



## Memories Are Made of This

Someone once related to me that many experiences in this life are like riding in an automobile and seeing a large, colorful billboard in the distance.

You are intrigued and look forward to getting close enough to be able to read it. As you know, some enterprising billboard operators simply put the message, "Made you look!" on the billboard to demonstrate that billboard messages actually work. In any case, we see the billboard in the distance and use it as a type of mile marker to cover the distance before us. Eventually the billboard comes into clearer view. Then we are able to absorb its layout, colour scheme, art work and can read the message it was designed to convey.

In a moment we've passed it and see the billboard receding in the rear view mirror. As we occasionally glimpse the back of the billboard, it recedes more and more until it finally disappears! So it is with many experiences in this life that we look forward to. They are over all too quickly – sometimes seemingly in an instant. The Feast of Tabernacles can often

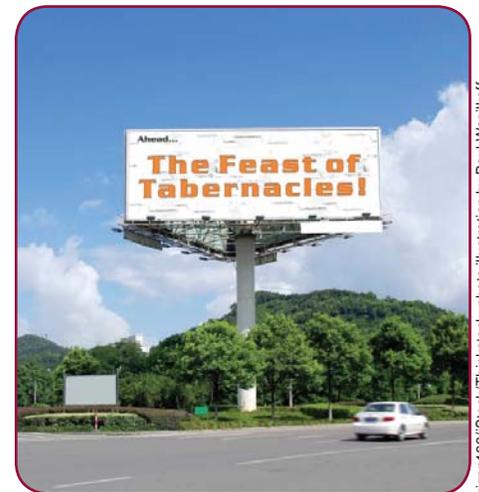
seem to be that way. We look forward to it for so long and finally it arrives. Yet, it transpires ever so quickly!

It is very easy to quickly forget what was learned at the Feast of Tabernacles whether you kept it at home, your nearest site or at a more distant locale. Psalms 88:12 asks the question: "Shall your wonders be known in the dark? And your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?" Although it can be said that some people seem to live in the past, others may find themselves living in the land of forgetfulness. James 1:25 instructs: "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does." With so much information coming our way in the "information age," it is easy to become a forgetful hearer!

1 Thessalonians 3:6 provides the following commendation: "But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you." The brethren in Thessalonica made it a point of having a "good remembrance" of the Apostle Paul and his companions. It is vitally important for us to similarly create good remembrances of people, experiences and lessons learned!

Along these lines, Jude verse 16 states, "But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ." It takes active effort to remember and active effort to not forget especially when it comes to spiritual matters and spiritual teaching!

Many congregations of the United Church of God make it a point of having a Feast Memories social soon after the Feast of Tabernacles. With so many travelling to different places, it is highly beneficial to have an occasion where we can compare notes, share experiences and provide a glimpse of what it was like to keep the Feast in a far-away place. An aspect of such a social may be to prepare a meal or dish that is representative of the Feast site that had been attended.



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This issue of *United News Canada* is our annual Feast Memories edition. The main purpose of this issue is to help us remember what happened this past year as we observed the Feast of Tabernacles at various Feast sites here in Canada so we can learn from one another's experiences.

Rehearsing and reviewing the precious memories of the 2014 Feast of Tabernacles will help to bridge us over to the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread coming up in April 2015.

*Anthony Wasilkoff*

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## Stanley Bridge, PE

A total of 84 brethren from Canada and the United States attended the Feast of Tabernacles in beautiful Stanley Bridge, Prince Edward Island. Many mentioned the beautiful millennial setting overlooking London Bay and the Stanley River. The weather was absolutely perfect making the sunsets spectacular. The scenic drives along the coast with historic lighthouses, beautiful beaches and the rolling green pastures were breathtaking. The entire island is a perfect setting for the Feast picturing the beauty that all can look forward to over the entire earth in the millennium.

An added attraction this year in Prince Edward Island was the 150th anniversary of the original meeting



Sarah Squibb

that led to the founding of our nation. The tourism department of PEI provided each member with a top hat and a personalized canvas bag tote with the caption, “Feast of Tabernacles 2014 United Church of

God - Stanley Bridge” on one side. The top hat and bag were distributed on entry to the Meet and Greet evening, providing many humorous photo opportunities.

There were 81 registered but 84 attended with 70 percent being from the states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida, Maryland, Washington and California. Canadian members came from the provinces of Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. Most stayed at the beautiful Stanley Bridge Country Resort. This added to the family atmosphere as members dined together throughout the eight days.

Once again we had a visit from our Anne of Green Gables who attended several of the Feast activities including our Meet and Greet where brethren became acquainted with each other in a social setting. Members had the opportunity to have their picture taken with the “Lady of the Island”. Family Day was very well attended by all ages. There was something for everyone including a scavenger hunt, volleyball, cribbage and craft painting for the children. Of course, there was also lots of delicious food.

The two off-site activities proved to be quite a success. Almost half

of the attendees took the Anne’s Landing bus tour, which included a brief visit to Green Gables. It then went along the coast to the Cavendish Dunes, beaches and lighthouses with a stop at the spectacular Dunes. Sixty percent of the



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attendees attended our Feast dinner at a popular eating establishment with fantastic entertainment provided by a local singer, who also played his guitar for the bonfire sing-along under a beautiful clear starlit sky.

The variety show was a fun-filled evening with over three-quarters of the members attending. Acts included musicals, skits and much more.

The spiritual food was also well received with messages about the coming reign of Christ and the importance of how we can rule with Christ now to reign with Him in the future. The Bible Study on

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Friday evening explored the topic, “What is the *all* that we will inherit?”

On Sunday, October 12, an open house was held (see report in this issue). It was an inspiring moment for all those who attended the Feast. Some of our visitors inquired about attending church in Charlottetown.

A well-organized special music program was outstanding under the direction of John Seifert with a mix of the festival choir, children’s

choir, a quartet and instrumental performances—all of which were very well received and added much to the services.

Several members commented on the wonderful family atmosphere that developed and was apparent at the Feast. We received outstanding service from the front-desk staff. Karen, Linda, Mary and Fred went above and beyond to accommodate our every need, adding to the warm atmosphere.

Almost 70 percent of those who

stayed over on the last day, attended the farewell dinner at Sutherland’s restaurant at the Stanley Bridge Country Resort. It was our opportunity to show our appreciation to the restaurant staff for the special menu created for our needs and the wonderful food enjoyed throughout our stay.

Everyone seemed to leave with a satisfied feeling. They had a wonderful Feast with some saying it was their best spiritual Feast ever.

*Dennis Horlick*

## Kelowna, BC

After a three-year absence, the Feast was once again held in Kelowna, located in the beautiful Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. The overall festival experience was enhanced by the opportunity to stay, fellowship and meet in the same facility – the Sandman Inn in the center of the city.

We had a coffee service each day and an area set aside as a “hospitality area.” This provided members the opportunity to fellowship before and after services. Old friends brought each other up-to-date on life events since their last Feast together. With visitors coming from across the United States and from as far away as Australia, many new friendships were made. It also provided the opportunity for spontaneous activities as we had access to the rooms 24 hours a day.

Many volunteers created positive additions with the children’s choir, adult choir, special music and children’s classes – all having first-time coordinators and, in many cases, new participants.

The opening night began with three videos set to the music of The Holy City, Rivers of Living

welcoming all attendees to the Feast.

While the activities planned did not include children playing in the streets, there were many grandparents celebrating with their grandchildren in a wide variety of events. It was a delight to see the young people participating in various aspects of services including: singing in the choir, leading songs and reading select scriptures between the video sets on the opening night.

We chose to forego a seniors’ luncheon and instead had a “Thanksgiving buffet” for everyone. The hotel catered the meal, which was very well attended. There were two Bible Studies. One given by Scott McKeon for the youth and young adults reviewed the fundamental doctrines found in Hebrews 6:1-2. Thomas



Alberthepi/Stock/Thinkstock

Waters, and the Hallelujah Chorus. This was followed by Vernon Hargrove who gave a message

Damour provided an adult Bible seminar entitled “Power of Reconciliation.”

Since we had two families with four generations in attendance, we held a special blessing of the children for their two infants one day during the Feast. This genuinely enhanced the Feast as many of the messages had a theme of family built into them.

The webcast from Panama City



Albert Hepl/Stock/Thinkstock

Beach came through well other than a brief interruption. Although David Palmer was unable to attend at the last minute, Vernon Hargrove

and Michael Erickson were able to cover his assignments.

As the Feast progressed and attendance rose to a high of 184, the fellowship became warmer, heartier and louder. It was apparent all were genuinely experiencing a taste of the future millennium. As the Feast drew to a close, many expressed a desire to extend it another seven days.

*Michael Erickson*

## Midland, ON

In spite of drizzle for several days, the Feast of Tabernacles in Midland, Ontario, was a wonderful and memorable experience.



Xinuang Han/Stock/Thinkstock

observe the Feast. The small town atmosphere added to the feeling of “getting away from it all.”

We began on opening night with 95 people in attendance – that was almost as many people as were registered! The full moon was beautifully visible that evening confirming that it was indeed the fifteenth of the seventh month of the sacred calendar. Additional chairs were set up to accommodate those who came on the first Holy Day and on the Sabbath. The high attendance was on the Sabbath with 127 people.

All the messages were well received and inspiring. The webcast on the Sabbath came through with only a few minor glitches. Having three elders from the United States (Jim Cowell, Keith Haab and Randy Stiver) speaking and helping with various duties was a big plus.

The activities began with a Meet & Greet occasion after the first day where people mingled and got to

know each other. This was followed by a hymn sing the following evening, giving 50 people a wonderful way to welcome in the Sabbath. Our pianist for the evening, Garry Lucas, was able to enthusiastically play most hymns in our hymnal by ear. This allowed people to request their favorite hymn to be sung.

On Sabbath morning, 70 seniors were treated to a delicious brunch, which included eggs benedict made with tasty turkey ham. After brunch our guest speaker, Mr. Jim Cowell, gave an address to the seniors entitled, “Seniors, Your Work Has Just Begun!”

Everyone was invited to the Family Day “picnic” at a local park on Sunday afternoon. On that occasion, the weather was perfect – sunny and warm – as 54 individuals enjoyed pizza and games. That evening Mr. Randy Stiver gave a well-received Bible Study entitled, “Tribe Trackers Guide to History.”

Fifty-four took advantage of a boat cruise on Georgian Bay. We

Beautiful fall colors and the setting of the lovely Georgian Bay provided a very scenic location to

were the last scheduled cruise on the *Georgian Queen*, as the captain



Paul Wasilkoff

is retiring. We enjoyed a delicious meal and ideal weather, during a very interesting and beautiful tour of the islands.

After services on Tuesday, a member who lost his sight as a young adult gave a presentation

on the remarkable value of guide dogs. A Variety Show was scheduled for that evening. It should be noted that at first there were only three entries registered for the show thus putting the occasion in jeopardy. After a passionate appeal from one of the organizers, the number of entries jumped to 18 which resulted in a full program complete with an intermission for the 86 people in attendance.

Our planned activities were rounded out with about half of the attendees taking part in a noon buffet on the Eighth Day. The majority of feast-goers stayed onsite and were able to take advantage of the atrium where they could play games or sit and talk while they overlooked the swim-

ming pool where the children liked to spend their time!

A spirit of cooperation was evidenced all week long with many individuals volunteering to serve in many ways, including singing in the choir. All of the special music was most inspiring and appreciated as were all of the sermonettes, split sermons and sermons.

It was especially encouraging to see a handful of people attending their very first Feast ever. It was also wonderful to have people transfer in from outside Ontario. They added to the rich diversity of the group. We also enjoyed having brethren attend with us from a nearby sister fellowship.

*Anthony Wasilkoff*

## Mont St. Hilaire, QC

Ours was a happy group in picturesque Mont St. Hilaire, Quebec. Although we were a small group with only nine brethren on opening night, we were so excited to be able to get together.

The transmission from Panama City Beach came in clear and it was wonderful to be able to see all the hustle and bustle. The live



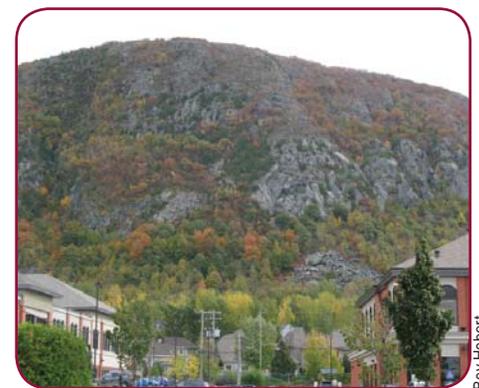
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messages were translated by Carole Trottier and Conrado Garcia. The majority of the 21 people who attended throughout the Feast are French-speaking so the translations were much appreciated.

Our highest attendance was on the Sabbath with 16 people. All stayed after services for an evening of pizza, musical entertainment, storytelling and dancing—all provided by us, the brethren. Our daily schedule was full of fun activities, allowing us to spend quality time together getting to know one another on a more personal level.

On the Last Great Day, 14 of us were in attendance for both

morning and afternoon services. We thank our technician Francois



Bev Hebert

Bernaquez for his computer skills and thank the speakers from Panama City Beach for their wonderful messages.

*Beverly Hebert*

## Canmore, AB

This is the fourth year that we have held the Feast of Tabernacles in scenic Canmore, Alberta. This year we used a different facility that had great sound, lighting and staging. Canmore was blessed with a wonderful, friendly group of brethren from all around the world who volunteered for youth classes, special music, children's choir, sermons and sermonettes to make this a feast of love, joy and giving.



Robert Dick

The high attendance was 162, which was 66 above the registration number. Four families came from as far away as Australia. Of course, they were delighted to see

a skiff of snow one morning. The weather overall was terrific.

Special music included three videos – The Holy City, Rivers of Living Water, and Hallelujah Chorus. Melinda Glombowski, one of our Australian visitors, sang two selections of special music and also led the children's choir. Kevin Bates, also from Australia, accompanied the hymns and played special music of his own composition.

The messages were solid meat in due season. Robert Dick gave a two-part series from the Sermon on the Mount entitled, Eight Steps to the Kingdom.

Walter Zamonsky of the North Battleford, Saskatchewan, congregation related that God's ministers emphasized joy in their sermons. He recorded a number of scriptures that were quoted, which emphasize joy.



Robert Dick

Peter Bacon commented on the lovely meeting hall, the top-class messages, the tremendous loving fellowship and the magnificent location, saying "It doesn't get better!" According to the Turners from Texas, "Each morning at sunrise and each evening at sunset, the mountains seem to catch on fire as the sun passes over them." Canmore is truly one of the most beautiful places in North America and a tribute to our Creator God in all His glory and magnificence."

*Rainer Salomaa*

## National Council Meeting Update

The third-quarter meeting of the National Council took place by WebEx immediately following the annual meeting of the National Conference on September 14. After the chairman, Rainer Salomaa, called the meeting to order, Lloyd Teetaert gave the opening prayer.

As is the normal custom, the first order of business was to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting. Both regular minutes and minutes from two Executive Sessions in June were approved. Next the 2015/2016 Strategic Plan was approved to be

presented to the National Conference for their ratification in March.

A new requirement by the Canadian government is that the National Council must approve the T3010 annual return before it is submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency. The T3010 outlines what money a charity receives and how it is spent. The attached T1235 form contains information about the Board of Directors of a charity (our National Council). Both forms were thoroughly reviewed and some edits were made to the T1235 form. The

edited version was subsequently submitted and approved.

The next National Council meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 15. Once again, the meeting will utilize WebEx.

It was determined that the June 2015 meeting would be followed by a Ministerial Conference. Victor Kubik will be invited to attend. The Council will finalize the date during the December meeting.

## National Conference Meeting Update

The Canadian government requires every charity to have an annual meeting. For the United Church of God-Canada, this year's meeting of the National Conference occurred on September 14. While the National Council has been conducting meetings by WebEx for some time, this was the first time for the Conference to do so. Eighteen out of 20 members were online. All 20 participated in the mail-in balloting, which was completed prior to the meeting.

The meeting officially began with Larry DeLong giving the opening prayer. The first item on the agenda was an address by the Director of Operations. Anthony Wasilkoff began by giving statistics showing what the work is doing in Canada. He then shared a few letters received by the National Office that showed how important the information we are giving people is. One individual asked for prayers so that he might learn the truth more fully.

The address continued with the question, "Would it make a difference if we earnestly asked God to bless each *Beyond Today* program, for people to be called in each province and if we prayed for increased income?" Overall, our trends are positive and encouraging.

On behalf of the Media Team, David Palmer related that the president of CBC television recently said the Internet is having very little impact on television viewing. TV advertising makes

people aware of a product. Then the Internet gives more information. That is what happens with the *Beyond Today* television program.

Over the summer, Paul Wasilkoff re-worked our websites to make them all have a similar feel or similar "branding." He also worked to make it possible to view the websites more easily on mobile devices.

The Ministerial Services Team report stated that we now have 22 congregations and two outlying Bible Study groups in Canada. In July, the average Sabbath Service attendance was 541. There will be an all-Canada Ministerial Conference in June 2015 and Victor Kubik will be invited to attend.

We do have challenges. Some of those challenges are: people migrating from one church to another; aberrant doctrinal views (i.e. sacred names, alternate calendar, how many offerings per year, etc.); and an aging ministry.

Edwin van Pelt presented the Treasurer's Address. He noted that anyone can go to the Canada Revenue Agency website and access any charity's return. He stated that over the past few months, attendance has increased and more people have filled in membership forms. Eighty percent of our income comes from members so this is an encouraging trend. Postage rates went up this past year, but we were still able to distribute 95,000 items during the year.

The annual audit was conducted during the summer. Members of the National Conference had received a copy of the report in the Call and Notice packet. Mr. van Pelt read the letter from the Auditor.

The next item on the agenda was the Address by the Chairman. Rainer Salomaa's topic was "Trees." He quoted Psalm 1:3 and Isaiah 61:3, which compare the righteous to trees. Trees are subject to damage just as the church has occasional difficulties that cause it damage. Mr. Salomaa quoted UCG-Canada Bylaw 4.1 which shows that we have a work to do – to preach the gospel and care for the disciples. To do this we walk by faith. He concluded by complimenting the team effort we have in Canada.

The next portion of the meeting was formal business. The National Conference by resolution approved having the next annual meeting by WebEx on September 13, 2015. The Secretary then announced the ballot results. The 2014 National Conference Minutes and Auditor's Report were approved. The firm of Marsh Goulding was approved for the next audit. By resolution, Larry DeLong, John Erickson and Patrick Read were appointed to the National Council to serve three-year terms which would begin immediately after the Annual Meeting concluded.

The meeting ended with a closing prayer by Daniel Berendt.



Francois Berneque

Mont St. Hilaire: at the Last Great Day Service



Karen Erickson

Kelowna: Listening to one of the messages



Midland: the Choir on the s



Bev Hebert

Mont St. Hilaire: Pizza Night Social



Karen Erickson

Kelowna: Sharing a meal



Midland: Learning about Guide



Francois Roy

Mont St. Hilaire: Trip to Électrium



Karen Erickson

Kelowna: the Children's Choir serving



Midland: Getting ready for t



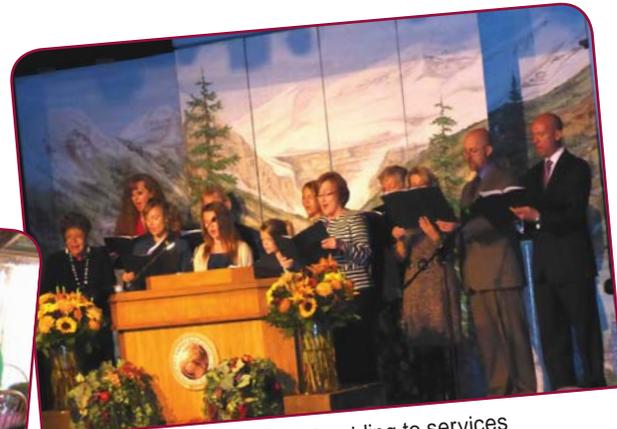
Amy van Zant

Second day of the Feast



Sarah Squibb

Stanley Bridge: Meeting with a local dignitary



Rainer Salomaa

Canmore: the Festival Choir adding to services



Amy van Zant

Dog etiquette



Dennis Horlick

Stanley Bridge: The Children's Choir



Rainer Salomaa

Canmore: Enjoying a meal together



Amy van Zant

the boat cruise



William Wilson

Stanley Bridge: At the Meet and Greet



Rainer Salomaa

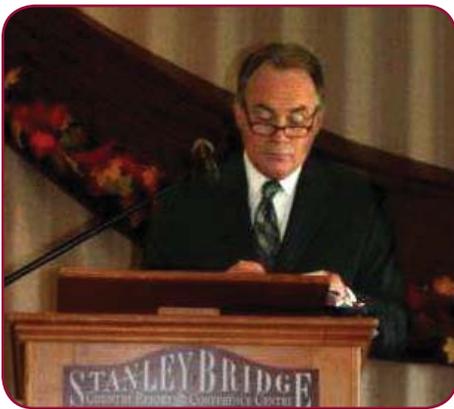
Canmore: Enjoying a Rocky Mountain flurry

# UCG-Canada Sponsors Open House Events

Earlier in the year, the National Office decided to conduct a test by sending invitations to subscribers to attend an Open House in select congregations. Darris McNeely was asked to be the presenter for these occasions. The hope was that a *Beyond Today* presenter would add name-recognition to the occasion. Since Darris and Debbie McNeely were planning to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in Prince Edward Island, an Open House was planned on the Sunday during the Feast, even though we do not have a congregation in that province. Below is a report on the response received in each of the areas.

## Prince Edward Island

A total of 87 letters were sent to subscribers inviting them to an Open House during the Feast. The location was the resort where the Feast was being held. To attract the public, letters to *Good News* subscribers in PEI were mailed and newspaper ads were placed in the local paper on September 27 and October 4.



Sarah Squibb

Mr. McNeely's topic was "Seven Prophetic Signs before the Return of Jesus Christ . . . A Deeper Look."

The result of the Open House was quite amazing as ten guests made their way to the Stanley Bridge Country Resort to hear about the return of our Saviour and coming King. Mr. McNeely had the opportunity to speak with most of those in attendance. Brethren attending the Feast were very warm as they mingled with our visitors.

## Hamilton

The McNeelys drove through rainy weather from Cincinnati to Toronto on Friday afternoon for the two Open Houses planned for Sabbath of November 1. On Friday evening, they enjoyed a brief tour of the Canadian National Office, seeing it for the first time.

The Wasilkoffs and McNeelys left for Hamilton early on Sabbath morning to arrive well before the 10:00 a.m. start time. When they arrived, several local members were already busily setting up for the special occasion. Lovely table decorations were already on food tables to give a special welcome to the visitors of the day.

The attendance was 28 with two guests who had come to hear Mr. McNeely cover the topic "Seven Prophetic Signs." The presentation was made with the aid of PowerPoint technology making the message more compelling with visual effects.

The two new attendees stayed after the service to enjoy the delicious food and drink prepared for the occasion. Brethren welcomed the guests and invited them to return in

the near future. Everyone had an opportunity to meet and become better acquainted with the McNeelys. One individual took away a copy of every piece of literature available.

Invitation letters were sent to 991 subscribers in the Hamilton and Toronto areas giving them the option of attending an Open House in Hamilton in the morning or Toronto in the afternoon.

## Toronto

The McNeelys left Hamilton for Toronto at 12:30 arriving shortly before the 2:00 start time. Total attendance in Toronto was 96 with ten guests who had come to hear Mr. McNeely. Once again, visual effects of the PowerPoint presentation helped to drive home the point of the timely and compelling prophetic message. Most of the ten stayed after the service concluded, joining the brethren and partaking of the food and drink prepared for the occasion. The Toronto brethren welcomed the new people and invited them to return in the near future as circumstances would permit.

The McNeelys were able to stay for a good while after services



Darris McNeely

to meet with as many of the visitors and members as possible. The McNeelys and Dennis and Paula Horlick had to leave at about 5:30 to begin their travels to Ottawa for yet another Open House scheduled for the very next day.

## Ottawa

The scene was the Holiday Inn Express in Nepean near the nation's Capital. The date and time was Sunday, November 2, at 2:00 p.m. Subscriber letters had been sent to 700 people five weeks before the seminar with a follow-up reminder postcard sent one week before the event.

We were so grateful when 27 brethren came to support the event along with the 17 guests. They had come specifically for the opportunity to meet Mr. McNeely and hear his message, "Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow." Darris and Debbie were able to meet most of the visitors and members who warmly greeted them and appreciated their visit. As they shared coffee and conversation at the close of the seminar, our members interacted warmly with the visitors.

A literature display along with request forms was offered. The interest was great and it was rewarding to see a hunger for the truth exhibited by those in attendance. When clean-up time came, there was not one piece of literature remaining. It is our desire to have three follow-up Bible Studies at the same location in the months ahead.

## Windsor

The Windsor congregation had its modest beginnings in October 2013. A little over a year later, it has remained a small, warm and growing church area with members that have been extremely welcoming to all visitors who attend.

On November 8, 2014, the congregation hosted an Open House. Mr. McNeely delivered a Power-Point presentation entitled "Seven Prophetic Signs of Christ's Return – A Deeper Look" to 28 people.

Invitation letters were sent to 372 subscribers of *The Good News* magazine in the area. Of course, most of them are also viewers of the *Beyond Today* television program. As a re-



Patrick Read

sult of this letter, seven guests visited the Windsor congregation that day.

Mr. McNeely's presentation sparked many good comments and fellowship with everyone. It was encouraging to see all of the visitors stay and meet the McNeelys and engage in many conversations, which resulted in the vast majority staying right up to the time the hall had to be vacated.

One of our members commented that she "greatly enjoyed watching all our brethren interacting with the guests. It is very important that we work together, involving ourselves in the Work that God has called us to."

It is our hope and prayer that our visitors will be encouraged to attend Sabbath services again in the near future with a desire to learn more about what God has in store for His Church prior to Christ's return.

## Conclusion

Letters of invitation were sent to subscribers in each area. For Prince Edward Island, there was also an ad placed in the local paper. For Ottawa, follow-up postcards reminding subscribers of the event were sent out shortly before the Open House.

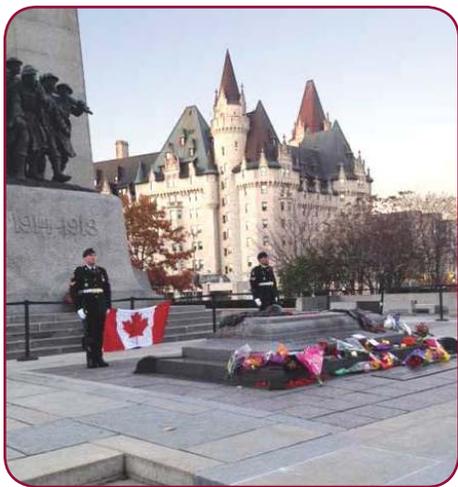
It seems to be helpful to have a speaker with name-recognition. Both Ottawa and PEI held the Open House on Sunday and both had a higher percentage of subscribers attend.

A total of 46 invited guests attended one of the five occasions. As far as could be ascertained, two of these had attended a previous event. Only time will tell how many might actually begin attending church. We know from experience that we cannot "grow" the church. We can only try different approaches that may appeal to those whom God is calling to help them to respond to God's calling.



## Reflections

In the late afternoon of Sunday, November 2, just as the sun was setting, we had the opportunity to visit the Parliament grounds and the War Memorial in Ottawa. Our visit took place only 11 days after the events that changed our country's sense of security forever.



Dennis Horlick

A lone gunman shot and fatally wounded a member of the Canadian Forces who was on duty guarding the National War Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The gunman then proceeded by means of a stolen government vehicle to Parliament's Centre Block across the street, where he was later shot and killed by the Sergeant at Arms.

We had just attended a prophecy seminar with Darris and Debbie McNeely in Nepean about 20 minutes from downtown Ottawa. As we approached the War Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, we could see several members of the public paying their respects by placing flowers next to the tomb. Others were taking pictures of the guards on duty. There was a heightened security presence

with two heavily armed policemen who spoke with the many tourists and visitors there.

It was surreal to think about the cowardly act that had taken place on the very spot where we stood. What was also so unreal was how close the gunman was to the Parliament buildings—the House of Commons and the Senate. It is unthinkable that he was able to enter the building where hundreds of parliamentarians, including the Prime Minister, were gathered for their Wednesday caucus meetings.

As we left the War Memorial, we walked toward the Parliament buildings passing the Centennial Flame which was lit on January 1, 1967, to celebrate Canada's 100th birthday. The Flame is fueled by natural gas and surrounded by a fountain whose ledge contains the shields of Canada's provinces and territories.



Dennis Horlick

After leaving the Centennial Flame, we walked the stairs leading up to the Peace Tower and Centre Block. My heart was beating faster as we walked up to the very doors where the gunman had entered. It was a numbing experience to look through the doors just closed for the daily public tours. As we peeked through those doors, security



Dennis Horlick

guards were mingling about, likely still awestruck by the sobering event of only a few days previous.

This was an event that has left Canadians asking the question, "How could this happen here in our country—one of the most peaceful nations on earth?" The tragic shootings have left Canadians with a feeling of violation. The world came to our shores that fateful day and with it took away our sense of innocence.

After the seminar's message, which talked about prophetic signs before Christ's return, and visiting the site of the recent events on Parliament Hill, we left more determined than ever to pray, "Thy Kingdom Come!"

*Dennis Horlick*

## Saving Our Festival Tithe

What an incredible experience to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles with eight days of feasting physically and spiritually! It was a time to be refreshed, to have our vision of a thousand years of peace strengthened and to be reminded that God's plan will encompass ALL humans who have ever lived.

What a blessing it is to experience these things. As we look forward to a better world, we truly desire a heaven-sent country, a better city prepared for us (Hebrews 11:16). We can reflect, "Now it shall come to pass, *if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments* which I command you today, that *the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God*" (Deuteronomy 28:1-2 emphasis added throughout).

Although written many centuries ago to a physical nation that God set apart for His purpose, these words are also written for us today (Romans 15:4). Who does not wish to be blessed? I believe everyone would wish to be blessed, especially by our Creator.

After working 18 years in the financial industry, I have seen the full spectrum of financial woes and financial successes. I have witnessed those caught in the trap of "buy now, pay later." I have seen the fear and emotional stress experienced when people are caught in that cycle and can no longer afford even necessities. This is not what our Creator intended and certainly not what He desires us to experience as we celebrate His feasts.

By some counts there are over 2,000 verses in the Bible that deal with money, finances and financial planning. Why? God knows that, "... where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21 NIV). Also "He who is faithful in a little will be faithful in a lot" (Luke 16:10-11). God desires that we faithfully use His word to guide us and to plan ahead.

I am inspired by the Feast messages and look forward to the time prophesied in Micah (Micah 4:1-5). What an inspiring prophecy showing that each individual shall sit under his vine and his fig tree! This implies ownership and no longer being afraid of "how can I afford this?" Our loving Creator wants us to experience this in part now as we celebrate His feasts in His way. He has given us His feasts and His financial principle to be able to experience it in the manner He intends. What a blessing!

God is the source of all true blessings - including our financial blessings. Philippians 4:19 says, "and my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Jesus Christ." Proverbs 8:20-21 adds, "I traverse (lead) the way of righteousness, in the paths of justice, that I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, That I may fill their treasuries." Our celebration of God's festivals will be greatly enhanced by fully understanding all aspects of His instructions.

Some have not truly enjoyed God's feasts because they have not faithfully saved their festival tithe. Others have "borrowed" from their festival tithe and then discovered they could not repay. We must remember the principle that you cannot serve

two masters (Matthew 6:24). Festival tithe is for our use, but it is for use at the feasts.

Although these principles are part of God's greater financial and spiritual instructions to us, they can certainly benefit us as we save our festival funds. Set up a special account for your festival tithe, save those funds regularly and don't borrow from them (Proverbs 13:11). Keep records and budget to ensure you are able to properly save what God instructs (Proverbs 24:3-4; Proverbs 27:23-27, and Philippians 4:11-12) and be content with what you have. These scriptures will help us, as will reviewing our Creator's instructions to be once again reminded of WHY we save these funds.

Notice in Deuteronomy 14:22-23, "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. And you shall eat before the Lord your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always."

This tithe is meant for our use as we observe God's festivals and is not to be misused. Why? "That you may learn to fear the Lord your God always" - so that we might learn to properly stand in awe of, revere, respect and worship our Creator God at His festivals and all year long! Now that is a true blessing! A blessing that shall come upon you because you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God."

# News From Across Canada

## Simons Memorial Walk

Around 30 members of staff and residents at the Tri-Lake Health Centre in Killarney, Manitoba, gathered together on the morning of Friday, August 1, to take a walk in memory of the late Dr. Ian Simons, who sadly passed away in February. The group proceeded around ten blocks – through Hossack, Fletcher and Broadway, and back – all in honour of the doctor who served for many years at the hospital, even when terminal illness was fast upon him.



KateLyn Kuharski

The banner they held featured both the Canadian flag and the South African flag of his birth. The Afrikaans phrase on the banner “Eendrag Maak Mag” translates into English as “Unity Creates Power.”

*Wendy Johnston & Carol Syvret*

## Post-Feast Social

The second Sabbath after the Feast of Tabernacles is always a special one with the Blessing of Children ceremony. This year seven little ones took part in this ceremony in Toronto.

Following services, the congregation enjoyed its annual “Feast Memories” social. The brethren had visited a variety of sites in



Mark Yap

Canada, the United States, Mexico, the Caribbean, the United Kingdom, Europe, and Asia. They were eager to share the enthusiasm and excitement they had captured while celebrating God’s holy days around the world.

The evening began with a potluck dinner that featured a recreation of memorable meals that were enjoyed at the Feast. As usual, there was plenty to eat with a wide variety of international flavours to delight the taste buds.

After the main course and prior to dessert, the sharing portion of the evening began. Individuals were encouraged to approach the microphone and relate memories of inspirational Feast messages, new friends they had met, or how they had enjoyed their heart’s desire. This was a wonderful way for those who were unable to attend the Feast to share in the experiences of others.

Prizes were awarded to the winners of our photo contest, which

featured seven categories: funniest photo, best landscape and best selfie. Many brethren had brought back a variety of gifts from their respective Feast sites, which others had the opportunity to take home if their name was pulled in a draw.

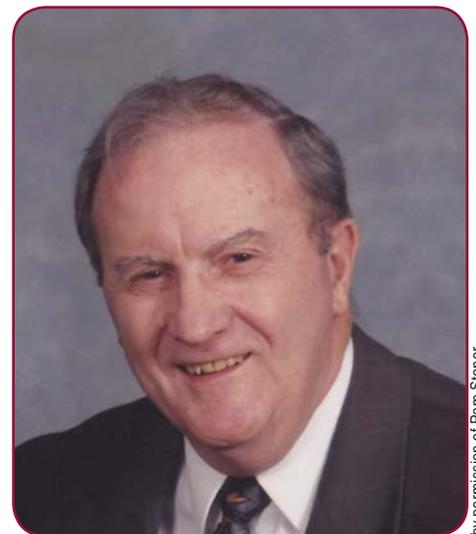
It was an evening full of enthusiasm that trickled into the following Sabbath, as others returned home from their post-Feast travels.

*Trish Romeo*

## Keith Stoner Obituary

Keith Gordon Stoner passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family at People Care Oakcrossing, in London, Ontario, on Saturday, September 27, 2014, in his 85th year.

Born in Sarnia, the son of the late Gordon and Ada (Marsh) Stoner, Keith was the beloved husband of Pamela (Moore) Stoner whom he married on June 2, 1956.



by permission of Pam Stoner

He was a loving father to Amy Ramsay and Rebecca Pyper and cherished “Poppa” of Jake and Emma Pyper. Keith is also survived by a sister, Rene Walker, and numerous nieces, nephews and their families. He was predeceased by a brother, Wayne Stoner, and a sister, Berna White.

Keith was a dedicated Bible student who served faithfully and tirelessly in the church for many years. As a lawyer, he was also able to assist with legal mat-

ters due to his legal background.

On October 26, a tribute in his honour was held in London. Tributes delivered from a couple of his fellow elders described Keith’s steadfast commitment to serve in spite of dealing with personal struggles in his own life. His daughter, Amy, gave a very touching tribute about “What my father taught me.”

As one tribute stated, “In time his name became synonymous

with knowledge, wisdom and reassurance.” For those who had the opportunity to know Keith, his shining example as a Christian leader will always be remembered.

As the words “Well done good and faithful servant” echo in our ears, we look forward to the time when we will spend eternity together and work side by side in the wonderful Kingdom of God.

*Patrick Read*

## Missing the Feast Without Missing the Feast

Sometimes the plans we make fail to materialize. Scripture actually warns us not to say we will do this today or maybe tomorrow, because we never know what tomorrow will bring (James 4:13-14). Jesus told us not to worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble (Matthew 6:34).

This year my wife, Ghyslaine, and I were making plans to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in Kelowna, British Columbia. All plans and arrangements had been taken care of. We had a young lady who has stayed at our home and looked after our pets many times and was willing to do the same this time.

Then, on the evening of October 2, my wife suffered a serious accident. While out walking she tripped over a small rock and fell hard against the cement curb. Another lady who was also out for an evening walk helped Ghyslaine get home. It was obvious

that she had badly damaged her left shoulder. We called 911 and ambulance paramedics transferred her to a local hospital in Mission, but doctors there were unable to correct the injury. She was transferred to a hospital in Abbotsford where she spent six days, and had surgery performed on her shoulder.

That same six-day period took us to the opening night of the Feast. I had been assigned to be the speaker for opening night. Unfortunately, we were not in Kelowna. Our plans to attend the Feast had suddenly gone awry.

We missed the opportunity and the camaraderie of being at the festival site physically, but with modern technology we were able to be part of the Feast even if it was just the two of us in our living room connected by webcast. We had the opportunity to hear Mr. Victor Kubik’s fine sermon from Panama City Beach, Florida, and we caught several services from

the Bend, Oregon, site. We even were able to download the UCG Hymnal app to our iPhones which allowed us to join the hymn singing.

Being able to connect to the entire service including hymns, sermonettes and announcements at least gave us the feeling that we were still able to observe God’s wonderful Feast of Tabernacles – even though we were absent from an actual festival site.

We both took a positive attitude toward the circumstance, recognizing that Solomon’s statement is certainly accurate; time and chance can indeed happen to any of us (Ecclesiastes 9-12).

Ghyslaine and I were just grateful that while we were on our own, we very much felt that we were part of God’s family observing the Feast of Tabernacles 2014.

*David Palmer*

## From Feast to Famine to Feast

Another Feast of Tabernacles has come and gone. For eight days we rehearsed the Kingdom of God and looked ahead to a totally different world from the one we live in today. Yet we are still in this world, a world under the influences of the devil.

There is a popular slogan in sports that could also be applied to society: “It’s not whether you win or lose, it’s how you play the game.” However, the world we live in today has a distorted version, “winning isn’t the most important thing – it’s the only thing.” We live in a very competitive world. But we are also reminded of Solomon’s statement in Ecclesiastes: “I returned and saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favor to men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all. People can never predict when hard times might come. Like fish in a net or birds in a snare, people are often caught by sudden tragedy” (Ecclesiastes 9:11-12 NLT).

Not only are we subjected to our own human nature, but we are also subjected to the wiles of the devil. “Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour” (1 Peter 5:8 NLT).

It’s easy to forget that the battle for our salvation is not with other people. We are in a battle with spiritual wickedness, the demonic angels of Satan. They are our adversaries. Just as Satan tempted

Christ, his henchman will tempt us. We are warned to be vigilant, to be prepared for whatever the devil can throw at us (Ephesians 6:13-17).

Along the way we may have some battle scars. Jesus warned that in this world things will get tough. “Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world” (John 6:33 NLT).

At baptism, we entered the marathon of life. Notice how the apostle Paul put it: “Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. You also must run in such a way that you will win. All athletes practice strict self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize” (1 Corinthians 9:24-25 NLT). As Paul said to Timothy, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that great day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his glorious return” (2 Timothy 4:7-8 NLT).

As another Feast of Tabernacles has passed into history, a question to ask is: Did we take home some of those precious nuggets of wisdom from the many messages delivered over the eight days, messages that are like jewels in our crown of righteousness? Will we use those God-inspired messages as battle armour back in a world

that is under the devil’s sway? “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...” (James 4:7-8 NKJ).

As we reflect on the Feast and all those messages we heard, we need to consider that while we are still in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh (2 Corinthians 10:3 NKJ). “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5 NKJ).

When the battle is over, when we have finally completed the marathon of life, when we have run the race and conquered the devil’s world, we will exchange our armour for a beautiful white robe. “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints” (Revelation 19:7-8).

As fall fades and a change in the seasons introduces winter, we can look back on the Feast of Tabernacles with inspired memories and focus on the warmth of spring bursting forth, as the renewal of God’s plan of Salvation begins anew with the Passover.

*David Palmer*