

# The Garden Park Journal

Volume 1, Number 12

Abbotsford, British Columbia

May 2015



## When Life is Tough, Plant Flowers Helen Grace Lescheid

No matter where we lived my mother grew a flower garden. Flowers thrilled her with their beauty and they spoke of God’s personal love. She couldn’t keep it to herself, of course, so on a Saturday she would pick two beautiful bouquets, one for her church and another one for the Seniors Care Home across the road.



A visit in my mother’s home often ended in her flower garden. She’d point out new growth. Every blossom was important to her. I usually enjoyed this ritual, but on this afternoon I listened only half-heartedly to my mother’s cheerful chatter. My mind was on my husband who was languishing in a mental hospital. We had prayed so much for his healing, instead he was getting worse. “It may take another twenty years,” the doctor had said. I didn’t want to burden my mother with this unhappy news. Besides, she’d probably say, “Be brave! We do not give in to self-pity.”

### My mother’s secret

As my gaze followed her small frame, darting in and out of rose bushes, I thought, “Mother, you had reason to feel sorry for yourself. Why didn’t you?” After only seven years of marriage, she’d lost her husband in the Second World War. Life had pummeled her; people had disappointed her. Yet, she’d managed to keep a sweet spirit. Her consistently upbeat attitude amazed me. Didn’t she ever feel weak?

Suddenly my mother stopped her chatter. She gazed into my face and whispered, “How’s Bill?” “Not good,” I whispered back. Her sky-blue eyes became moist. “I’m sorry,” she murmured. For a few moments she stared into a rose bush as though searching for something to say. “When life was tough, I planted flowers,” she said quietly. “They always bloomed for me.” Yes, this had been the pattern of her life. Out of extreme difficulties she’d managed to grow some-

*Continued on page 2*

## Religious Growth Projections John H. Redekop

The highly respected Washington D.C.-based Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion and Public Life has released its latest projections for the global growth of religions. This non-partisan agency has a record of being fair, thorough, and often quite accurate.

The Pew Center projects that the global Muslim population, which was about 1.6 billion in 2010, will reach 2.2 billion by 2030. With total global population increasing from about 6.9 billion in 2010 to a projected 8.3 billion in 2030, the total Muslim population is expected to increase from 23.3 % to 26.4% of the total population.

The Pew report states that “If current trends continue,...79 countries will have a million or more Muslim inhabitants in 2030, up from 72 countries today.” Over these 20 years Pakistan’s Muslim population is projected to increase from 178 million to 239 million; India’s from 177 million to 236 million; Nigeria’s from 76 million to 117 million; and Indonesia’s from 204 million to 239 million.

In Europe the Muslim population is expected to increase from 44.1 million in 2010 to 58.2 million in 2030. The Pew researchers project that the United States’s Muslim population will increase from 2.6 million in 2010

*Continued on page 2*

### Contents

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Editorial .....                     | 3  |
| Coming Events .....                 | 4  |
| Registry & Services .....           | 5  |
| Your Health .....                   | 5  |
| Two Birds .....                     | 6  |
| Puzzles .....                       | 6  |
| Helpful Hints .....                 | 6  |
| Members, Legislative Assembly ..... | 7  |
| Ed Fast MP .....                    | 7  |
| Beware of Scams! .....              | 8  |
| A Pastoral Word .....               | 9  |
| Menus .....                         | 11 |
| Durksen Award .....                 | 12 |
| Question of the Month .....         | 13 |
| Recipe .....                        | 14 |
| Picture of the Month .....          | 14 |
| Government and City Services.....   | 15 |
| A Tribute to Mother .....           | 16 |
| Community Resources .....           | 17 |
| Memories Happenings .....           | 18 |
| Dollars & Sense .....               | 19 |
| A Senior’s Concern.....             | 20 |

### CLEARBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE AT GARDEN PARK TOWER

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Clearbrook Golden Age Society

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*When Life is Tough* continued from page 1

thing beautiful and share it with us children. Like the time in Ukraine....

### **A delightful surprise**

Winters in Ukraine where I lived as a child can be very long and severe. Often at Easter time there was still no sign of spring. Heavy snow covered the landscape. But inside our kitchen my mother had prepared a happy Easter surprise. Red, blue, and yellow Easter eggs nestled among a forest of rye shoots about twenty centimeters high which my mother had planted in a rusty old dish pan some weeks before Easter.

Not until I was an adult did I grasp the significance of my mother's creativity. Food was scarce. Carefully Mother rationed potatoes, beets and flour. Eggs were a luxury. Egg coloring was not available. Somehow Mother had obtained four eggs and colored them with boiled onion skins, a bleeding piece of fabric, and a drop of ink. Despite our hardships Mother had created a happy Easter surprise for us children.

### **The new old doll**

As refugees in Austria the struggle for food and basic living needs continued. My mother cleaned a pig barn, went haying with the men, and dug graves to earn enough to feed us children.

We lived in a small room in a boarding house attached to a barn. But at Christmastime, we had a live Christmas tree, decorated with walnuts, pine cones and four paper angels which an uncle had sent us.

We children had no toys except one rag doll which my mother had made. The doll wore a pretty dress, even a slip and panties. But one month before Christmas, the doll disappeared. No matter how hard we searched, we could not find her. Come Christmas Eve there was another doll under the tree. She had a pretty face and a lovely dress with a lacy lining. But when I lifted up her petty coat, something looked strangely familiar. She had the same body as the other doll. Could it be the same doll? My mother nodded, then whispered, "Let's keep it a secret, okay?"

### **Create something beautiful**

Sometimes I've asked my mother, "How did you do it?" "Do what?" "Flee with four small children always just ahead of the fighting front. As a refugee scrounging for food and shelter, even as an immigrant in Canada working hard in the fields so we children could get an education." "Oh, lots of people have had it worse than I," she replies.

My mother vehemently refused self-pity. Instead, she used her energy in creating something beautiful and sharing it with us children.

"I will do the same," I said to myself. "Even though life is tough right now, I will create something beautiful and share it with others."

### **Overwhelmed by God's love**

On the way home, I went to a nursery and asked the clerk for an amaryllis bulb. She found one eager bulb al-

*Religious Growth Projections* continued from page 1

to 6.2 million in 2030. The figures for Canada are 940,000, or 2.8% in 2010 and 2,661,000 or 6.6% in 2030.

Significantly, the Pew experts predict that if present trends continue, then by about 2050 the global Muslim population will for the first time almost match the total Christian population. Summarising the Pew data *The Wall Street Journal* states: "Most major religions – including Christianity – will see their numbers increase. But the exceptional growth of Islam, as well as the rise of those unaffiliated with any religion, is poised to alter historic religious balances in Europe, the U.S. [and Canada] and Africa over the next four decades."

Although no one can predict with certainty what will happen over three and a half decades, the Pew study posits the following as likely, if present trends continue. As a percent of total global population the religious figures are given as follows, in rounded figures:

#### Global Percentages of Religions

|                 | <u>2010</u> | <u>2050 projected</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Christian       | 31.4%       | 31.4%                 |
| Muslim          | 23.3%       | 29.7%                 |
| Unaffiliated    | 16.4%       | 13.2%                 |
| Hindu           | 15.0%       | 14.9%                 |
| Buddhist        | 7.1%        | 5.2%                  |
| Folk religions  | 5.9%        | 4.8%                  |
| Other religions | 0.8%        | 0.7%                  |
| Jewish          | 0.2%        | 0.2%                  |

Given that for many decades the Muslim population has increased at least twice as fast as the non-Muslim population, it seems correct to assume that if this trend continues, then in the years following 2050, the Muslim population will soon surpass the so-called Christian population and then, eventually, become the majority in the world.

[www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/religious-projections-2010-2050](http://www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/religious-projections-2010-2050) ■

*When Life is Tough* continued

ready forming a bud. I put my potted plant into a bay window facing west and eagerly watched the bud unfold. Soon it sported four radiant bell-shaped blossoms. Two weeks later, a bud on a second stalk began to burst open. This time six brilliant red blooms crowned the plant. But there was more. A third stalk appeared. Soon another cluster of four giant red trumpet flowers appeared.

"Is it unusual for one bulb to grow fourteen blossoms?" I asked a clerk at a nursery. "You definitely got a bargain," she said with a smile. My mother, who came to see it, agreed with the clerk. "I've never seen anything like it," she said.

I had wanted a sign of God's love, and He had given me an extravagance. Fourteen times over God had said, in a most exquisite way, "I love you." But then, He never stops saying, "I love you." I just have to tune my heart to receive his love. ■

## From the Editor's Desk ...



John H. Redekop

### One Year

This issue marks the completion of one year's production of *The Garden Park Journal*. Twelve issues have rolled off the press. For me the start was challenging. After reluctantly accepting the challenge, my only instruction was to make sure that the monthly menus were included - they had previously been published in a small brochure - and to produce a good publication. What did that mean? That was left up to me. I began with 16 blank pages. I sketched in 20 departments or items. In short order I recruited 8 fine, hard-working associates. Later several excellent committee members were added as replacements. Eventually four more pages and four more sections were added to *The Journal*.

Herewith I thank all members of the Editorial Committee, both past and present, the Publishing Committee, our writers and columnists, our advertisers and, above all, our readers. Your encouragement and affirmation were truly appreciated by all of us. The few criticisms, usually helpful, were also welcome.

We do not know what the future holds but my hope and prayer is that as long as we are involved, my associates and I will be able to produce a *Journal* that is simultaneously interesting, helpful and inspiring, one that is worthy of the dynamic society and the fine community, both local and more general, that we serve.

### Letters to the Editor

Editor, *The Journal*:

My sister sent me her copy of *The Garden Park Journal* (March) and I thoroughly enjoyed reading the various entries. Every time I visit her, I check through all the back issues. It's a great little magazine. Keep up the good work.

God bless you. **Lilly Polnau, Winnipeg**

jredekops@shaw.ca

*Published letters may be edited for length and clarity.*

"It is better to let people wonder why you did not talk than why you did."

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The opinions expressed in *The Garden Park Journal* are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Clearbrook Golden Age Society.

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## Coming Events

### Community (Abbotsford)

- ◆ *Calvin Dyck in Concert*, Refreshments included, In support of Global Family Foundation, May 1, 7:00 pm, Eben-Ezer Mennonite Church, 2051 Windsor Street.
- ◆ *Benefit Concert Featuring Brian Doerksen and the Shiyr Poets*, Fundraiser for the Gideons, Bibles for Ukraine. May 1, 7:00 pm, Northview Church, 32040 Downs Road. Tickets: complementary. RSVP Abe Krahn, 604-588-6883 or Don Scott, 604-755-0528.
- ◆ *The Valley Concert Society presents The Vancouver Bach Choir*, May 1, 7:30, Matsqui Centennial Auditorium, 32315 South Fraser Way. Preconcert Talk: 6:30. Tickets: \$25.00 Contact the Valley Concert society for tickets at 604-289-3377 or [www.valleyconcertsociety.com](http://www.valleyconcertsociety.com).
- ◆ *Gallery 7 Theatre*, Images of 9/11 etched in our collective memory, featuring the stories of people who risked their lives to save those trapped in the burning inferno of the Twin Towers. Presenter: Sarah Tuft, May 1, 2 and 7 to 9, 7:30 pm. Discount Matinees: May 2 and 9 at 2:00 pm. Abbotsford Arts Centre, 2329 Crescent Way. Tickets: House of James.
- ◆ *The Alumni Project, A Choral Concert*, May 2, 7:00 pm, Bakerview Church, 2285 Clearbrook Road. Admission at the door, Adults \$10.00, Children under age 5, free. More info: [www.alumniproject.ca](http://www.alumniproject.ca)
- ◆ *Stillwood Camp and Conference Centre, Open House*; May 3, 12:30 to 6:00 pm, 44005 Watt Road, Lindell Beach. Enjoy and share what camp is all about. All ages welcome. There is something for everyone. More info: 604-858-6845.
- ◆ *Fountainview Academy Concert*, May 3, 4:00 pm, Abbotsford Pentecostal Church, 3145 Gladwin Road. More info: [info@fountainview.ca](mailto:info@fountainview.ca) or 250-256-5400.
- ◆ *MEI Secondary School presents "Cinderella"*, May 5 to 9, 7:00 pm and May 9, 2:00 pm. Tickets: \$12.00, available at the MEI Secondary Office, 4081 Clearbrook Road.
- ◆ *Mother's Day Concert with Roy and Rosemary*, Full Orchestra and Pacific Mennonite Children's Choir. Special Guest - Calvin Dyck, May 8, 7:00 pm, Central Heights Church. Concert in support of Trinity Western University Student-Athletes serving Missions overseas. Tickets: \$25.00, [www.RoyandRosemary.com](http://www.RoyandRosemary.com). More info: 604-613-7710.
- ◆ *Mother's Day Afternoon Tea*, May 9, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm or 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Fundraiser for Abbotsford Hospice, Trethewey House, 2313 Ware Street, Tickets: [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca), More info: 604-852-2456.
- ◆ *The Abbotsford City 26th Annual Prayer Breakfast*, May 12, 7:30 am, Abbotsford, Christian Network, Speaker Bob Kuhn. Music by Calvin Dyck. Ramada Plaza and Conference Centre. Tickets: [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca), More info: [abbotsford.acin@gmail.com](mailto:abbotsford.acin@gmail.com)
- ◆ *Hymn Sing*, Clearbrook MB Church, Clearbrook Road at Old Yale Road, May 17, 7:00 pm.
- ◆ *Music on a Wednesday*, May 20, Bakerview Church, 2285 Clearbrook Road. Refreshments 11:30 (\$3.00), Concert 12:15, Paul Williamson, piano.
- ◆ *Mennonite Educational Institute (MEI) Spring Choral Concert*, May 26, 7:00 pm, MEI Auditorium, Free Admission.
- ◆ *The Reach – Culture, Coffee, and Cookies*. C3 is a program dedicated to providing stimulating and enjoyable learning opportunities for people of retirement age. Every Tue 10:30 am. Free Admission, Pre-registration required. Register at The Reach, 32388 Veterans Way or phone 604-864-8087.
- ◆ *Valley Echoes Chorus*, every Tuesday 7:30 pm, Azalea Room, Garden Park Tower, Director, Sherrie Lister. More info: 604-855-4081.

- ◆ *Full Gospel Businessmen's Meetings*, first Tue of the month, 12:00 to 1:00 pm. Rendezvous Restaurant 111 – 3280 Mt. Lehman Road. Contact: Marcus 604-850-3500.
- ◆ *Living Room Drop-in Support Group*, first and third Friday of the month, 1:00 to 3:00 pm. For those struggling with anxiety, bipolar and/or depression. New Life Church, 35270 Delair Road. Contact: Jenny 604-852-3662.
- ◆ *Mosaic Church* meets every Saturday 630 pm at the Columbia Bible College, 2940 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford. For more info call David at 604-897-4224.

### Community (Region)

- ◆ *Men's Conference at Cedar Grove Baptist Church*, 10330 – 144 Street, May 1, 2, Speaker, David Murrow, "Journey to manhood". More info: 604-581-8933.
- ◆ *Keepers of the Faith Gospel Concert*, May 1, 7:00 pm, Faith Community Church, 586 Birch Bay Lynden Road, Lynden, WA. More info: 350-354-4815 or [office@fclynden.org](mailto:office@fclynden.org)
- ◆ *Time to Celebrate*, 20 Years of Performing the Best of Lyric, Lyric Singers, May 2, 7:00 pm, Reception to Follow. Holy Trinity Cathedral, 514 Carnarvon Street, New Westminster. More info: 604-340-4353.
- ◆ *Canadian Gospel Music Celebration*, Booth Brothers and Young Street Vocal Band, May 11, 7:00 pm, Chilliwack Alliance Church, 8700 Young Road, Chilliwack. More info: [Gospelmusic.com](http://Gospelmusic.com) or 1-800-410-0188.
- ◆ *History Maker Conference*, A weekend to encourage, equip, and empower teens and their leaders to reach the next generation for Christ. May 15 to 17, Registration May 15, 4:00 pm, Conference ends May 17, 12:00 noon. First Avenue Christian Assembly, Chilliwack. More info: [historymaker.ca](http://historymaker.ca).

### Future Events

- ◆ *Annual Columbia Open Golf Tournament Fundraiser*, June 4, Redwoods Golf Course, 22011 88th Avenue, Langley. Info, registration and sponsorship opportunities: [Columbia.edu/open](http://Columbia.edu/open), 604-882-5132.
- ◆ *Adult Retreat at Charis Camp and Conference Centre*, June 9 to 12, 51935 Hack Brown Road, Chilliwack. Come for spiritual renewal, good food, fellowship, and great music. Banquet and concert June 10 with the Young Street Vocal Band. Tickets: \$20.00. Contact Elaine Hilz for registration at 604-795-7398 or [gaelhilz@shaw.ca](mailto:gaelhilz@shaw.ca)
- ◆ *Gospel Music Festival*, June 13, 6:30, Christian Life Assembly, 21277 – 56 Avenue, Langley. Featuring: Liberty Quartette, Sweet Presence, Class Brass and others. Tickets: \$18.00 at House of James, Abbotsford or [www.gospelmfestival.eventbrite.ca](http://www.gospelmfestival.eventbrite.ca)

Notices about events may be sent to:  
Jake and Kathy Hintz at: [hintz@live.ca](mailto:hintz@live.ca)

### A Newspaper's Spelling Problems

"Our newspaper carried the notice last week that Mr. Oscar Hoffnagle is a defective on the police force. This was a typographical error. Mr. Hoffnagle is, of course, a detective on the police farce."

## Clearbrook Community Centre Registry & Services

|       |   |              |
|-------|---|--------------|
| P1    | Helping Hands                                     | 604-217-8513 |
| 101   | CGAS Management Office                            | 604-853-5532 |
| 103   | Robertson Hearing Centre                          | 604-855-8722 |
| 104 A | Siora Dental Clinic                               | 604-755-3366 |
| 104 B | Valley Periodontics & Dental Implants             | 604-755-3354 |
| 105   | New Hope Christian Centre                         | 604-852-8076 |
| 202   | Garden Park Haircare                              | 604-853-4843 |
| 203   | <b>OFFICE FOR LEASE</b>                           |              |
| 204   | Dr. D. Ross & Dr. N. Moodley                      | 604-853-8641 |
| 205   | Ed Fast MP  | 604-557-7888 |
| 206 A | Abbotsford Community Church                       |              |
| 206 C | LOGOS Canada                                      | 604-504-7055 |
| 206 D | Multi-Nation Missions Foundation                  | 778-549-8031 |
| 207   | BC Bio Medical Lab                                | 604-852-9026 |
| 208   | M2/W2 Association                                 | 604-859-3215 |
| 211   | Mennonite Historical Society                      | 604-853-6177 |
| 212   | Garden Park Pharmacy                              | 604-859-3300 |
| 214   | Alzheimer Society                                 | 604-859-3889 |
| 216   | Weight Watchers                                   |              |
| 217   | Helen Fadden DC                                   | 604-852-4480 |
| 218   | Community Futures /<br>FV Self Employment Program | 604-864-5770 |

### A Farmer's Response

A Texan who owned a large ranch came to visit his cousin in Saskatchewan. This prairie cousin had also done well and now owned three sections of land and rented one more. He was thus farming four sections, or 16 quarters which is 2,560 acres. It took the Saskatchewan farmer almost two hours to drive his guest around in his new truck to view the crops on all 16 quarters. On their way back the Texan drawled, "Your crops look good and you have a fine farm here but if you came to visit me, it would take us a full day to get around in my truck to see all my land." The Saskatchewan cousin shifted the straw in his mouth and then slowly said, " You know, I had a truck like that one".

"A fine is a tax for doing something wrong;  
a tax is a fine for doing something right."





**ALL ARE WELCOME**

*Every Saturday*

Coffee/Samosas 6:30 PM  
Worship Service 7:00 PM

**Place: Clearwood Room**  
Columbia Bible College  
2940 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford

Pastor David  
Phone: 604 897 4224  
Email: [mosaicabby@gmail.com](mailto:mosaicabby@gmail.com)





## Your Health

On occasion I meet some otherwise impressive and wise seniors who have what I consider to be unchristian notions about their health. Fortunately they are in the minority!

These people imply, or even say, that because they have reached fourscore years, or even four score and ten, there is no longer any reason to take care of one's body. It will soon decay anyway! One should focus only on the soul! As the sun is sinking, stewardship of one's body becomes unimportant.

Such people are in error. In the first place, just because a person is advanced in years does not mean that such a person is no longer made in the image of God or ceases to be indwelt by the spirit of God. In the second place, one never has to choose between taking care of one's body and focusing on one's soul. In the third place, even when one is progressing through those last years, it is surely desirable to be as healthy as possible. Those final years are only made more difficult and additionally painful if one neglects our God-given temple.

A better attitude would be to tell oneself that precisely because sunset is approaching, one has very limited time left to honour God with proper care of the body He has entrusted to us.

Beyond the spiritual truth there is, of course, the great physical truth that each one of us is, indeed, wonderfully made. Consider the following facts.

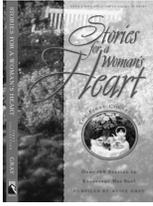
- \* Each human foot has 52 bones which articulate with one another in an amazing and complicated manner.
- \* Every person has a unique smelling ability, except for identical twins.
- \* Babies are born with 300 bones but have only 206 when they reach adulthood. Some bones, such as skull bones, get fused.
- \* Though it interprets pain signals from all other parts of the body, the brain itself cannot feel pain.
- \* The brain operates on about the same amount of power as a 10-watt light bulb, day and night.
- \* The strongest human muscle is the tongue; the hardest bone is the jawbone.
- \* Every human being has not only unique fingerprints but an equally unique tongue print.
- \* After the female ovum is fertilized by the male sperm, that one tiny cell contains all of the programming needed to form a totally distinct human adult.

Each one of us is accountable to God for how we have utilized and managed the wonderful body He has entrusted to us!

JHR

"I asked God to take away my habit.  
God said, 'It is not for me to take it away  
but for you to give it up.'" Helen Lescheid

## Two Birds



Recently I have been reading a very fine book, **Stories for a Woman's Heart**, compiled by Alice Gray. Let me share a summary of one item.

One day a husband and wife were walking through a mall when they happened to look through the window of a pet store. They were charmed by a pair of peach-faced lovebirds. These birds looked like they were really in love with each other. As the couple watched, these little birds snuggled close to one another. These people observed the birds' obvious devotion to each other.

The husband and wife bought the delightful birds. The birds became part of their lives. They admired the birds greatly and introduced them to family and friends as new additions to the family.

Names eluded them. The couple could not decide what to call their new feathered friends. One day they finally settled on Ozzie and Harriet, a gentle reminder of simpler times when love and commitment were a way of life.

The lady of the house spent many hours watching the lovebirds. Eventually she made some observations about love and life; I here share some of them with you:

1. If you spend too much time looking in the mirror, it's easy to lose your balance.
2. Always keep a pleasant look on your face, even if your cage needs cleaning.
3. If your mate wants to share your perch, move over.
4. It takes two to cuddle and snuggle.
5. Singing draws more affection than squawking.
6. Having too many toys can be distracting.
7. When you have love in your heart, everyone will feel joy in your presence.

Mary Durksen

### Purpose Statement

*The Garden Park Journal* has been established to serve and advance the interests of the Clearbrook Golden Age Society and its members. It also promotes the interest of seniors generally. It provides a forum for seniors and informs the larger community about seniors' issues and concerns! It seeks to provide interesting and helpful information, to announce events, to describe resources, to build community, and to be a Christian voice for seniors.

### Mission Statement

The Clearbrook Golden Age Society provides a variety of meaningful social services for the community of retired and semi-retired persons in the Central Fraser Valley. The community's needs are serviced by providing a facility which includes residential units, commercial space and a Community Centre for public recreational, educational and spiritual activities. The focus is to promote a sense of well-being in mind, body and spirit. The Society looks beyond the ranks of its membership to facilitate participation by the wider community through specialized programs or projects. The dignity and self-respect of each member, staff and participant are to be recognized and respected.

The Clearbrook Golden Age Society is managed in harmony with the practices and faith perspectives of the Judeo-Christian tradition.

## Puzzles

Springtime brings increasing numbers of birds to our region. Accordingly, for the May issue I have made three puzzles dealing with bird names. The first one, clearly the easiest, involves four bird names having only four letters each. The second one also includes four bird names; three have five letters and one has seven. The third set of four bird names is considerably more challenging. While this puzzle still involves fairly common bird names, three have six letters and one has seven. Enjoy the challenge!

whak    □○□□                      worc    □○□□  
lulg    □□□□                      vedo    □○□□

There is much \_\_\_\_\_ interest in these birds.

leage    □□□□                      rhone    □○□□□  
rance    □□□□                      darlmal □□□□□□

Many hunters consider this to be the prize \_\_\_\_\_ bird.

clipane □□□□□□                      rutyek □□□□□  
onepig □□□□□                      tarpor □□□□□

Many of these are common \_\_\_\_\_ birds.

*The answers are given on page 15*

JHR

## Helpful Hints

1. Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting it in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.
2. Put a slice of apple in a container with hardened brown sugar to soften it.
3. To determine whether an egg is fresh, add a pinch of salt to a small container of cool water. If the egg sinks, it is fresh, but if it rises to the surface, throw it away.
4. Potatoes will take food stains off your fingers. Just slice and rub raw potato on the stain and rinse with water.
5. To get rid of mosquito bite itch, try applying soap on the area. You should experience considerable, perhaps even total, relief.

# HELPING HANDS



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HERE AND ACROSS THE OCEANS

## Abbotsford's Members of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly

The people of Abbotsford elected three MLAs. They are:

**Michael de Jong**, Q.C. Minister of Finance  
MLA for Abbotsford West

Constituency Office: 103 – 32660 George Ferguson Way,  
Abbotsford, BC. V2T 4V6 Ph. 604-870-5486

Email: [mike.dejong.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:mike.dejong.mla@leg.bc.ca)

**Simon Gibson**

MLA for Abbotsford-Mission

Constituency Office: 33058 First Ave.,  
Mission, BC V2V 1G3 Ph. 604-820-6203

Email: [simon.gibson.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:simon.gibson.mla@leg.bc.ca)

**Darryl Plecas**

MLA for Abbotsford South

Constituency Office: 33553 Marshall Road,  
Abbotsford, BC V2S 1K8 Ph. 604-744-0700

Email: [darryl.plecas.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:darryl.plecas.mla@leg.bc.ca)



Michael de Jong

This May we are celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Holland. This event is poignant for me not only because I am of Dutch heritage, but because my parents lived through the occupation. And it was because of the deprivation and fear endured by my mother during those years, that she ensured that my brother, sisters and I had a wonderful, safe and secure childhood growing up in the little farm house on Matsqui Prairie.

The lasting impressions that my mother has made on the lives of my siblings and me fill us with an unconditional love and appreciation for all that she has contributed to each of our successes.

I know that all of us appreciate and honour our mothers each and every day of our lives for bringing us into the world and for providing the nurturing love that made us the people we are today. That is as it should be.

However, the wonderful contributions of our mothers are officially recognized on the second Sunday of the month of May and I want to send special Happy Mother's Day wishes to all mothers throughout Abbotsford and across this country. You are deserving of this day of recognition, and I trust your celebration will be filled with love and laughter.

Michael de Jong, Q.C. Minister of Finance  
Government House Leader  
MLA Abbotsford West

*The Journal is now online [gardenparkjournal.ca](http://gardenparkjournal.ca)  
or Google: Garden Park Journal*

"When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice."



## The Honorable Ed Fast, MP, Abbotsford Minister of International Trade

In the coming weeks, as we approach Mother's Day and Father's Day, families will gather to recognize the critical role that moms and dads play in raising their children, our future leaders. We thank them for all that they do. In support of their efforts, our federal government has taken a number of steps. We recently introduced the Family Tax Cut and Benefit Plan, which leaves more money in the pockets of parents. The vast majority of these benefits go to low and middle income families.

Our plan increases the Universal Child Care Benefit to almost \$2,000 per year for each pre-schooler, and pays moms and dads \$720 for every child aged 6 through 17.

Similar to what we did for seniors' pensions, the Family Tax Cut now allows couples with kids to split their incomes to lower their tax bill by as much as \$2,000 a year. We have increased the childcare tax credit by another \$1,000 dollars, and doubled the Children's Fitness Tax Credit - which allows parents to claim sports registration fees up to \$1,000.

To help mom and dad save for retirement or for their children's education, we introduced the Tax-Free Savings Account, which allows them to grow their savings and investments free of capital gains or income tax.

By leaving more money in parents' pockets and allowing them to make decisions for their children, we are recognizing that the best childcare experts are named "Mom" and "Dad".

To all of our moms and dads, Happy Mother's Day!  
Happy Father's Day!

---

"Being a full-time mother is one of the highest salaried jobs...since the payment is pure love." Mildred B. Vermont

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Moved by the church service, the richest man in town stood up and addressed the congregation: "I remember the day I earned my first dollar", he said. "That night I went to a church meeting and heard about the church's work among the poor. I had only that single dollar and I had to make a decision: give it to that worthy cause or keep it. So I gave all the money I had. I believe God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a millionaire today." As he sat down a woman shouted, "Do it again, Jack!"

## Beware of Scams!

### The Great Returns Scam

*Editor's Note: The names have been changed to protect the identities of the people involved in this fairly recent scam.*

I picked up the phone. "Hi James. Investments? Mine are at four and a quarter."

"Bob, I've got news for you. I've invested with this guy who's paying thirty percent! He's producing plastic bottles. Instead of those little milk bags where you cut off the corner and spill some when you put it into the holder. And you can't close it properly. This guy has sold his idea to the largest dairy in the city and just needs some investment to build his manufacturing plant, then he'll expand throughout the whole state and maybe across the continent. This thing will know no bounds because he'll produce milk jugs, water bottles and who knows what else. He says he's getting the patent."

"What's his address?"

674 Walnut, *city name*, CA 27361. Phone 370-254-8264 (*not the actual number*)

Later.

"Hey James, you didn't tell me this guy wants a minimum investment of fifteen grand!"

"You can do it. I did and so did Evan."

"Since I lost my job, that kind of return could tide us

over the low spot." So Bob scrounged, and invested his savings with Robert Buddel Inc.

He smiled when he got the monthly cheques, each for one-twelfth of the thirty percent return. After 12 months the returns stopped abruptly. He had received 30% of \$15,000 or \$4,500.

The Robert Buddel Inc. telephone number was no longer in service. The great returns became a memory.

Brothers Bob, James and Evan discussed their problem. Legal advice was no help. Buddel had disappeared and so had their money. All they could do was declare a capital loss during the next income tax year. The three men had each lost \$10,500!

If it sounds too good to be true, don't invest!

JHR

## Garden Park Bookbinding



Restoration of old books is the specialty of the dedicated volunteers in the bindery. All types of books are accepted and rates are very reasonable.



Place your order in the office during regular business hours

"Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark, professionals built the Titanic."

"Don't be troubled if you find that your desire to give advice is irresistible; the ability to ignore it is universal."

## Did you know?

### 1. One result of "right to die" laws

A recent *christianheadlinenews* report states that in August, 2014, Charlotte Fitzgerald Wise was given permission to euthanize her daughter, Nancy, who was born blind and suffered from hydrocephalus, meningitis and septicaemia. Nancy needed round-the-clock care.

Charlotte told judges that pain killers were not helping Nancy. It is the first time the British courts have allowed for a child who was not suffering a fatal disease or on life support to be euthanized.

"I miss my beautiful girl every day and although I know it was the right thing to do, I will never forgive myself", Fitzgerald Wise said.

Disability activist Joni Eareckson Tada, who is a quadriplegic, author and founder of *Joni and Friends International Disability Centre*, said that the decision will "open the door" for other guardians to euthanize their loved ones based on something as subjective as "quality of life".

### 2. A Reign of Terror in the Name of Reason

The French Revolution of 1789 is widely cited as a time when so-called oppressive medieval religion was replaced by the Age of Enlightenment, a "new" era beginning in Paris and then spreading throughout Europe. Unfortunately, many writers ignore the subsequent reality. Consider the following facts. In the name of the new "enlightenment", the "Age of Reason", the Jacobins and others who had taken over the leadership of the revolution undertook to execute the "enemies of the revolution". The death toll was staggering. Using the large guillotine, also known colloquially as "the National Razor", these leaders carried out a Reign of Terror from September 5, 1793 until July 28, 1794. The death toll included 2,639 beheaded in Paris and thousands in other locations. The total reached 16,594, all executed by guillotine.

These facts remind us that throughout history, as also in our own times, evil deeds can be done in the name of secularism and also in the name of religion. See [wikipedia.org/Reign\\_of\\_Terror](http://wikipedia.org/Reign_of_Terror)

JHR

## A Pastoral Word

### Katherine “Tien” Berg

It was 52 years ago that I left home and 21 years ago that my mother passed away, but her influence on my life is clearly evident even to this day. Mom was a Janz, grew up in Main Center, Saskatchewan, in a family of 8 brothers – yes, the Janz boys, Janz Quartet, Janz Team. She was blessed with the high-spirited blood that characterized the Janzes. She loved to laugh, loved to sing, loved the Lord. But didn't put up with any nonsense.

My mother taught me how to love. She was the complete stranger that would walk up to you in the mall, put her hand on your arm and tell you how beautiful your smile was. Mind you, she would also look down to see if you had kept your shoes polished. She was the one who would see the new neighbour boy across the street, from a home that obviously had its problems, and tell me to invite him over. My sister's friend from an unchristian home would hang around our place because she wished that our mom was her mom. And mom would assign her a job around the house just like one of her kids.

One Mother's Day service, when she was 11 years old, a new orphaned boy, who had just arrived from Russia with his uncle's family, was supposed to recite a poem about mothers. He broke down in tears and couldn't finish. The other children laughed at him, but Mom's heart was broken, and she regularly prayed for this poor boy. Twelve years later she married him – my dad. She was a joyful, loving mom.

One day, when my mother was in her late sixties, she said to me, “You know, Ron, I have asked God all these years to help me with my quick temper.” (I had seen that too. Not often, but it was part of her high-spirited nature.) She said, “There are times that I think I have it conquered, and then there it is again. This is one of the things,” she said, “that keeps me in constant touch with the Lord. Daily dependence on Him.” That struggle of her's has been an inspiration to me: her commitment to God, her need to trust God daily, and God's grace upon her life which made her a deeply loving person. God's great gift to me was my mother.

Pastor Ron Berg



Pastor Ron Berg

# avenue

## B O D Y S H O P



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Email: [info@avenuebodyshop.ca](mailto:info@avenuebodyshop.ca)

If you've been involved in a car accident, door ding or fender bender, there are 2 important things you need to do:

1. Call **Avenue Body Shop** at 604.852.2222, and
2. RELAX...we'll do the rest.

[FREE ESTIMATES](#)

Years ago a middle-aged lady with a university degree and some teaching experience applied for a job in a lemon-juice plant in Burnaby. She seemed over-qualified. The foreman asked her if she had any experience working with lemons? She thought a moment and then said, “As a matter of fact I have. I've been divorced twice, I bought two Edsels, and I voted for Trudeau.” She got the job.

## Living Well VITAMINS

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Store Wide  
(some exceptions)

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## 19 May 2015

Abbotsford 604-853-8585  
32770 George Ferguson Way

Mon to Fri 9:30-5:30  
Sat 9:30-4:30



### Rose Room Coffee Shop

Open Monday thru Friday

8:30 AM—4:00 PM

**OPEN** on Saturday

8:30 AM—11:00 AM

“I don't repeat gossip so listen carefully.”

## Medical Office Space for Lease at Garden Park Tower



Garden Park Tower is pleased to offer this second floor quality professional space in a vibrant community centre. The existing tenant improvements are well suited to medical or health-care related businesses, and boasts a large reception area.

### Features:

- Three private offices
- Six patient examination rooms
- Private staff washroom in suite
- Separate patient washroom in suite
- Workstations for four staff
- Enclosed children's play area
- Storage and lunch rooms
- Testing/lab area
- Large reception area
- Floor to ceiling windows with blinds

Garden Park Tower is ideally located near the corner of the high traffic intersection of Old Yale Road and Clearbrook Road. This mixed-use building benefits from its proximity to many seniors housing complexes and a splendid array of related commercial services, creating a busy hub for the community. Public transit stops at the community centre, with easy access for HandyDART. Call **604-853-5532** for more info.



Many people buy frozen soups, sandwiches, muffins, fresh baked goods, meals, buns, etc. in the Rose Room

## Catering

Garden Park Tower Catering is a top-notch facility. We are able to provide full service catering to make your special event perfect. Choose from our customized menus to suit your needs. We have 3 different buffets to choose from as well as a Holiday Buffet and a Breakfast Buffet. We also have a full selection of Meeting and Training Seminar Lunch Buffets, including Vegetarian and Vegan dishes.



## FREE LUNCH????

There is such a thing as a free lunch when you volunteer at Garden Park Tower.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help us—whether in the area of Food Services, the office, in recreation, bookbinding or picture framing. Interested??? Come see us in the office.

The Journal is now online [gardenparkjournal.ca](http://gardenparkjournal.ca)

CLEARBROOK GOLDEN AGE SOCIETY  
Invites you to celebrate



Friday, May 8, 2015

11:30 AM

at

Garden Park Tower  
2825 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford

A Short Mother's Day Program  
Featuring: Helen Grace Lescheid  
"A Testimony about my Mother"

Music: Clearbrook Singing Men



TICKETS - \$12.00 ADULTS  
AVAILABLE AT THE GARDEN PARK TOWER OFFICE (604-853-5532)  
(Doors open 11:10 am)

# May 2015 MENUS

Garden Park Restaurant, Open Tues, Wed, Fri 11:30-12:30  
Tues & Wed \$8.00, Friday \$10.00 Take outs add \$0.50

Rose Room Coffee Shop Open Mon-Fri 8:30-4:00 Sat 8:30-11:00 a.m.  
Frozen Soups & Meals availability according to Garden Park Restaurant Menu

| Sun  | Mon  | Tues   | Wed   | Thurs  | Fri   | Sat                      |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Breakfast Menu now has:</b><br><b>Oatmeal every morning from 8:30—11:00. Enjoy it with Warm Milk, Brown Sugar, Raisins, Dried Fruit and Nuts</b><br><b>Bananas, Apples and Oranges now available in the cooler</b><br><br><b>A list of Vegetarian and Gluten Free Soups is available in the Rose Room</b> |  |  |   |  | 1 Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Peas & Carrots, Tossed Salad, Jello<br><br>Breakfast Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches<br>Lunch Special                 | 2                        |
| 3  | 4  | 5 Beef Stew<br>Split Pea Soup<br><br>Lemon Meringue Pie                              | 6 Chicken Borscht<br>Minestrone Soup<br>Rueben Sandwich<br><br>Rhubarb Platz      | 7  | 8 <b>Mothers Day Lunch</b><br><b>BBQ Chicken Breast, Roast Potatoes</b><br><b>Broccoli and Cauliflower, Carrots</b><br><b>Strawberry Pecan Salad</b><br><b>Cheesecake with Strawberry Sauce</b> | 9                        |
|  | Breakfast<br>Fresh Buns<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches                               | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches<br>Lunch Special           | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches               | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches<br>Lunch Special   | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods |
| 10   | 11   | 12 Chicken Noodle Soup, Sweet Potato Chili (Vegetarian)<br>Rollkuchen and Watermelon | 13 Beef Borscht<br>Corn Chowder<br>Clubhouse Sandwich<br><br>Plum Platz           | 14   | 15 Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Raspberry Ginger Red Cabbage, Cucumber and Tomato with Dill Dressing<br>Tapioca Pudding  | 16                       |
|  | Breakfast<br>Fresh Buns<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches                               | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches<br>Lunch Special           | Breakfast<br>Fresh Buns<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches<br>Lunch Special   | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods |
| 17   | 18<br><b>Closed Victoria Day</b>                                     | 19 Hamburger Soup<br>Cream of Broccoli Soup<br><br>Apple Piroshki                    | 20 Farmer Sausage Soup<br>Tomato Basil Soup<br>Chicken Pot Pie<br>Blueberry Platz | 21   | 22 Pork Roast with Apple Sauce, Scalloped Potatoes, au Gratin, Corn Baked Beans with Maple Sauce<br>Tossed Salad  | 23                       |
|  | <b>Closed Victoria Day</b>   | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches                               | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches<br>Lunch Special           | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches               | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches  | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods |
| 24   | 25   | 26 Chili<br>Green Bean Soup<br><br>Bienenstich                                       | 27 Chicken Borscht<br>Butternut Squash Soup<br>Quiche Lorraine<br>Apricot Platz   | 28   | 29 Perogies with Fried Onions and White Sauce, Farmer Sausage with Sauerkraut, Green Beans, Pickled Beets, Cherry Moos  | 30                       |
|  | Breakfast<br>Fresh Buns<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches                               | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches<br>Lunch Special           | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches               | Breakfast<br>Baked Goods<br>Chili, Soups<br>Sandwiches<br>Lunch Special   |                          |

## DURKSEN NAMED GARDEN PARKS "MAYOR"

by Journal Staff

At the April 23rd annual meeting of the Clearbrook Golden Age Society, several members were recognized for their volunteer service to the Society and to the local seniors community. Former Maple Ridge, BC mayor, Carl Durksen, and his wife Mary have been residents at Garden Park Tower for 6 years. Both have served in numerous positions and have volunteered in other areas.

Durksen is the former Board Chair and continues as Chair of the Residents Advisory Council at Garden Park Tower. He has also been involved in the woodwork workshop building many birdhouse for others, on the Community Events Committee, as well as on the Editorial Committee, together with Mary, which produces *The Garden Park Journal*. Carl was named Mayor of Garden Park".

Also recognized for their contribution as directors were John Hatton and Jack Jansen, both retiring from the Board.

The Founding Editor of *The Garden Park Journal*, Dr. John H. Redekop, received an appreciation plaque for the many hours he has volunteered in the first year of this new and highly successful publication serving seniors in Abbotsford and beyond.

The update reports on the the past year were positively received by the members as the Society again had a successful year of activities and services.

Menno Froese and George Penner were re-elected to the board. Marilyn Hamilton and Irene Goossen are newly-elected board members.

At the subsequent organizational Board meeting, Menno Froese was re-elected as Board Chair, Reinhard Epp was elected Vice-Chair. The Board Secretary will con-

tinue to be Anne Ratz and the new Treasurer is Dr. Marilyn Hamilton, who is also a CPA, CGA. Another successful year is anticipated!

Readers should know that the Clearbrook Golden Age Society is a community organization dedicated to provide a variety of services for retired and semi-retired persons, and also others, in the Central Fraser Valley. It has responsibility for Garden Park Tower as well as for various other endeavours. The society invites people to become members in this service-oriented organization. If you are interested, please contact the Society office at 604-853-5532.



### Clearbrook Community Centre Hall Rentals

Do you need a place for business meetings, a wedding or other gathering? Our rooms can accommodate from 12 to 450 people. Prices are very competitive.

For more information, call 604-853-5532 or email: [rentals@gardenparktower.ca](mailto:rentals@gardenparktower.ca)



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St. John Ambulance  
Therapy Dog 

Luke is a six-year-old Newfoundland-Retriever cross. Handlers, Heidi and Vic, rescued Luke when he was one and indicate that their lives have been enriched ever since.

Luke has only recently become a St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog and is currently visiting at the Menno Home and has spent time some time at the Cedarbrooke Chateau Retirement Residences in Mission.

Luke is looking forward to diversifying his interest in the community. Luke also participates in the UFV 'Exam stress relief' visits with students.

Luke has a loving disposition which enables him to bring smiles to faces and joy to hearts.

Meet Luke and his handlers in the Azalea Room, **May 12 and May 26 at 10:00 a.m.**

### Dog of the Month—May 2015



**LUKE with Heidi**

## Question of the Month

The question for May is this: "Should parents leave virtually all of their estate to their children?" Please send your comments to [jredkops@shaw.ca](mailto:jredkops@shaw.ca)

In the April issue of *The Journal* we asked, "Are the teachings of Islam compatible with the principles of democracy?" Most people, it seems, have rather strong views on this matter and all of the ones with whom I interacted came down on the negative side. Let me say at the outset that in the main I, too, share that conclusion.

We gladly acknowledge, of course, that certain emphases in Islam are commendable and need to be affirmed. The central emphasis on family is obviously positive. Similarly, the strong teaching on giving alms to the needy, widely practiced by Muslims, evokes approval. One can identify some other teachings deserving support. Our question today, however, deals narrowly with the principles of democracy. In this area I find very little in Islam that I can identify as aligning with democracy. Let's review the basic principles undergirding the democratic way of life.

1. In a democracy it is affirmed that law-making is done by an elected legislature; at least the major branch of the legislature must be elected. It is further emphasized that the lawmakers make the law after having duly looked at all relevant evidence and having weighed various options. The over-arching Muslim view is different. In most, if not all, Muslim-controlled legislatures the dominant view is that the legislators shall implement the will of Allah.

2. In a democracy religious liberty is basic. People are free to believe any faith, or believe in no faith, and they can change their religious commitments whenever they wish to do so. The Muslim view is basically different. Quoting the Quran, Muslim politicians in most Muslim-dominant countries generally do not provide religious freedom. Followers of other faiths are generally not given the freedom Muslims enjoy. In fact, in most Muslim countries other faiths tend not to be tolerated. In those countries individuals who leave the Muslim faith and adopt some other religion are termed apostates and are often severely punished or even killed.

3. In a democracy freedom of the press is basic. Where Islam is dominant, freedom of the press is rare.

4. In a democracy much emphasis is placed on having a loyal opposition party or coalition in place in the legislature. If it happens that the opposition is or becomes the majority, then typically another election is held. Generally speaking, in Muslim-dominant countries there is little acceptance of the concept of Loyal Opposition. In fact, in many countries, no anti-Muslim opposition is tolerated.

5. In a democracy we have free and fair elections. With minimal exceptions, the voting is free and the counting is

fair. In most Muslim-dominated countries we see little evidence of free elections.

6. In a free society the judiciary is independent of both the executive and legislative branches and, at times, even calls their actions unconstitutional. In most Muslim-dominant countries the courts are not independent. In many countries they, too, claim to be carrying out the will of Allah.

7. In a democracy equality before the law and legal equality of all citizens is basic and is upheld. In Muslim-dominant countries this is not the case.

A few Muslim-dominant countries including Turkey, Indonesia, Egypt, Iraq and one or two others have, at times, adhered to some of these seven basic principles of democracy. Generally speaking, however, they are not found in the Quran and are not followed in countries where Muslims control the government. JHR ■

**MINT CONDITION:** Male, 1932, high mileage, good condition, some hair, many new parts including: hip, knee, cornea, valves. Isn't in running condition, but walks well.

## Volunteers lend a hand

Each year, through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) of Canada Revenue Agency, community organizations and more than 18,000 volunteers help more than half a million Canadians file their tax returns and thus maintain uninterrupted access to benefits and entitlements. Clearbrook Golden Age Society is one of the community organizations which provide space and resources for a team of volunteers to provide this valuable service for seniors in March and April. During the past two months, roughly 800 seniors have been helped with their income tax return at no cost. Volunteers work not only at Garden Park Tower, but also visit Menno Place and Tabor Village to bring services directly to seniors.

We wish to acknowledge George Faerber, who coordinates the entire program for us, and his team of volunteers for their hard work and tremendous service to our community. Volunteers this year were Phil Harder, Irene Jason, Lee Goertzen, Evelyn Lentz, Roy Daly, and George Loewen. Congratulations and thank you for a job well done. This year it was also my privilege to be part of the team. It was real good to work with you.

Ron Willms, Executive Director  
Clearbrook Golden Age Society

---

"God is more interested in our character than our comfort." Helen Lescheid

## Recipe

### Farmer Sausage Soup

2 lbs Farmer Sausage peeled and diced (1 ring)  
2 tbsp butter  
1 tbsp garlic minced  
1 large onions diced  
1 large carrots diced  
½ tsp Chili peppers  
½ tsp pepper  
1 tsp salt  
6 bay leaves  
1 tsp thyme  
1 litre water  
1 litre chicken broth  
6 medium red potatoes diced  
6 cups kale chopped



#### Roux

¼ cup butter  
¼ cup flour  
2 cups Creamo

In Dutch oven, melt butter, fry farmer sausage, garlic, onions and carrots  
Add spices, cook and stir 10 minutes  
Add water and chicken broth, cook ½ hour  
Add potatoes and kale, cook ½ hour  
Make Roux in small pot and add Roux to soup.  
Makes 4 litres.

### MCC Promotional Lunch

Saturday, May 30, 2015

12:00 noon

Garden Park Tower

2825 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford.

**Speakers:** Peter Wolfe—MCC Ukraine  
Wayne Bremner—MCC Afghanistan

**Music:** Andrea and Amaris

Tickets: \$10.00 at the GPT Office or MCC

### Why go to Church?

One Sunday morning, a mother went in to wake her son and tell him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, "I'm not going."

"Why not?" she asked.

"I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "(1) they don't like me, and (2) I don't like them."

His mother replied, "I'll give you two good reasons why you SHOULD go to church: (1) You're 49 years old, and (2) you're the pastor!"

## Picture of the Month

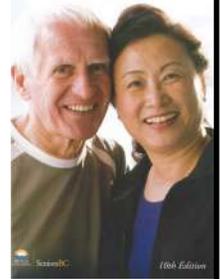


Mt. Shuksan, Washington

Photo by Neil Mathies

#### BC Seniors' Guide

Pick up a free copy of the BC Seniors' Guide at the Society's office, while quantities last.



## Why be a Volunteer?

It's not for money, it's not for fame.

It's not for any personal gain.

It's just for love of fellowman.

It's just to send a helping hand.

It's just to give a tithe of self.

That's something you can't buy with wealth.

It's not medals won with pride.

It's for that feeling deep inside.

It's that reward down in your heart.

It's that feeling that you've been a part

of helping others far and near,

that makes you be a Volunteer!

Author Unknown



## Government of British Columbia Services & Offerings

### Independent Living BC

This program helps seniors and persons with disabilities live independently in affordable, self-contained housing.

**Contact Information** \* Toll-Free: 1-866-465-6873

### Fair Pharmacare

This program provides financial assistance to British Columbia residents for eligible prescription drugs and medical supplies.

**Contact Information** \* Toll-Free: 1-800-663-7100

### Senior's Supplement

This program provides a monthly payment to seniors receiving the federal Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement or Federal Allowance.

**Contact Information** \* Toll-Free: 1-866-866-0800

### Assisted Living

These residences provide housing, hospitality services and personalized assistance services for adults who can live independently but require regular assistance with daily activities, usually because of age, illness or disabilities.

**Contact Information** \* Toll-Free: 1-800-663-7867

### Shelter Aid For Elderly Renters (SAFER)

This program offers financial assistance to seniors (aged 60 and over) whose rent exceeds a certain percentage of their monthly income.

**Contact Information** \* Toll-Free: 1-800-257-7756

### Property Tax Deferment – 55 & older, Surviving Spouse, Person with a Disability

This program is a low-interest loan program that allows you to defer all, or part, of your current annual property taxes on your principal residence.

**Contact Information** \*Toll-Free: 1-800-663-7867

### Bus Pass

This program provides an annual pass for public transit systems to low-income seniors and persons with disabilities.

**Contact Information** \*Toll-Free: 1-866-866-0800

## Reflections Upon Reaching 80

- Going out is good; coming home is better.
- You forget names? Don't worry, some people forget they even knew you.
- You sleep better in an easy chair with the TV on than in bed with the TV off.
- You still speak as loudly as you always did; everybody else now whispers.
- You have three sizes of clothes in your closet; two of which you will never wear.
- What used to be freckles are now expanding into age spots.
- Old is better in many things: old songs, old pictures, old trees, old friends.
- Today is the oldest you've ever been but also the youngest you'll ever be.
- It's not what you gather but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.

## City Services & Offerings

| Activities                                   | Location              | Contact      |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|
| Active & Ageless                             | Matsqui Rec Center    | 604-855-0500 |
| Carpet Bowling                               | MRC                   | 604-852-2645 |
| Joint Efforts                                | MRC                   | 604-855-0500 |
| Shuffle Board                                | MRC                   | 604-746-9017 |
| Bones & Balance                              | ARC/MRC               | 604-853-4221 |
| Active & Ageless                             | Abbotsford Rec Center | 604-853-4221 |
| Adult & Senior Skate                         | ARC                   | 604-853-4221 |
| Adult Swim                                   | ARC                   | 604-853-4221 |
| Art in the ARC                               | ARC Senior's Centre   | 604-854-3668 |
| Cardiac Rehab                                | ARC                   | 604-853-4221 |
| Get up & Go                                  | ARC                   | 604-853-4221 |
| Learning Plus<br>Sept.-April                 | ARC Senior's Centre   | 604-853-7757 |
| Senior Bus Trips                             | Lower Mainland        | 604-853-4221 |
| Seniors' Track Time                          | ARC                   | 604-853-4221 |
| Stroke Recovery                              | ARC Senior's Centre   | 604-850-0011 |
| "TIME"- Together in<br>Movement and Exercise | ARC                   | 604-853-4221 |

## Community Centre Services & Activities

### Picture Framing

Mondays—Fridays  
8:30am to 11:30am  
By appointment only  
Contact the office

### Bookbinding

Mondays—Fridays  
8:30am to 11:30am  
Drop off at office

### Bones and Balance

Date: Mondays  
Time: 9:45 AM  
Where: Dogwood Room  
Instructor: Dee Van Meer  
Cost: \$2.25 (GST included)

### Carpet Bowling - P1

Tuesdays and Thursdays  
in the Rec. Room  
2:00pm to 4:00pm  
Cost: \$1.25 (GST included)

### Health in Motion

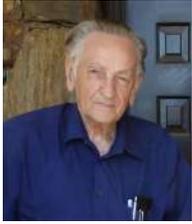
Date: Thursdays  
Time: 9:45 AM  
Where: Dogwood Room  
Instructor: Colleen Moore  
Cost: \$2.25 (GST included)



**"Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain - and most do." Dale Carnegie**

Answers: 1.hawk, gull, crow, dove, local 2.eagle, crane, heron, mallard, game 3.pelican, pigeon, turkey, parrot, regional

## A Tribute to Mother



John Redekop

Many memories come to mind when I think of my mother [Agnes (Wiebe) Redekop, May 28, 1897 – February 25, 1965]. She was not perfect, just excellent! My mother had a positive disposition. It was doubtless extremely challenging for her and dad to raise six children during the Great Depression in Saskatchewan, when they had practically nothing, financially. In those days my father was financially challenged in all three of his chosen vocations: preachers were paid nothing; teachers very little, and the crops on the small farm failed year after year. I recall the last of those years; I do not recall hearing my mother or my dad complain. Their glass was always one-quarter full, not three-quarters empty.

My mother was incredibly resourceful. I recall her bleaching flour sacks and transforming them into attractive garments. She sewed and then re-sewed clothes to fit the older ones and then the next in line. And that was just the beginning of her resourcefulness.

My mother did crafts even though neither she nor anyone else in the family knew the word. She designed and made the most amazing stuffed animals. Some have survived to this day. Her prodigious sewing and embroidery were truly impressive. We still have keepsakes. Because there was no money for linoleum, she developed and painted outstanding designs on wooden floors that should have been replaced. In her later years she became well known for the large number of doll clothes she sewed and either gave away or somehow found the funds to ship overseas for missionaries to use in their ministry.

My mother was musical. After an exhausting day's work and also on weekends she would, at times, bring out some musical instruments and would start the singing. I shall never forget those times.

My mother was very generous and always hospitable. She never complained – at least as I remember - when guests arrived unexpectedly. Many a chicken had to lay down its life so that some guest preachers or travellers could eat well. Typically there would be lots of vegetables, fresh or canned, and generous servings of lemon pie. I learned early on to be grateful for such guests; our meals were best when they came!

My mother was an excellent gardener, a virtual horticulturalist. She knew what to plant, when, and where. Equally important, she knew how to direct our windmill-produced water to the right plants in the right amounts. I dug many a squiggly little trench, with diverting channels, to help get that done right.

My mother looked after our health needs. Not only was she a fine cook, even when supplies ran short, but she also made sure that we were kept as healthy as possible.

Whatever we lacked in fresh vegetables in winter was replaced with copious amounts of dreadful-tasting purple cod liver oil.

My mother was a resilient optimist. She needed to be. I remember her and my father standing in the doorway as they watched a horrendous dust storm destroy our crops. We had to light our kerosene lamps at noon. One year it was loud grasshoppers. There were tears but not anger or despair. She did not succumb to grief or despondency. Never did her faith in God's goodness waver, not even when her husband passed away, suddenly and unexpectedly at age 63, on that fateful Saturday afternoon.

My mother was a loving woman. She expressed and demonstrated this to her husband and to us children. I never doubted that fact even when, on rare occasions, her love was expressed as discipline.

Most importantly, my mother was a devout Christian. Prayer and Bible reading were important for her. She prayed fervently for and with us. Her deep-rooted Christian commitment came through in many ways, verbal and practical, at home, at church, and in the larger community.



Agnes (Wiebe) Redekop JHR Photo  
c. 1957

I thank God for the godly mother I had – not perfect, just excellent!

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"A fairly young professional woman had not been to church for many months. One day the pastor saw her drive up in her new car. After that she never missed a Sunday. After a month or so he could not contain his curiosity and said to her, 'You always avoided church but now you are always here'. She replied, 'it's this new car of mine, pastor. They told me that the warranty will lapse if I miss even one service time.'"

# Community Resources

## Health

### **Abbotsford Mental Health Office**

32700 George Ferguson Way, Abbotsford, BC  
Ph. 604-870-7800 Fax: 604-870-7801

### **Abbotsford Parkinson's Support Group**

Meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month,  
September to June. Ph. Gary at 604-308-8691 or Carolyn at  
604-853-3772 Email: [info@parkinson.bc.ca](mailto:info@parkinson.bc.ca)

### **Abbotsford - Mission Arthritis Support Group**

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each  
month at Abbotsford Church of the Nazarene,  
2390 McMillan Road, Abbotsford, Ph. Terry  
Davies 604-853-8138 Email: [koipond@telus.net](mailto:koipond@telus.net)

### **Alcoholics Anonymous**

If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop,  
that's ours. Call our 24-hour hotline at 604-615-2911  
Website [www.abbotsfordaa.org](http://www.abbotsfordaa.org)

### **Alzheimer Resource Centre – Abbotsford**

#214 – 2825 Clearbrook Rd., Abbotsford  
Ph. 604-859-3889 Fax: 604-859-8341  
All support services by appointment only.

### **B.C. Schizophrenia Society**

Unit 18 – 33655 Essendene Ave.  
Abbotsford, BC V2S 2G5 Ph. 604-859-0105  
Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

### **British Columbia Center for Epilepsy and Seizure Education**

#112 – 32868 Ventura Avenue, Abbotsford.  
Ph. 604-853-7399 Fax: 604-853-7336  
Email: [epilepsy.support@telus.net](mailto:epilepsy.support@telus.net)

### **Canadian Cancer Society, Abbotsford Branch**

#128 – 31935 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford  
Ph. 604-852-1410 Fax: 604-852-1707  
Email: [abbotsford@b.c.cancer.ca](mailto:abbotsford@b.c.cancer.ca)  
Monday to Friday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

### **Canadian Diabetes Association (Abbotsford and District Branch)**

Box 345, Abbotsford, BC V2S 4N6  
Ph. 1-800-665-6526 (Vancouver Office)  
Email: [infobc@diabetes.ca](mailto:infobc@diabetes.ca)

Informational meetings are held at Central Heights Church  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM, January to May.  
There is no fee to attend.

### **HIV/AIDS Support Group**

Lighthouse Centre  
#1 – 2712 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford, BC  
Ph. 604-854-1101 Fax: 604-854-1105  
Email: [tic@plfv.org](mailto:tic@plfv.org)

### **MS Society of Canada, Fraser Valley Chapter**

P.O. Box 373, Abbotsford, BC Ph. 1-877-303-7122  
Email: [info.fraservalley@mssociety.ca](mailto:info.fraservalley@mssociety.ca) Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Wednesday of the month at Trinity Memorial United Church,  
33737 George Ferguson Way, Abbotsford, 1:00-3:00 pm.

### **Seniors Healthy Aging Resource Environment Society**

102-2455 W, Railway, Abbotsford. Ph. 604-854-1733

### **Stroke Recovery Association of BC**

Weekly group meetings for stroke survivors of all ages.  
Caregivers are welcome to sit in for a few meetings to help  
with transition. The meetings run from 12:30 to 3:30 at the  
Abbotsford Recreational Centre every Thursday except for  
July and August. Ph. Laura Wegener 604-798-7530  
Email: [gilburg\\_64@hotmail.com](mailto:gilburg_64@hotmail.com)

### **The Blind and Visually Impaired Society**

Legacy Sports Centre, Rotary Stadium, Abbotsford. The  
Society meets at 1:00 PM the second and fourth Wednesday  
every month. The society assists and offers quality of life in a  
healthy place. Mae Atkinson Ph. 604-626-0643

## Et Cetera

### **Abbotsford – Canada Pension/Old Age Security**

If you have moved, your new address should be given imme-  
diately to make sure your pensions arrive on time. To inform  
about changes and to get information on any programs call  
1-800-277-9914.

### **Abbotsford Community Services**

104—32885 Ventura Ave, Abbotsford, Ph. 604-850-7934

### **Abbotsford Recreation Centre**

2499 McMillan Road, Abbotsford, Ph. 604-853-4221

### **Abbotsford Seniors Association**

33889 Essendene Ave., Abbotsford,  
Ph. 604-853-4014 or 604-870-3772

### **BC Old Age Pensioners and Seniors' Organization**

Br. #69 – 3106 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford.  
Ph. 604-859-7265

### **Central Valley Woodcarvers**

Meetings are held every Wednesday evening at Yale Second-  
ary School, Yale Road, Abbotsford, during the school year.  
Ph. 604-853-8049

### **Communitas Supportive Care Society**

#103 – 2776 Bourquin Crescent, West, Abbotsford  
Ph. 604-850-6608

### **Legal Aid Services**

2459 Pauline Ave., Abbotsford, Ph. 604-852-2141

### **Matsqui Recreation Centre**

3106 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford, Ph. 604-855-0500

*Additional listings may be sent to [office@gardenparktower.ca](mailto:office@gardenparktower.ca)*

**"By the time a woman realizes her mother  
was right, she has a daughter who thinks she  
is wrong."**

**"You don't need to take a person's advice  
to make him feel good - just ask for it."**

**Lawrence J. Peter**

# Memories & Happenings

## A Mother's Journey



Mary and Carl Durksen

We are enjoying a beautiful spring season. The blue sky, the colourful spring flowers, and the sun's warm rays make for happy times. Springtime brings us beauty, renewal and Mother's Day. This is a precious day for mothers

as we are given special attention with gifts and acts of love. Mother's Day, however, can also remind us of pain and feelings of loss, a reality that we cannot deny.

Nine years ago I answered the phone; it was our son, Wes. In his always happy tone he simply announced, "Mom, I have cancer". Suddenly my heart beat very fast and I was overwhelmed with sadness. As we continued our conversation I sat down in my chair and the tears came. After the call ended I was, shall I say, lost. Where could I go but to the Lord? This I did, pouring out my pain to my Saviour as I have done many times since then.

Wes' surgery was carried out rather quickly. This was followed by six months of treatments including both chemotherapy and radiation. As we know, the side-effects are very unpleasant but Wes never complained. His great courage gave us peace and strength in those hard times.

To help keep up everyone's morale we planned many dinners for family and friends. We served special treats, including banana splits, and we played games. Amidst all of the basic sadness we had good times, we enjoyed one another's company.

Wes continued with his singing. With his chemo pouch at his side, he carried on as the bass in a quartet which sang often, particularly at various funerals. He also sang duets with his father, Carl. He was an excellent singer and his singing blessed many people.

As word of the serious cancer spread, hundreds of cards and floral arrangements arrived at the home of Wes and Teri. As a school principal Wes was much-loved and the teachers and pupils in his school missed him so much.

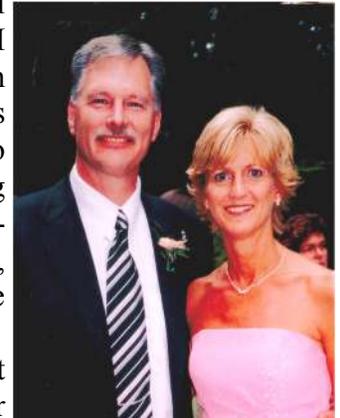
They could not understand why this dreaded disease should afflict their popular principal.

A few months later there was further ominous news. Three tumours had been found on Wes' liver. This meant another major surgery.

The day after the surgery Wes and Teri called and asked us to come to their place. We drove over, we were uneasily fearful, not knowing what to expect. Shortly after we arrived, Wes said, "The doctors have given me three to six months". We were stunned!

The decline in health happened quickly. Five months later, at age 54, Wes went to his heavenly home. More than 1,200 people attended the memorial service. His son Tim, age 19, preached a powerful sermon. Wes' quartet sang with his recorded voice included. Wes left not only his devoted wife, Teri, but three children aged, 19, 21, and 23 and his first little grandson.

I can't tell you how painful this whole experience was but I can tell you that God has been faithful and good. We still miss Wes greatly but we are so pleased that he left us a loving wife and three wonderful children, as well as a grandson, who love us and whom we love deeply.



Wes and Teri Durksen

The law of nature tells us that children should outlive their parents but that is not always the case. We had to bury our son!!

When a woman loses her husband she is called a widow. When a man loses his wife he is called a widower. When parents lose a son or a daughter there is no word for it. We are simply the bereaved. We never anticipated this loss but we are now members of the club of bereaved parents.

I wish to thank my loving and faithful husband, Carl, for walking this journey with me. We both are deeply thankful that as Christians we know we will meet Wes again at Jesus' feet when He calls us home to heaven.

"To deserve approval is more important than to receive it."

"Nobody grows old merely living a number of years....Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up interest wrinkles the soul."

General Douglas MacArthur



## Dollars & Sense

### Is it a God Tax?



Edwin Friesen

Recently I picked up a church bulletin that had an interesting explanatory note tucked in the order of the worship service. In parenthesis right under the offering it said, "If you are a visitor or a new Christian, please feel no obligation to give". I have also been in services where worship leaders have made a similar statement, followed immediately by an exhortation to the faithful to give generously since the church was short of funds. As a casual visitor, I am left with the (intended?) impression that offerings are a form of tax on the committed, and that once I "buy in" I will be expected to pay. Until then, there is no obligation.

Is giving only for the committed? Are seekers or new Christians turned off by an invitation to give? Does God, or for that matter the church, want the gifts of the uncommitted? Is giving a form of taxation levied by God and the church on the committed? Are we trying to make the Christian faith more appealing by delaying or avoiding the distasteful subject whenever possible? Is giving [money for God's ministry] like taking Buckley's Cough medicine – good for your cold but it sure tastes bad?

Maybe the reason we are hesitant to talk about giving is that we ourselves have never experienced joy and celebration in the act of giving. If receiving the offering is no more than collecting an obligatory "God-tax" from reluctant attendees to help pay overdue bills, no wonder we are apologetic.

If giving is no more than paying for services received in

"To acquire knowledge one must study but to acquire wisdom one must observe." Merilyn Savant

At one point during the game, the coach called one of his 9-year-old hockey players aside and asked, "Do you understand that what matters is whether we win or lose together as a team?" The little boy nodded. The coach continued, "I'm sure you know that when a penalty is called, you shouldn't argue, curse the referee or call the linesman an idiot." The little boy nodded again. "And when I take you out of the game so that another boy gets a chance to play too, it's not good sportsmanship to call your coach stupid." The little fellow agreed.

"Good", said the coach, "Now go explain all of this to your grandmother over there."

the church then our reluctance is understandable, maybe even commendable. If giving is no more than doing a mathematical calculation to ensure that God gets the correct share, not unlike doing our income tax, no wonder we want to shield spiritual minors from this unpleasant experience.

On the other hand, if we see giving as a joyful act of worshipping God, then surely we should invite any and all to give – to worship. Each time we offer our first fruits, we declare that God has first place in our lives and that we are grateful for the provisions God gives us. As we give, we shift our trust from material things to God. In giving, we shift our focus from possessions to people, from ourselves to others, from the temporal to the eternal. In giving we connect to the heart of God, and emulate the generosity of God in our own lives.

I wish to see my gifts to God as an affirmation of my love for God and the relationship we enjoy. I realize that without this relationship my gifts will quickly assume the burden of a "God tax". I am well aware that if my heart is not in it I will be looking for creative ways to minimize the obligatory "gift". For me, giving has opened the door to a richer worship experience. Along with believers everywhere, I wish to affirm my relationship with God by regularly offering the first fruits of my life with joy.

*The late Edwin Friesen served as Stewardship Consultant with Menonite Foundation of Canada. This article is taken from his collected writings, Giving your first fruits; Money, faith and worship. It is used with permission.*

### Did GOD Make You?

The little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a good night story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up and touch his wrinkled cheek. By and by, she was alternately stroking her own cheek and then his again.

Finally, she spoke "Grandpa, Did God make you?" "Yes, Sweetheart," he answered; "God made me, a long time ago."

"Oh," she said. Then, "Grandpa, did God make me, too?"

"Yes, indeed, Honey," he assured her. "God made you, just a little while ago."

"Oh," she said. Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it now, isn't He?"

## A Senior's Concern



Len Remple

### The Loyola Case

We were waiting anxiously for the Supreme Court decision. Now we have it.

Why were we concerned? Details below provide the reasons for the widespread concern.

It all started in 2008. At that time the Quebec Department of Education issued new regulations concerning the teaching of religion in schools. The regulations required religion to be taught in a “non-preferential” manner which meant that no religion could be given any preference or particular endorsement. A particularly disturbing aspect was that these new regulations were applied not only to public schools, but also to private and religious schools. It thus prohibited the Catholic and Protestant denominational schools from promoting the Christian faith on which they were based. They could not teach that Christianity was exclusive. If this policy had been left unchallenged, it would shortly have spread like a virus into every school district in Canada.

After these regulations were issued in Quebec, the legislatures in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta in short order passed bills that were virtually identical to that of Quebec, without waiting to see if the Quebec law would be challenged.

In September 2008 the Loyola Jesuit Catholic School sued the Quebec government over this policy. The Quebec Superior Court agreed with the Quebec government

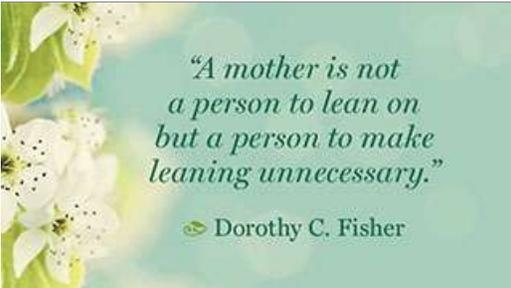
and thus Loyola lost the case. Then Loyola appealed to the Quebec Court of Appeal and Loyola won! Next, the government of Quebec appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada. Finally, in March 2014, after six years of fighting over the issue, it was heard by the top Canadian court. This time there were co-convenors, namely the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and the Association of Reformed Churches joined with Loyola to try to overturn this obvious attack on the Christian faith.

The judges in the Supreme Court of Canada struggled for a full year in their decision about this matter before finally rendering a verdict on March 19, 2015. The Christian side won. The decision was unanimous by the nine justices. After a seven-year struggle, common sense prevailed. However, the verdict stipulated that all educational institutions must teach the basics of all religions, but the exclusivity of Christianity could be given priority. This same policy is granted to Muslim private schools too, permitting them to teach Islam as they choose.

A major faith challenge has been averted. If this had not been stopped, 313 independent Christian schools and 11 post-secondary institutions in Canada would have lost the ability to seriously advocate for biblical faith.

Can you imagine MEI or TWU being prohibited from teaching biblical faith?

Right-thinking prevailed. For this we can be thankful to God.



*“A mother is not  
a person to lean on  
but a person to make  
leaning unnecessary.”*

➤ Dorothy C. Fisher

“My nephew Samuel was working the graveyard shift in a gas station when he saw a man shoplifting. Thinking quickly, Samuel stopped him at the door with a friendly tone saying, “Would you like to fill out an entry form for our contest? You don’t have to buy anything to enter. There are big prizes.” The man couldn’t resist. He filled out his name, address and phone number on the contest form and then left. The police later said they had never before arrested so helpful a thief.” Phyllis Solsberg, Edmonton

### Young Folks’ Logic

If you are a senior, you will appreciate this failure of logic. If you deal with seniors, this should help you understand them better. They are astute, frugal, and ingenious. And if you are not yet a senior, God-willing you will someday be fortunate enough to be one.

One day my wife and I went out for breakfast. We stopped at a restaurant where the “Senior Special” was “Two eggs, bacon, hash brown potatoes and toast” for \$3.99. We agreed to enjoy the bargain and went in. The waitress came to take our order. I ordered the “Senior Special” with the eggs scrambled. “I’ll also take the ‘Senior Special,’” said my wife, “but I don’t want the eggs”.

“Then I’ll have to charge you \$4.49 because you are then ordering a la carte,” said the otherwise delightful

young waitress.

“You mean, I have to pay extra for not taking the eggs?”” said my wife incredulously.

“Yes”, said the waitress, “that’s our policy”.

After a moment’s thought, my wife said, “I’ll take the special”.

“And how do want your eggs?” said the seemingly surprised but again smiling young lady.

“Raw and in the shell”, said my astute life’s partner.

The waitress brought my wife her “Senior Special” with two eggs on a side plate. After we returned home my wife used them to bake us a fine little cake.

The moral of the story: “Don’t mess around with seniors. We can see well and we can think straight. We’ve been around the block more than once!”