Alberta Conference Albert

A window of information for Seventh-day Adventists in Alberta

Church Development is Truly Natural

Bill Spangler

ow do you measure health? Is it the lack of sickness, or some way of measuring wellness? Is it that one is well when they never miss a day of work, or have never spent time in a hospital. Is one well when their body is ill or handicapped, but they

have a positive attitude and them to laugh and enjoy a of their physical pain or

Let's take this question does one measure church gation of 10-20 people enough warm bodies to go in the church, but of the few warmth and bonding that is life changing? On the other 600 people attending more warm bodies to go



a strong faith that allows high quality of life in spite frustrations?

in another direction. How health? Is a small congrehealthy when there are not around to do all the "jobs" that are there, they find a powerful, rewarding and hand is a church with 400-healthy when there are around than there are

"jobs", but many people come and go from church and feel lonely, unfulfilled and full of questions?

Is church health measurable at all, and if so, how do I measure mine?

If you have not heard the term Natural Church Development (NCD) in the last six to eight months, someone is asleep. Either you aren't in touch with, or we aren't accomplishing our goal. It is the desire of this conference that every church will study their church life and health through the survey method called Natural Church Development. Like the nurse or doctor saying "open wide" as they pop a thermometer under our tongues, NCD is capable of doing some amazing things if we are willing to put this church health thermometer under our church tongues and check the health of our individual congregations.

Thermometers only register whether or not we have a fever. From what that tells us, we go to the medicine cabinet or the pharmacy, or use one of mother's old "sure cure" methods to respond to what the thermometer has told us. NCD only registers the reality of some very important character qualities of church life, but does not fix them. It is just a beginning step. It is only by identifying weaknesses that will enable us to address them carefully enough to strengthen them.

From 1994 to 1996 a significant study was done in over 1000 church congregations in over 32 countries to determine the characteristics of healthy, developing churches. It did not simply measure quantity (numbers) as a sign of healthy churches, but also quality (depth) of church life. The study came to a significant conclusion that "growing and declining churches vary significantly in eight quality areas." Wouldn't it be nice to know what those eight quality characteristics are, and wouldn't it be nice to know how my church scores in those eight areas.

The list is simple. Finding out how your church scores is up to you. The eight quality characteristics of healthy churches are:

Continued on page 2



By the grace of God and with study and purpose, the ingredients of healthy church life can be nurtured to marvelous results

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Alberta Conference Directory

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- 1. Empowering leadership: Leadership that is mentoring and developing leaders in the congregation rather than leading by the authoritarianism of just a few.
- 2. Gift-oriented ministry: Accepting God's model of calling people into ministry according to the special gifts and abilities God has crafted into each one of us.
- **3. Passionate spirituality:** Christians in healthy churches have a deeply rooted faith, based on their picture of God and their love of Jesus Christ, and this is demonstrated in changed, committed lives that are far above token church membership.
- **4. Functional structures:** Is my church organized and structured for mission and purpose, or is it organized and structured for keeping old machinery operating?
- **5. Inspiring worship service:** Developing churches are committed to providing worship services that are inspiring (I didn't say loud or charismatic or wild) over worship services that are lock-step, rigid "order of service" programs.
- **6.** Wholistic small groups: The commitment to provide opportunities for members to be involved in a vast array of discipleship settings, and the members make it a priority to participate in these groups. These groups can be study groups, mission groups, support groups or ministry groups. Each member is involved in something more than just attending worship service.
- 7. Need-oriented evangelism: Making evangelism a response to individual needs, introducing them to Jesus Christ at the point of their need, rather than "cookiecutter" evangelism suggesting that everyone should be treated the same way.
- **8.** Loving relationships: Fabulous greeters at the door is just the beginning. It is also important to readily love and accept people for who they are and make sure they feel like they are a part of church life. This requires time, effort and awareness on everyone's part.

So, there's the list. How does your church score? If you do not know, contact your pastor or the conference office. The process of conducting the survey is quite simple really.

Then, by the grace of God and with study and purpose, the ingredients of healthy church life can be nurtured to marvelous results. Gardens grow when there is good soil, fertilizer, sunshine, water and, of course, seed. We do not sit or sleep out by our gardens to encourage them to grow. They just grow. Churches that pay attention to these eight items, will not have to worry about heathy growth. It will take care of itself. That's why it's called Natural Church Development.

Some have questioned why we would go outside of the church to search out material such as this and therefore question its validity or safety. NCD is a measuring tool, a thermometer under the tongue. How we fix what we discover there is to use principles rooted deeply in the Bible, Spirit of Prophecy writings, and sound counsel of church leaders. Finding what to fix is the "clinical" part. Fixing what we find is the most important part of it all, and the church has all the resources necessary for doing that.

Adventist FaxPlus Information Service

FaxPlus is a 24-hour information service providing reliable up-to-date information about the Adventist Church in North America.

Want to know how tithe funds are used? Need the latest disaster-response bulletin? Looking for a list of North American Resource Centers and Support Networks? or Adventist nursing home facilities? Call Fax Plus!

Dial 800-474-4SDA (4732) and follow the simple directions to enter your fax number. You'll receive a two-page FaxPlus document complete with reference sources. Adventist FaxPlus is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Pastors Attend Billy Graham School of Evangelism

Grant Misseghers

How to describe an event in which over eight hundred men and women from 62 Christian denominations from all over Canada, the US, and as far away as Korea, have gathered together eager to worship God and learn soul-winning techniques? Powerful, inspir-



Billy Graham School of Evangelism

ing, awesome, humbling. Twenty-four Pastors, lay-leaders, and administrators from the Alberta Conference were a part of the Billy Graham School of Evangelism, a four-day event at Lake Louise that involved inspiring worship, sermons, and workshops in evangelism and witnessing.

The techniques taught and discussed during the week were a bit of a paradigm shift for those involved. To most Seventh-day Adventists, the word "evangelism" conjures up images of public crusades spanning several weeks in which the doctrines and beliefs of the church are carefully and methodically expounded from Scripture. But it is not this way for most Christians. To the vast majority of the Christian world, evangelism is simply the process of leading a person to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior—usually in a one-on-one basis. This was the focus of the training event.

The Billy Graham School of Evangelism pays scholarships for pastors to attend up to two schools over the course of their life. For most of the participants, this meant that their room in the Chateau Lake Louise, travel expense, and their tuition fees were already provided for—leaving meals as the only expense.

Alberta Asian Adventist Association Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Lorna Samraj

Guests and members gathered at Foothills Camp for their annual retreat but also to mark a milestone. Three wonderful days of fellowship were spent amidst God's nature where new friendships were formed and old ones renewed. Here are a few highlights:

- Camp began on Thursday evening with 62 present. Attendance steadily grew and peaked at 216 on Sabbath. We were thrilled to have 34 non-Albertans present. We had visitors from three Canadian provinces, six US states and a few from as far away as India.
- Fylvia Fowler Kline, seminar presenter (Assistant Director, Stewardship Department, General Conference, Maryland).
 Her creative and original approach to the unattractive and often misconceived topic. Stewardship inspired the audience into a lively discussion on Friday morning.
- Annabelle Bell (Sylvan Lake, Alberta) during Sabbath School shared experiences of their mission work in Falakata, India. Annabelle was on furlough and returning shortly to join her husband, David.
- Dr. Madhuker Ohal, guest speaker (Counselor, Maryland) challenged the audience during the worship service where he presented a number of options for consideration as one anticipates and plans for the new millennium.
- Former missionaries to Southern Asia shared early and lasting impressions of their service. (They included: Allan Rand, Alberta; Dr. and Mrs. John Sipkins, Arizona; Pastor and Mrs. C. S. Cooper, British Columbia; Pastor and Mrs. A.W. Robinson, Oregon; and Ella Mae Stoneburner, Virginia.
- A panel of young medical professionals (former and current members of AAAA) related how they found relevance and satisfaction as Christians in their professions.
- Excursion to the Canadian Rockies. Thirty-six persons made the trip in a chartered luxury bus on Sunday to the famous Lake Louise and other hot spots in Banff National Park.

Do you struggle with anger? depression? Jealousy? loneliness? Do you sometimes feel like a child?

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Offering:

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- · SDA Christian counselling for individuals, couples & families

February, 2000 3

Baptisms at College Heights

Submitted by Maj-Britt Rusk, External Communications Secretary, College Heights Church

ith such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin!" E.G.White, — Education - p.271

With great rejoicing, in the College Heights church, as well as in heaven, 13 youth from elementary school to college level were

baptized between November 6 and December 4, 1999, a fitting climax to the end of a century!

Along with the baptisms, each one gave his or her testimony personally or it was read by Pastor Erroll Palipane or Pastor Sabin Vatel; his or her favorite bible text, read by Pastor Honey Todd; and his or her favorite chorus or hymn sung by the congregation, or by a soloist or group, making the occasion very personal and meaningful.

On November 6, *Co* five students from College Heights Christian School were baptized. Their personal testimonies will follow.

Antonia and Anthony Lawrence, twins in grade 7, born in Liberia, Africa 13 years ago, were baptised by their father, Pastor Errol Lawrence.

Antonia's testimony "The reason I decided to follow Christ came from the influence of my teachers, Miss Phare, Mr. Kiers, and Mr.

Nielsen for always having worship with us and for helping us to understand more about God; my parents, Pam and Errol Lawrence for raising my siblings and me up in a Christian background; my three older siblings for always, well, most of the time, telling me never to give up, and to God for His everlasting love, guidance and protection."

Anthony's testimony - "I would like to thank my friends, family, and most importantly God, because without Him this would

not be possible. I thank God for what He has done in my life."

Amanda (Mandy) Klinger - grade 6, Connor Dean - grade 7 and Peace Phiri - grade 7 were baptised by Pastor Ron Sydenham.

Mandy's testimony - "I really don't know how I chose to follow Christ. I was brought up in a Christian home and loved God since I could understand He died on the cross for me. This is the way I choose to show my love for Him. I can, though, thank my

For I'm part of the family, the family of God.

Baptism - November 6, 1999 - Baptismal candidates and their parents. At podium - Bert Picknell leads out in closing song "The Family of God"

L to R - Mandy Klinger and her mother Carmen Picknell; Dr, Errol and Pam Lawrence, parents of Anthony and Antonia Lawrence; Connor Dean; Tabitha Phiri & son Peace; Dalry and Robert Dean (Connor's parents).

NOTE: Peace's father, Pastor Phiri was still in Africa; however, he arrived in College Heights shortly before Christmas.



Baptism - November 27, 1999 - L to R - Crux Phiri, Jerusha Fiorito, Grace Karambi (CUC), Randy Gibson (CUC), Winsley Pearson (CUC), Steven Howe (Baptized Nov. 26), Pastor Ron Sydenham. Missing - Josiah Rambally (CUC), baptized Nov. 26

teachers and my parents for making the Bible interesting." (Beneath her testimony Mandy had drawn a cross and a flower.)

Connor's testimony
- "My mom and dad,
and grandma and
grandpa have influenced my whole life
with their faith in God.
There have been many
times when God has
spared our family from
serious harm and I
know that God is real.

When Pastor Erroll gave me Bible studies last year, it was then that I knew that I wanted to serve God. I want to

thank Pastor Erroll for the Bible studies, and especially thank God for showing me the way to happiness."

Peace's testimony - "My name is Peace. I am 12 years old. I was born to Adventist parents. My parents taught me about Christ since I was a baby. My mom took me with her on all her trips to conduct religious seminars and workshops. She involved me quite a lot and my love for Jesus

grew. I learned more about Jesus from Church and Bible studies. (He also added a cross against a background of the sun setting behind mountains.)

On November 26, at a vesper service, Steven Howe (PAA, grade 10), and Josiah Rambally (CUC) were baptized by Pastor ron Sydenham. They had been studying together in a Bible study group.

On November 27, Winsley Pearson (CUC), was baptized by Continued on page 5 Pastor Errol Lawrence; Grace Karambi (CUC), by her uncle, Pastor Phenias Bahimba; and Crux Phiri (PAA, grade 10), Jerusha Fiorito (CHCS - grade 9), and Randy Gibson (CUC), by Pastor Sydenham.

Crux's testimony - I was raised in an Adventist family. My mom and dad are both pastors so I am sure you all know what my life is like! Anyway, with ideas and strength from God, my parents, teachers and friends (some of them anyway) have helped me to grow spiritually.

When I was a little boy, my parents used to take me to evangelistic meetings. Pastors from everywhere would come and preach. Most of the times when they made a call, I was the first one to get up to the front. I think I gave myself to Jesus over 100 times! Now all that waiting patiently for the pastors to finish their usually very long calls (well, for a little kid) is now bearing fruit. I am getting baptized. And I wish that all my friends who are not baptized yet, would do the same thing I am doing today.

Jerusha's testimony - Growing up in an Adventist home, I've always known God to be the main man. He has led me through my whole life to this point now. Making the decision to be baptized was just another step towards my real Lord. I've always prayed to God to help me make right decisions in my life. This decision was one that really felt right. Teachers, family, friends and others have always put a spark in me wanting to do God's will. I would like to thank them all for that. I also cannot forget the pastors of this church who have preached many great sermons that have helped me to know God better and have a deeper passion to live for Him. I pray that God will continue to bless me as He has done in the past.

On December 4, concluding the baptismal services for 1999, Roshani Fiorito (PAA - grade 10), was baptized by Pastor Sydenham. Her testimony follows: "I am getting baptized because I love Jesus more than anything or anyone in the entire universe, and because I have accepted Him as my personal Saviour. I am very honoured to be a child of God, and I will follow Jesus wherever He leads me.

I would like to thank Pastor Erroll, Pastor Sydenham, as well as Mrs. Hernandez for their helpful answers to my countless questions about God and the Bible, and for their support which assisted me in making this important decision. I would also like to thank my family, my cousin, as well as ALL of my friends for their continuous Christian influence over my life."

With such heartwarming testimonies, we can be assured that the youth of today are preparing themselves for the finishing of Christ's work here on earth. May the Lord bless each young life yielded to Him, and may their testimony inspire us all to uphold them and help them in their endeavors for Him!

In the Right Place

Lynn Neumann McDowell

CUC Students Testify at Baptism

On November 27, 1999, three CUC students bore witness in baptism of their desire to follow Jesus and join the Adventist fellowship. On the prior evening, a fourth CUC student, **Josiah Rambally**, confirmed in rebaptism his desire to return to his first love of Jesus. "From the time I came here [to CUC], I knew I was going to be baptized," says Rambally, who was first baptized in St. Lucia at the age of ten. Like Rambally, the three new converts were also strongly influenced by the CUC environment. Unlike Rambally, however, none of them had Adventist backgrounds, yet all were strongly influenced by the Adventist spirituality they found at Canadian University College.

Grace Karambi, a Business Administration major and practising Catholic when she arrived at CUC from Kenya, was, she says, "motivated by the environment and impressed by the people."

Winsley Pearson, an Education major from a Pentecostal home, has an SDA grandmother. After coming to CUC from Oshawa, he was convicted that the SDA doctrines were right and that he should, for the first time in his life, be baptized.

"God is no limited time offer," Pearson wrote in his testimony, read by Chaplain Sabine Vatel at his baptism. "God is for you and for me, with no strings attached. God has sent many people to help me figure out what he's all about: he has sent my loving parents and my older sister, wonderful friends from CUC, and also Pastor Sabine [CUC's chaplain Sabine Vatel] and Pastor Lawrence [chair of the Religious Studies department]."

Randy Gibson, a General Studies student from Edmonton, gave his testimony from the baptistry. His is a story of a life changed through a caring friend, Kris Falk, who was also recently converted and is studying at CUC, and the spiritual environment he found on campus.

Falk, who helped Gibson attend CUC by giving him a \$1,000 scholarship that Falk had earned, stood by as his friend gave the following testimony:

"I am here only because of the grace of Jesus Christ. I have erred greatly in my life. Growing up, I never knew about this man named Jesus.

"I tried to find things in this world that would make me happy. I turned to drugs and alcohol to fill an empty void that plagued me. I used to steal and lie to support my bad habits. In my old life, these were normal things that kids did to be cool

"But no matter how stoned or drunk or how much money I had, I still knew something was missing. Living without hope took its toll on me. I became hardened, and I despised the world and hated life.

"By the time I was 20, I had done all that I could think of to make me happy, but I was still a depressed mess. Everything in my life crumbled away, leaving me with nothing but a broken heart. At this lowest point, the Lord sent a friend that told me this wonderful news about salvation - how Jesus dies to save me and he would forgive my sins and give me a hew heart!

"That void that no drug or drink could fill was finally filled by something far greater! I owe my life to the Lord, and I wish to follow Him with all my heart. I would like to thank Him and all my friends for being with me and helping me. I ask you to pray for me so that I may be a good witness for our Lord, Jesus Christ."

5



The Chance of a Lifetime for Young Canadian Adventists

Lynn Neumann McDowell,

Director of Communications for Impact Toronto 2000 & Director of College Relations, Canadian University College

Impact Toronto 2000: A Young Canadian's Guide to the Ministries and How to Get Involved

his summer while the General Conference convenes in To ronto, young Canadian Adventists have an opportunity that they are not likely to see again in their lifetime. They have a better chance than any other young SDA to work shoulder to shoulder with approximately 350 other ministry-minded young SDAs from around the world and the church's top leadership talents in innovative ministry in the church's 10-day training session for youth from June 29 to July 8.

Why Canada is Getting Special Treatment - As the host country of the General Conference session this year, Canada has the opportunity to send more young adults for training than any other country in the world church. Potentially, 158 of the 350 available spots in Impact Toronto 2000 (IT2000) have been reserved for Canadians between the ages of 18 and 35.

The Application Process - Applications are being processed through local conference youth directors, and as the deadline for reduced registration fee is February 14, 2000, those interested should contact their youth director right away for more details about their conference's selection process.

If selected, the applicant's \$150 US application fee will be put toward expenses in Toronto; applications submitted after February 14 must be accompanied by a \$300 US application fee. If the applicant is not selected to participate, the application fee will be refunded.

The Ministries & Some of the Leaders - Because IT2000 has remained open to suggestions from young adults while endeavouring to find the best ministry teachers around the globe, some of the ministries on the application form have been revised since the official application was printed. The current list is as follows:

Café Ministry - Collette Muth (a student at Southern Adventist University) and Wesley Szamko (a youth pastor at Willowdale, Ont.) combine their experiences in running a café with a difference and youth ministry.

Christian Illusion Ministry

Clown Ministry

Compassion Ministry

Door-to-Door Ministry - Byard Parks, a youth pastor in Colorado who runs a ministry where young people learn to pray and visit with people in their own homes, will share his expertise in meeting people where they are most comfortable and open. Another section of this ministry will be led by Monty Torkelsen, Associate Youth Director of the Oregon Conference, who started working in this ministry at the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta.

Drama Ministry - Brian Yeager, Director of YouthNet eXtreem (the five-member team sometimes known as The eXtreem Team connected with the Center for Youth Evangelism at Andrews University), works year-round in street ministry, concerts, weeks of prayer and other ministries with a distinctly youthful flare.

FLAG Camp - Buz Menhardt, youth pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University, created the highly-successful Fun Learning About God (FLAG) ministry and brings his energy and experience to Toronto.

Gymnastic Ministry

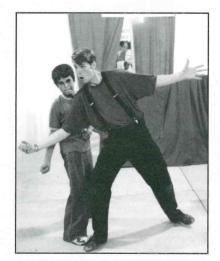
Health Fair

Mime Ministry - This ministry has proven so successful and popular that three sections of the ministry have been opened, two of them led by Canadians. Todd Miller, pastor of the St. Alberta, Alberta church (see website:

digitaldove.com\silentvoices) has an international reputation

as a Christian mime and teacher of mime. Steven Gabrys, an education student at Canadian University College who studied and worked with Miller before leading the mime group at the Oshkosh, Wisconsin Pathfinder Camporee this past summer and appearing on 3ABN (see Real Stuff button at http://cauc.ab.ca for more on Gabrys), will lead a second section. Geert Tap, the Newbold College

chaplain from



Steve Gabrys
Photo Credit: Kermit Netteberg,
Review & Herald

Holland with extensive experience in mime street ministry throughout Europe, will lead the third group.

Prayer Ministry - First emerging as a prayer ministry leader at the SDA seminary, CUC's chaplain Sabine Vatel brings her experience and passion for this ministry to share with SDA youth from around the world.

Recreation Ministry - CUC's Outward Pursuits expert Paul Lehmann and his son Shad, a student at CUC, will bring an innovative program that can be used in both urban and rural settings (contact Lehmann at plehmann@cauc.ab.ca or 1-800-661-8129).

Storm Co. - Wes and Melissa Talhurst will lead a program that originated in Australia and "storms" an area with Adventist Christianity.

Continued on page 7



Octogenarian Chairperson of the Golden Heritage Club Honored at its first Meeting of the Year 2000

Maj-Britt Rusk, External Communications Secretary, College Heights Church

ince it is only fitting following the Year of the Seniors to pay respect to one of the most diligent of them respecting her involvement with the Golden Heritage Club since its inception October 16, 1986, Mrs. Mildred Bowett was recognized

for her efforts and awarded a plaque in her honor at the meeting held on January 16, 2000.

The historical beginning of the Golden Heritage Club, (a club for seniors involving a once-a-month potluck meal—from January to May, and September to December—followed by a devotional and a program featuring various guest artists or groups) occured when a committee first met in the Pathfinder Building, October 16, 1986, to discuss the formation of a club for Seniors. The original committee members included Mrs. Bowett, Nick Sidorko, Percy Paul, Violet



Ruby Sidorko, Mildred Bowett

Cooper, Herbert Clouten, Annie Tym and Elmer Buhler. At that meeting the name of the club was chosen: how many times and when meetings should be held were decided upon; the Executive Committee was voted in; and financial arrangements were decided upon. The College Heights Church Board, under the direction of Pastor Schlehuber voted a start-up grant of \$150. After that the Club became self-sufficient by asking each member of the club to donate one dollar at each meeting. Then on December 15, 1986,

The Chance of a Lifetime - Continued from page 6

Street Artists Ministry
Vacation/Holiday Bible School Ministry
Video Ministry

Evangelism - In addition to the above ministries, three evangelistic series with three different styles of presentation will be running evenings, with opportunity for delegate involvement and perhaps even some crusade detail planning.

Music - Those interested in sharing their musical talents at IT2000 should send an audio or video tape of three or more songs and their references to the Center for Youth Evangelism, IT2000.

On the closing Sabbath, July 8, there will be a Youth Rally in the morning, and a "Youth on Parade" program for all GC delegates and visitors highlighting what IT2000 has accomplished.

For more information, see the website at www.andrews.edu/ CYE, e-mail ce@andrews.edu/, call 1-800 Youth 2 U (968-8428), or contact your local conference youth director. Mildred Bowett was voted in as chairperson, a post she had continuously occupied until her resignation in December, 1999.

Besides arranging for the monthly potlucks, she also arranged a number of tours for members such as the Calgary Zoo, a visit to

a Hutterite Colony, visits to various museums in Red Deer and an auto museum in Rimbey and a visit to a bird sanctuary, and also arranged for speakers for devotionals and guest artists. No mean feat!!! However, according to her own words, "The Golden Heritage Club became a real success! (Attendance varies from 60 to 105.)

The Club meets monthly as mentioned previously, and is open to all seniors, not only in the church, but also to seniors in the community.

At the beginning of the meeting, Jan. 16, Nick Sidorko, now the

last remaining member of the first Executive Committee, presented a brief history of the Club. Mrs. Mildred Geates introduced the new chairperson, Mrs. Ruby Sidorko, who presented a plaque to Mrs. Bowett as Nick Sidorko thanked her in these words, "Mildred, as the only original executive member, I wish, on behalf of this group, to thank you for your faithful service to this club for the past 13 years. May God bless you!" Mrs. Marjorie Dubuc then presented her with a corsage.

The plaque reads as follows: "In appreciation of your committed service to the Seniors of Central Alberta, the participants of the Golden Heritage Club offer their sincere appreciation for the labour of love you have given throughout your 13 years of service. For quality entertainment, the wonderful meals, the opportunity for fellowship provided by your leadership, our sincere thanks from the Seniors of Central Alberta. Jan. 16, 2000.

The present Executive Committee of the Club comprises Nick Sidorko, (who always, with some assistance at times, sets everything up for each meeting) his wife, Ruby Sidorko, chairperson, Reuben and Marie Buhler, Bob and Mildred Geates, and Sharron Ford. So the Club carries on! Come and join us sometime to see the beautiful creativity of Marjorie Dubuc as she does all the various seasonal decorations for each potluck, enjoy the delicious meals and delightful programs, and the warm camaraderie of the participants.

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- Church
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email: chadoe@telusplanet.net

Dateline

Giraffe University Youth Leadership February 4-6

Retreat, Foothills Camp

Womens' Retreat March 10-12

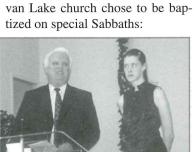
Men's Retreat, Foothills Camp March 17-19

Baptisms

Sylvan Lake

The Sylvan Lake congregation is happy to welcome Dawn From into church fellowship. Dawn attended the Net '98 meetings and was baptized by Pastor Bob Schafer on July 31, 1999.

Three young people of the Syl-



Heather Welch on Christmas day, 1999



Dawn From



Daphne Bell and Kalee Cherepuschuk on January 1, 2000

Grande Prairie

November 5 to 27 marked the first live crusade in the Northwest Region. The crusade began with a health talk by Dianne Bertold. The crusade was conducted by Pastor Justis St. Hilaire,



the area evangelist, and is the first of a number of crusades that will be conducted in the area over the next few years. Four of the baptisms were students of the area bible worker, David Beaudo The day of the baptism was an emotional day for the new menibers, some of whom had deep roots in the Catholic Church. Tears flowed freely as testimonies were given and as each member committed their lives to Christ through the waters of baptism. Follow up studies continue with both the new members and also with contacts from the crusade.