3).

The couple were presented with a cake that was baked and beautifully decorated by Shirley Rogers. They were also given a 25th anniversary plate to mark the occasion.

The Yahns have been members of God's Church for many years and are the chief organizers of the Dore Lake Fishing Weekend which has become a July tradition.

The Yahns have three children: Kristin, who is living in Saskatoon studying nursing; Drew, who is working part time and attending his first year of university; and Karin, who is attending NBCHS and will be graduating in a couple of years. -UNC



Donna and Boyd Yahn

# Canadian Council Meets in Canmore

SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

The third National Council meeting of the fiscal year occurred December 4-8, 2002. Whenever the Council meets, the local pastor is given the job of making the most economical arrangements feasible. After checking several establishments in the Calgary area, Mr. White learned that there would be significant savings if the Council met in Canmore (about an hour's drive from Calgary). In spite of the extra drive, it was rewarding to have a few members (one from as far away as Regina) attend some of the sessions.

Canmore is nestled in the Alberta side of the Rocky Mountains. As Council members arrived, they were greeted by a herd of elk just outside the conference centre. This awesome reminder of God's beautiful creation helped to set the tone of the meetings.

Minutes of all Council meetings must be kept (recorded). Before the minutes become formal documents of the organization, they must be adopted or approved by the Council. On Wednesday evening, Council minutes were adopted. This was followed by concise reports on the Feast sites across Canada. Robert Berendt then described his European Feast experience.

Anthony Wasilkoff and Edwin van Pelt gave an office update. Mr. van Pelt always provides the Council with colourful charts to illustrate what is currently happening and statistics to show growth rates and trends. It is encouraging to see steady growth in membership and in literature requests. The evening finished off with what has been called the "Brainstorming" session. This resulted in several items of business being assigned to the various Council committees.

On Thursday morning, the four Council committees met to work on their assigned projects. The job of each committee is to



research, discuss and then make recommendations to the Council in the areas they have been asked to investigate.

Some of the projects the committees are currently working on are: strategic planning for the next year; mileage reimbursement; hall rentals; a procedure for ordination of elders; title change for Operations Manager; and a new method of evaluating the Operations Manager.

The Council strives to continually educate itself. Lorne Davies was invited to these meetings to share what he has learned serving on several different boards – both profit and non-profit. Mr. Davies' presentation included helpful handouts and was well received by Council members. He concluded by saying, "The job of a council member will never be easy but will always be a challenge."

Every December, the Council finalizes the Strategic Plan, Operations Plan and Budget to be presented to the National Conference for their approval in March. Much time is devoted to these tasks prior to the Council meeting so that everyone has a chance to review and consider what modifications might be needed. The Strategic Plan and budget were completed during the meetings. The Council requested a few extra details be added to the Operations Plan before it is sent to the National Conference.

—continued on page 16

Lorne Davies of Vancouver addresses the National Council.

—Photo by Ed van Pelt

# Canadian Council Meets in Canmore

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

“[T]he meeting was adjourned and people left...feeling that much had been accomplished ...”

On Friday afternoon, meetings were adjourned early. The festival coordinators had a short meeting to plan for next year's Feast of Tabernacles. Then everyone met in Banff for dinner. It was a beautiful setting in which to observe the arrival of the Sabbath. Of course, the extra time taken off for that had to be made up with some extra evening meetings!

On Sunday morning all remaining business had to be completed or put on the agenda for another meeting. One item discussed was whether or not to continue the Women's Advisory Committee. This committee is to give advice to the Council on any women's issues that may arise. After discussion, it was decided that this Advisory Committee would continue as is. This decision was based upon the desire to have something in place for when it is needed.

The Council also had to approve an agenda for the National Conference in March. Chairman Rainer Salomaa explained that he has purchased a speaker box for that teleconference. In times past, some connected by phone have had difficulty hearing. The speaker box should rectify that problem.

By noon, the meeting was adjourned and members left for home, feeling that much had been accomplished even though some items were left to be worked on before the next meeting.

The Council wishes to thank the Calgary congregation for hosting this round of meetings. Special thanks for those who made arrangements, provided and prepared food, as well as to those who attended meetings. -UNC



Above: Rainer Salomaa addresses the Calgary Congregation during Sabbath services.

Right: The children's chorale, dressed in robes and crowns, sing *This is the Day*.

—Photos by Ed van Pelt

## Sabbath Services in Calgary

The National Council was privileged to visit the Calgary congregation on December 7, 2002. There was a special excitement in the air. Nearly seven years earlier, the Council was organized and had its first meeting in Calgary. In a sense, it was like “coming home.”

Rainer Salomaa gave a thought-provoking split sermon entitled “Who Moved My Cheese?” based on a best-selling book by the same name.

That was followed by two pieces of special music. The first was performed by the children's choir, dressed in royal purple capes. Each child had made a “crown” to wear. The children sang *This is the Day* by Natalie Sleeth with words by Jim Brandenburg. After announcements the adult choir performed *Joy in the*

*Morning*, also by Natalie Sleeth.

Anthony Wasilkoff gave the second split sermon of the day, “My Peace I Give Unto You.”

After services, the local brethren hosted a meal. It was a special menu, featuring barbecued beef, moose and buffalo. Of course, there were plenty of vegetables and dessert as well. The evening was a wonderful time of fellowship with some entertainment added in. It was just the diversion the Council needed before heading back to meetings. Thank you, Calgary, for your warm hospitality! -UNC





# Office Staff Attend Law Seminar

BY GEORGE CARTER • TORONTO

Why don't lawyers play Hide and Seek? Because no one would want to find them! So says Terrance S. Carter of Carter & Associates, chairman of the *Church and the Law* seminar held on November 5, 2002 in Bramalea, a town near Toronto. He has a fund of lawyer jokes which he used to spice up the proceedings throughout the day.

Not that the various presentations were dull, but they were very serious and, of course, legally complex. But the idea behind the seminars is to keep churches, charities, and not-for-profit organizations abreast of the law, and of their duties and obligations under it.

For this reason, Tony and Linda Wasilkoff, Ed van Pelt, Kevin Ford and George Carter attended the lectures.

The speakers were all experts in their fields – men and women specializing in charitable law, intellectual property and trademarks, matters which have become all the more complex with the development of the internet and electronic media in general. Terrance Carter is himself Chair of the National Charity and Not-for-Profit Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association, and former Chair of the Ontario Section.

Other speakers included Jacqueline Connor, a contributing author to the *Primer for Directors of Not-for-Profit Corporations*, recently published by Industry Canada. Her topic was "The Legal Duties of Directors and Leaders of Churches and Religious Societies." Ms. Connor emphasized that Boards and Councils must "act in good faith" within the framework of their governing documents, and in accordance with the defined objectives of the Corporation. It pre-supposes that Constitutions and Bylaws are in place, and that they are reviewed periodically.

Kenneth Goodman, from the Office of the Public Guardian, a Trustee working with the Ministry of the Attorney General, explained the role of the Public Guardian, and gave some frankly disgusting examples of the money-grubbing practices of some self-serving "charities." His office has been pleased to prosecute and obtain court orders for the return of all misspent monies in these cases. Mr. Goodman warned that Directors (and/or Council members) can be held directly responsible, and themselves prosecuted, if the courts find that they did not act with "due diligence" – a phrase that was liberally peppered throughout the various presentations.

Terrance Carter then asked, with a grin, who would ever want to be a member of the Governing Committee of any church or charity considering the weight of the law? But of course these are penalties for wrong-doing, and the object of the law is to protect honest endeavour, as well as the public in general. They need protection!

Elena Hoffstein spoke about Practical Planned Giving, which deals with wills, estates and properties, insurance, charity tax credits, and the roles of Executors. Clearly, Elena herself could have filled the day with very helpful material, especially as it applied to the benefits of giving under Canadian and Ontarian charitable law. She is the Executive of the Ontario Bar Association's Charities and Not-for-Profit Section, and a member of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, among her many other qualifications.

Freedom of Religion was the topic for Bruce Long, who was called to the Bar in 1975 and joined Carter & Associates as Litigation Counsel with emphasis on Criminal Law. He was the Regional Director for Crown Attorneys for Southwestern Ontario from 1989 to 1999,

"[T]he object of the law is to protect honest endeavour, as well as the public in general."

—continued on page 18

# Office Staff Attend Law Seminar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

“Mr. Long dealt with some of the issues arising from ‘gay and lesbian rights’....”

and Assistant Deputy Attorney General in 1991. As with all the presenters on this day, Mr. Long has written extensively on matters of law and, having prosecuted more than 20 murder cases, wrote *The Prosecutor’s Handbook*. He has several areas of expertise, including Natural Resources, Aboriginal Rights, and Human Rights, as well as conducting his own law practice.

During his short lecture Mr. Long made an interesting observation. He said, “The freedom to hold beliefs is broader than the freedom to act on them.” And this leads to an apparent anomaly in the law in that a person’s core beliefs must be kept separate from his or her actions! “In other words,” said Mr. Long, “you are not to practice what you preach...you must not impose your beliefs on other people.”

The definition of freedom under the law is “absence of coercion or restraint.” That of course, flies in the face of history, especially history of religion(s).

Mr. Long dealt with some of the issues arising from “gay and lesbian rights,” and advised all pastors to preside only at marriages of members of their own congregations. He realized that this might be difficult to do at times in this age of lax church attendance, but it would eliminate the possibility of being charged with discrimination with regard to same-sex marriages. The Federal Government has two years in which to change the traditional definition of marriage – which he hopes they won’t. Civil Courts cannot have the right to direct a person’s beliefs, and the Courts will protect and uphold your policies and bylaws (regarding abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, bullying, etc.) if they are clearly defined. In his opinion, Mr. Long stated that we shouldn’t allow the Courts to decide these issues, but that they should be submitted to proper legislation, and our Members of Parliament should be approached in regards to them.

Carl Juneau has been a member of the Bar Association of Quebec since 1980, and with the Charities Division at Revenue Canada since 1983. He is Director of Policy and Communications, Charities Directorate, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) in Ottawa, and is involved in policy formulation and amendments to the Income Tax Act. Mr. Juneau is an international speaker, explaining Revenue Canada’s role as it relates to charities in India, South Africa, Australia, and Estonia, as well as across Canada. He spoke about New Developments in Tax Administration by CCRA.

And you thought we were enjoying ourselves!

Mr. Juneau pointed out that the Government of Canada has tried to encourage contributions to charity since 1900, and does so primarily by giving tax breaks to contributors. But there are all sorts of problems; for instance, the way in which donated goods are sold to support charities (not normally regarded as “business”). But what, then, of Value Village, which is a business although it acts on behalf of charities? He then gave several examples of the ways in which Revenue Canada has been compelled to define “business” *vis-a-vis* charities, and went on to consider the political activities of charities and the whole business of “advocacy.” In concluding his address, Mr. Juneau reminded everyone that the Annual Information Returns (T30/10) are being amended, and should be on the internet within days. (This means more work for Kevin Ford and Ed van Pelt in our National Office!)

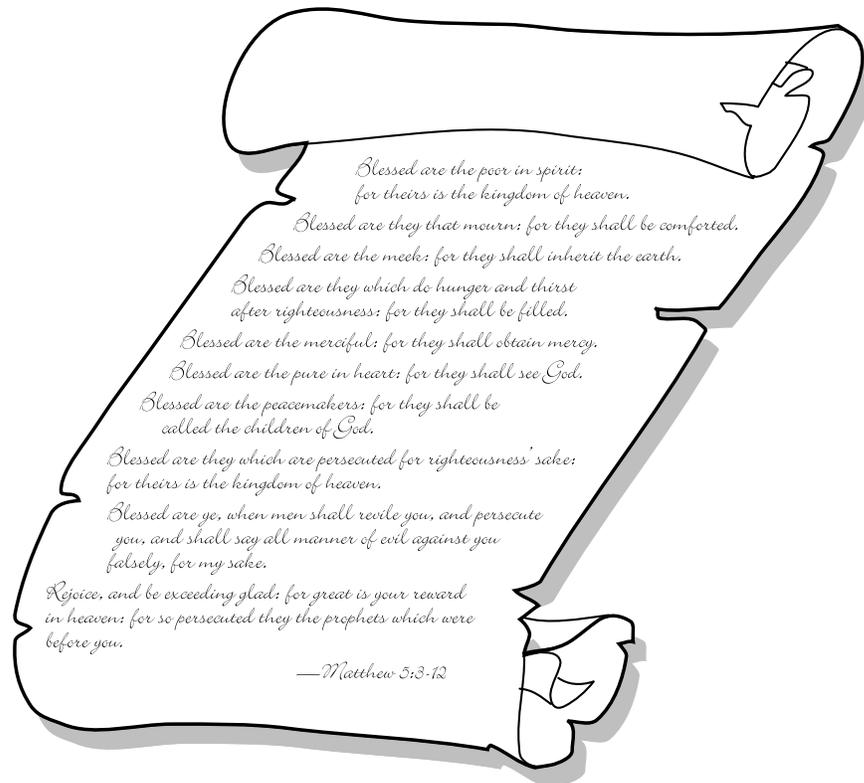
Space does not allow a lengthy run-down on all the excellent speakers at this day long Seminar, but we should mention others briefly.

Theresa Man, member of the Board of several charities, spoke on “Good Governance,” which might be defined as

—continued on page 24

# Lessons from the Sermon on the Mount

BY DAVID PALMER • VANCOUVER



“[In] the ‘Sermon on the Mount,’ Jesus taught one of His greatest lessons.”

In the beautiful section of scripture known as the “Sermon on the Mount,” Jesus taught one of His greatest lessons. This lesson develops a theme that, interestingly enough, relates to statements in the book of Revelation. The blessed of God are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9), are in the first resurrection (Revelation 20:6) and have a right to the tree of (eternal) life (Revelation 22:14). So what lesson was Jesus trying to teach us?

## Poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3)

In Psalms we find these words: “The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit” (Psalms 34:18). The word *contrite* means, “full of, or showing remorse” or, in other words, a willingness to say, “I’m sorry.” It is simply a repentant attitude, a feeling or desire to correct a wrong. “But to

this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word” (Isaiah 66:2). This is an individual with a broken-hearted, repentant spirit and desire to obey God.

## They that mourn (Matthew 5:4)

To *mourn* means “showing an emotion of true humility.” James admonishes us to “be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up” (James 4:10-11). Those who mourn feel a sense of humility and sadness whether the concern is for us, for others or the plight of our nation. The prophet Isaiah tells us that Jesus will comfort those who mourn (Isaiah 61:3) and during His own ministry Jesus quoted portions of Isaiah’s scripture (Luke 4:17-21).

—continued on page 20

# Lessons from the Sermon on the Mount

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

“The word *peacemaker* used in the Sermon on the Mount is not synonymous with third-party intervention.”

## The meek

(Matthew 5:5, Psalm 37:11)

Meek does not mean weak. We are told in scripture that Moses was very meek, but Moses was a strong leader. Christ was meek and gentle, but He certainly was not weak. *Meek* simply means “tame spirited,” a spirit that can be tamed or humbled; a spirit that is submissive, gentle, patient and kind.

## They which hunger and thirst after righteousness

(Matthew 5:6)

*Righteousness* simply means “to do right; virtuous, upright, just, fair, uncompromising, morally correct, justifiable.” It is the opposite of self-righteousness which Christ labeled hypocrisy. Notice how the Bible expresses it: “Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments. Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful...” Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.... For all thy commandments are righteousness” (Psalms 119:137-142, 172).

## The merciful (Matthew 5:7)

*Mercy* refers to “abstention from the affliction of suffering on the part of the one who has the right or the power to inflict it.” In other words, it is unmerited pardon, forgiveness. Jesus gave us this example, “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. [Do unto others].... Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful” (Luke 6:31,36). “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.... For as the heaven is

high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him” (Psalms 103:8, 11).

## Pure in heart (Matthew 5:8)

*Pure* has the same connotation as the word *clean*. “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalms 51:10.) “Every word of God is pure...” (Proverbs 30:5).

*Pure* is described as “without false ingredients, undefiled, free from discord, innocent, chaste, a desire to be sinless.” Paul, in his letter to Titus, wrote, “Unto the pure (clean of heart) all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled” (Titus 1:15). The apostle John reminds us, “every man that hath this hope in Him (the hope of eternal life) purifieth himself, even as He is pure” (I John 3:3).

## The peacemakers (Matthew 5:9)

The word *peacemaker* used in the Sermon on the Mount is not always synonymous with third-party intervention. While a third party can contribute to a peaceful solution between two other parties the Biblical intention of this statement is more personal. We are to “refrain from strife, to restore, to have harmonious relations, or to reconcile.” Jesus put it this way: “Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift” (Matthew 5:24). Paul writes, “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men” (Romans 12:18).

—continued on page 21

# Lessons from the Sermon on the Mount

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

## **Persecuted for righteousness' sake (Matthew 5:10)**

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake" (Matthew 5:11).

Today we have a politically-correct society. But politically correct is not always Biblically correct. A myriad of lifestyles common in our society are considered correct politically, yet to condemn such lifestyle choices can bring ridicule. Nevertheless we are told, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you,

do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5: 44-45).

And so, from the Sermon on the Mount, we learn that the blessed of God are "repentant, showing humility, gentle, kind, patient, obedient, willing to forgive, undefiled by this world, refined, developing a clean attitude of a pure mind, living in peace and harmony, and willing to stand up to persecution."

And what did Jesus promise to those developing these character qualities? "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." -UNC

"Today we have  
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## Prayer: A Sacrifice?

BY CAROLYN VANDERRAAD • VANCOUVER

In a recent Bible Study, our minister went through the book of Malachi, which tells us how upset and disappointed God was with the defiled sacrifices offered by Israel. The minister said that part of the sacrifices we offer to God are our prayers.

It made me wonder what is there about prayer that is a sacrifice? What do we give up of value when we pray?

One thing is our attention, our whole heart. For some of us, focusing is a real effort. However, it is how our spirit reaches out to God, just as we would reach a hand out to a friend. We also give

our time, which is our life. Sometimes it is just a moment when something pops to mind or a prayer over a meal, but usually our prayers are longer and follow the example Christ gave.

We know these sacrifices are pleasing to God. In Revelation 5:8; 8:4 and Psalms 141:2 our prayers are described as sweet incense to God and likened to an evening sacrifice. In plain language, He enjoys hearing from us. So what we "sacrifice" comes back to us "pressed down, shaken together, and running over." This makes our prayer life a real joy and hardly something we would think of as a sacrifice. -UNC

# So – You’re a Grandparent

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8



“[A] child who grows up with respect for others...will develop respect for God....”

A major part of success is in the planning for these occasions. When these rare visits occur, focus on the hours you will have together. Rearrange schedules, plan the things you can share, establish and reinforce values and habits that are fun and help form character.

In our home, I have a room full of sticks and strings (handcrafted bows and arrows). A growing number of “kid” bows are materializing. On the next visit with our pre-school grandsons (and granddaughter), I plan to take them afield to find adventure and intimidate the behemoths by shooting arrows into tree stumps and the occasional fierce-looking hay bale. All are targets and fair game for the novice hunters.

If that’s not your thing, what is? A trip to the zoo, a painting or sculpturing session, or astronomy? How about the dreams you have pursued throughout your lifetime? Have you been a pilot, a craftsman, an inventor? What about the principles you had to learn to succeed in life?

Crafts and the use of one’s hands is fascinating to most pre-school and pre-teens. It doesn’t have to be hockey, football or video games. Most anything can be awesome if grandparents are involved with them (Proverbs 12:6).

If you are blessed to still be on the farm or horse ranch you have a ready-made land of adventure for children. Jumping out of bed on a frosty morning, breaking the ice on watering troughs, or carrying warm water to the animals or chickens is great stuff for kids. (It can be a bit different from the adult point of view but it was once adventure for us too.) Further, the environment develops into a wondrous experience if it is explained in a context of living things. Even the animals cooperate in this since they are alive and responsive to touch and the presence of humans.

Through all this, godly values are reinforced by active use. Patience, determination, responsibility, compassion, and sometimes pity or pathos is experienced in the life cycle of those being cared for. One of the greatest principles is also developed – respect.

It has been stated that a child who grows up with respect for others and their property will develop respect for God and His laws.

Let me close with an analogy close to many of us using sticks and string. The arrow is an extension of the archer. As God uses us to bend the bow of love and instruction, the arrows (our children and grandchildren) is sent speedily to its mark (God’s family). Dependable and attractive arrows aren’t purchased at random from a sporting goods store, a product of a mechanical production line. They are cold and distant or of no personal or emotional value. Break it or lose it, the loss is dollars and cents – a hollow commodity.

—continued on page 23

# So – You’re a Grandparent

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

The handcrafted arrow, on the other hand, is created slowly from a raw, imperfect shaft of wood. It is carefully dried, sanded, straightened by repeated caressing of the archer’s skillful hands, then sealed against the elements that will cause distortion. Design and decoration are then added, setting proper weight to the arrow head and then the stabilizing fletching (feathers) are attached. All personally and carefully accomplished by touch, and persistence. No machines wanted here. No video games of distraction, no distance or mass production methods of any kind. In the same mind set as the master potter, the bow is improved and the arrow designed to extend the same principles (Ezekiel 36:8-12).

So in this analogy, it is possible for a less-

than-perfect bow to learn and send a more perfected arrow surely to its mark. How far the arrow will travel with surety and penetrating force before gravity (or, cares) pull it to the ground short of the mark, depends on the effort put into the draw by the archer.

Proverbs 23:26 challenges youth to “give me your heart, observe my ways.” We as the “old ones” need to be ready to give them good reason to give us their minds and emotions for training. Malachi 4:6 asks fathers turn to their hearts to the children and surely the heart of the children will turn to the fathers. Especially to the grandparents. They’re great folks and have so much to offer! -UNC

—Glen White has seven grandchildren.

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## Lessons Learned from King David’s Family

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

There is a poignant bracketed thought. His father had not rebuked him at anytime saying, “Why have you done so”(1 Kings 1:6). Proverbial wisdom leaps to mind again with, “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him” (22:15). And, “Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell” (23:13-14).

It leaves us with sobering thoughts about the importance of early childhood training. “The rod and rebuke give

wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother”(Proverbs 29:15), and “Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul” (verse 17).

David didn’t seem to get much rest from his children during his lifetime, as with many today. Despite our best efforts, increased child and family knowledge, we may also be thwarted by culture, passion and “the stripes of men.”

In the world to come, David will find rest and delight in all his children. And we too, like him, will share in that marvelous parental delight. -UNC

# Office Staff Attend Law Seminar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

“The very broad definition of ‘terrorism’... includes a ‘listed entity’... which might have some connection to a church or charity.”

“achieving desired results, and achieving them in the right way.” Ruth Ross, who is Executive Director of the Christian Legal Fellowship, spoke about the Biblical Peacemaking Initiative of CLF, which has a presence in most law schools across Canada. Mervyn White is Chair of the Privacy Committees of Charity and Non-Profit Law Sections for both the Canadian Bar Association and the Ontario Bar Association, and he spoke on Sexual Abuse and other Essential Policy Statements for churches and charities, and warned us of liability under Negligence Law. He was joined on the platform by Daniel Zorzi, a Catholic priest and President of St. Michael’s College School, and a Doctor of Canon Law. He made it clear that policy statements should be in place regarding any form of sexual misconduct, or other forms of abuse. The question arises: What is your source of law? Clergy are generally regulated by Canon Law (1983) but we must all, as Canadian citizens or residents, recognize both Church and State.

Perhaps the youngest presenter was Mark Wong, called to the Ontario Bar in 2002, but already having extensive experience as a Provincial Prosecutor, and as Leader of Community and Legal Aid Services whilst at Osgoode Hall. He specializes in – and spoke about – Trade Mark and Copyright Law, and the need to protect these as invaluable assets to most corporations and organizations.

Terrance Carter himself gave a thought-provoking address about “The Chill Effect of Anti-terrorism Laws on Churches and Religious Charities” and what to do in response. Bill C-36 is an extremely complicated piece of legislation which incorporates provisions of several other Acts. Even so, it is required that churches and charities try to comply with the law. Special areas to be aware of include money laundering and “acts of terrorism” committed in whole or in part for political,

religious, or ideological purposes. This might include attendance at rallies or demonstrations, and certainly covers damage, injury, or disruption of essential services. It includes being an accessory after the fact, which includes confessionals, etc.

The very broad definition of “terrorism” under Bill C-36 includes a “listed entity” (individual or organization) which might have some connection to a church or charity. Is it likely that a church or charity would be associated with such an “entity?” No. Is it possible? Yes! Mr. Carter went on to show how charities might, in all innocence, be involved in terrorist activity, especially in foreign missions and aid societies. But even here at home, it could be as simple as providing sleeping facilities in the church basement for student protesters! Or giving funds to a hospital that provides medical care to members of an anti-globalization protest who might have set up a road-block that embarrasses the government or local authority. Guilt by association. Such is the world we live in.

Even if a charity is not charged under the Act, it may still lose its charitable status in view of possible violation of the criminal code! The wording is quite vague and all-embracing: “reasonable grounds to believe that (a charity) has made, makes, or will make available any resources, directly or indirectly, to a Listed Entity.” And listed entities are known only to government agents! All officers of churches, charities, and not-for-profit organizations must therefore “exercise due diligence” in avoiding any appearance of association with a listed entity. For instance, all Islamic charities automatically come under scrutiny, as do any which operate in (or provide funds to groups in) the Middle East, Pakistan, Korea, and elsewhere.

—continued on page 25

# Satan's War Against the Family

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Hollywood increasingly portrays sex outside marriage as something perfectly natural and ordinary. According to the Center on Media and Public Affairs, from the mid-1950s to 1970, 38 per cent of TV depictions of extramarital sex made it seem morally wrong. Since 1970, the number is seven per cent. Sixty-three per cent of the time, adultery is not disapproved of. Experts say such numbers are helping to destroy traditional notions about the integrity of the family.

And yet when people are asked for their opinions, they can't make up their minds where they stand. For instance: nine in 10 Americans say adultery is unacceptable but half would make an effort to stay in the marriage if their partner cheated.

Seventy-two per cent say divorce is a

major threat to family values; however, only nine per cent say divorce should be unacceptable (Public Agenda ONLINE 1998, Peoples' chief concerns regarding family). However, Christ Himself said there are circumstances where divorce is acceptable (Matthew 19:9).

What a wonderful blessing to understand that this present evil world, swayed by Satan, will come to an end and the kingdoms of this world will be taken over by Jesus Christ. His coming glorious millennial reign isn't going to be about state-sponsored baby hatcheries, a dumbing down of our youth, or overworking of poverty-stricken parents, or minds of children burned by Satanic music, but a restoration of true education, Godly values and respect for the family. God speed the day! -UNC

"Hollywood increasingly portrays sex outside marriage as something perfectly natural..."

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## Office Staff Attend Law Seminar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

It all smacks of the worst years of McCarthyism, but the public wants to know what the government is doing to protect them in these frightening times. The government must "do something," and so far as the law is concerned, it is doing plenty!

The bottom line is that (big) business may take a chance, but charitable organizations cannot. It therefore behooves us to have an anti-terrorism policy statement, and to have it registered with and/or by legal counsel. Would you believe it? This isn't merely work for lawyers, but more stress for all concerned – including lawyers. Who was it who said, "Stop the world, I want to get off!" It is not a likely solution to any of our problems,

although we may agree with the sentiment. Thankfully, the fact is that this world will be stopped, and none too soon.

Meanwhile, we must all exercise "due diligence" in going about our business day to day. -UNC



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# Less Than Nine Months to Go!

BY ANTHONY WASILKOFF • OPERATIONS MANAGER

**A**lthough last year's Feast is still fresh in our minds, next October is not too far away. True, our Holy Days don't commence again until April, but saving funds for Tabernacle expense is an immediate need. It is understood that if you are blessed with adequate funds then such urgency right now might not be of concern for you. But for those with limited funds for the Feast, time is now of the essence. If you don't take action now, you may not have enough months to put together sufficient festival funds. Being able to go to the Feast brings both physical and spiritual benefits and emotionally enriching rewards.

## What is gained?

Being part of a larger group of Church members for eight days is a significant gain – especially when we regularly attend small congregations. A Feast provides the benefit of special music presentations, social activities, more people to fellowship with, new friends to meet, and a variety of spiritual messages.

## Who provides for you to go to the Feast?

The Church has explained Deuteronomy 14:23 as referring to Festival monies for keeping Tabernacles. We strive to put aside a tithe for the Feast in order to go to the "place where He chooses to make His name abide." In our age, this means the Festival site selection process as under God's blessing and approval. Where He places His name is where all of us are together in one place at a Feast. We go to learn to "fear the Lord our God." This is also accomplished at home, but not with the same unique group environment or spiritual impact. Some are unable to go for various legitimate reasons. Those who are able to do so, must do so, in response to the Feast being a commanded assembly in a location chosen by the Church.

Deuteronomy 14:22-26 explains that our observance of the Feast is "when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress." For our modern day this means the available festival funds we have from our job or business. It tells us that the primary responsibility for our going to the Feast lies in our hands, "when you have gathered from your threshing floor or from your winepress." It's our personal responsibility to save the funds, or work to gain them, so we can attend each Feast.

## What if your Festival funds are not enough?

The following true story is typical of many. An elderly member on a restricted pensioner income was determined to always be at the Feast. To do this he worked at odd jobs specifically for Feast funds. Several years ago he was forced to ask for Church assistance for the first time ever. He was embarrassed at having to do so. The reason? Prolonged inclement weather had precluded his odd job work and with the Feast near he was unable to earn what he needed for the Feast. His request was for a one-time modest sum. He knew his shortage of funds shouldn't prevent him from trying to get to the Feast if the Church was able to help supplement what he already had. Normally, he faithfully did all he could as an aged pensioner to provide for himself. He set a good example.

## Personal fundraising for Festival needs

If you need funds, then doing some odd jobs can help. It also improves an assistance application made to the Church by showing you have exercised personal effort and initiative to augment your own personal contribution. We appreciate the Church has limited assistance monies.

—continued on page 27

"Being able to go to the Feast brings both physical and spiritual benefits..."

# Less than Nine Months to Go!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

New people attending often have a first-time Festival need so there is not always the same amount to go around as the year before. The disbursement of funds from God's Church seeks to help "prime the pump" of what you have put together from your own resources.

It is also interesting to consider Deuteronomy 14:24, "if the journey for you is too long" or "if the place where the Lord your God chooses to put His name is too far from you." Rather than herding animals or carrying grain offerings long distances, such could instead be turned into cash for the journey. It indicates they still went even if they travelled a far distance. Today most of our sites involve one or two days' journey. Most have to travel with an overnight stop. Personal fund raising could help ease this for you as well as making such stops more enjoyable. If we start soon to save – or fundraise, or do odd jobs – we will be well on the way to providing for being at Festival 2003. Apart from the usual accommodation and travel costs, such initiatives will help towards offerings, activity costs, and gifts for family and friends.

So, start working soon on a plan to have enough Festival funds for Feast 2003! If you delay too long you'll be left with only seven or six or five months to do it. Putting some plan into action will reap for you the wonderful blessing of being at the Feast. -UNC

## Unleavened Cookbook Update

The *Unleavened Bread Cookbook*, produced by the women of the UCG-Calgary congregation features recipes for breads, pastries and suggestions for the Night to be Much Observed.

Cookbooks will be delivered in March. Watch for ordering information.



# Words to Live By

COMPILED BY ERNIE MCBRATNEY

A home is the most popular and most enduring of all earthly establishments.

Cherish your children for what they are ... not for what you'd like them to be.

Grandchildren are God's way of compensating us for growing old.

Grandma's cookies didn't need preservatives – they never lasted that long.

How things change ... when asked why I picked my wife, my answer was, "I love her." Today they answer, "She gives me space."

If you want your children's feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.

It is easier for a father to have children than for children to have a father.

The family that rakes together aches together.

There are only two lasting things we give our children – one is roots, the other is wings.

Traditions help families function and grow closer.

When alone, we have our thoughts to watch; when in family, our tempers; when in society, our tongues.

You can't do much about your ancestors, but you can influence your descendants enormously. -UNC

## Correction



The Kelowna Feast article in the previous issue of *United News Canada* contained three incorrect names:

The little girl on the cover is Savannah Jongerius (not Kayla). Roc Corbett was incorrectly identified as Roc Corbert on page 9. Lenard Hine was also incorrectly identified as Lennard Kline on page 10.

The article on Rebekah Martin was written by Joseph Dumond, not Joseph Drumond.

*United News Canada* apologizes for these errors. -UNC

# World News Watch *"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." (Matt. 24:42)*

COMPILED BY DAVID PALMER • VANCOUVER

## Canada Squanders Water

Canada is the second-richest country in the world in terms of water, but is squandering its wealth through wasteful and inefficient uses of an increasingly scarce resource, a report from the World Water Council says.

Canada could also find itself in a position of seeing its water wealth drained – literally – by the worst water abuser in the world, the U.S., warned one of the council's senior officers.

Canada ranked less than one-third of a percentage point behind Finland in the newly-developed Water Poverty Index – the council's global assessment of water wealth.

While Canada must make better use of its water resources, the situation here is not nearly as bad as it is in the U.S., which scored 2.8 out of 20, lowest of all of the 147 countries evaluated.

World Water Council vice-president William Cosgrove, a Montrealer, said Canadians have reason to fear that the cavalier approach to water conservation in the U.S. will result in its trying to draw increasingly from Canada's water resources.

"Canada's per capita consumption of water is around 425 litres per-person per day," said Mr. Cosgrove, noting Europeans use about 250 litres per day. (*Ottawa Citizen*)

## More Women Driving Drunk

The number of women who knowingly climb behind the wheel after having too much to drink is on the rise, up to 5.2 per

cent from 2.8 per cent over the past year, according to a recent national survey.

The Road Safety Monitor's Drinking and Driving Report also found that almost 70 per cent of the women who admitted to driving while under the influence have done so more than once – nearly double the figure from 2001.

In contrast, the number of men who said they drove when they thought they were impaired declined to 10.5 per cent from 12.2 per cent.

Doug Beirness, vice-president of the Traffic Injury Research Foundation, which produced the report, says initially the numbers on women drunk drivers were shocking, but further research proved them to be part of a growing trend.

He added that almost half of all drivers on the road today are women, the first time the ratio has been close to equal.

As well, a recent Health Canada study found that not only are more women drinking, but more women are drinking heavily.

"For the last 20 years, most counter-measure programs focused on men. Maybe now we have to develop special programs for women," Beirness suggested.

"In 1987, of all the persons who were charged with a drinking and driving offense in Canada, eight per cent of them were women. In 2001, it was 13 per cent," he added.

The Road Safety Monitor Report, sponsored by Transport

Canada and the Brewers Association of Canada, surveyed about 1,200 drivers by telephone on various aspects of road safety. (*Calgary Herald*)

## How Email Can Alert Thieves When You're Away

Thieves may be exploiting automatic "out of office" e-mail replies to rob people's homes while they are on vacation, a British industry group warns.

The Infrastructure Forum, which represents the technology departments of the United Kingdom's largest companies, is advising office workers to use the feature cautiously after learning of a possible scam during a meeting of its members.

Criminals can easily buy lists of e-mail addresses on the internet and send out mass mailings to gather automatic replies from employees. Many people even include the dates when they will be on the road. Burglars can then cross-reference the employee's name with free online directories or even telephone books to get a home address.

"People are, in a way, leaving the equivalent of a large sign on their front door saying, 'I'm away for the next two weeks, please call at your convenience,'" said David Roberts, the group's chief executive officer.

"People are using the internet for all sorts of scams and illegal activities," said Neil Boyd, a criminology professor at Burnaby's Simon Fraser University. He called the report "a prudent warning." (*National Post*) -UNC