In our modern society divorce has lost its stigma
A fundamental problem is a failure to communicate

The 27-Year Itch

I have unabashedly borrowed the title of this editorial from the cover story of Maclean’s magazine (January 29, 2007). What is the 27-year itch? No doubt you have heard of the 7-year itch. I am not sure how far this expression goes back, but in 1955 Marilyn Monroe starred in the comedy, The Seven Year Itch. This film satirized the tendency of men to “stray” from their wives after seven years of marriage. Keeping this in mind, the expression “27-year itch” seems an improvement – twenty years improvement! But that is not the point of this expression and it is certainly not the point of Anne Kingston’s article in Maclean’s. The 27-year itch indicates a growing trend of late-life divorces in the fifty to eighty-five age group. In fact, the fastest-increasing divorce rate in our country and throughout the world is among marriages that have lasted twenty to sixty years. Once it was only the rich and powerful that divorced and remarried, but now it is a cross-cultural phenomenon.

“People change and they forget to tell each other.”

Why?

Anne Kingston interviewed Deirdre Bair who has just come out with a new book, Calling It Quits: Late-Life Divorce and Starting Over. Kingston makes clear that Bair is a well-respected and accomplished researcher. Kingston asked Bair whether she observed any patterns among late-life divorces. In other words, was there a pattern in the reason for divorce at this stage of married life? Here is Bair’s response:

A growing apart. I used a quote from Lillian Hellman to introduce one of the chapters: “People change and they forget to tell each other.” An indifference comes to pass, a lack of communication, a non-sharing of anything on any level. That seemed to be what inspired so many people to say, “There has to be something better, there has to be something different.” Of course, infidelity was a very large component, but mostly in the upper classes. And the reason that it was possible for these people to divorce rather than to just end their lives living separately within a dead marriage, I think, was the feminist movement of the 1970s. Many women either worked or they had the experience of knowing that they could make it on their own, that they were entitled to a portion of their husband’s pension or whatever if they had not worked outside the home, so they felt that financially they would be able to survive. People in their 60s are saying, “I could have 20 more years of life and I don’t want those 20 years to be what I’m living now, I want something better.” I think having more opportunities for financial survival, and leading long-term healthier lives, has inspired many people to make this really astonishing step. In her article, Anne Kingston points out that in place of traditional commitments to marriage and family, people are putting more value on individual freedom, self-identity, starting over, and the pursuit of happiness. It is an ironic twist to what is considered one of the “unalienable rights” of the United States Declaration of Independence: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Basically in our modern society divorce has lost its stigma and therefore if one marriage partner feels stymied in any way by the other, then divorce becomes very attractive. In fact, Kingston shows from one survey that one in four divorced men and women stated that there were no major problems leading to divorce. People had fallen out of love and had grown apart and they believed that a greater satisfaction beckoned them once they were free of their marriage partner.
The norm

A family-law conference in Chicago held last year suggested that in fifty years the average person will be married three times. The first marriage will be a starter marriage; the second marriage will be for procreation and raising children; the third marriage will be for companionship. Considering contemporary trends of marriage and divorce, this is not an impossible scenario. A more likely scenario, however, is that people will engage in multiple cohabitations without the bother of marriage.

Any advice or hope?

Neither Kingston nor Bair give the impression that they like or are strongly promoting divorce. Both warn against overly romanticizing divorce. Bair warns that divorce is “such a drastic action” and “it should be your last resort. It should not be something you go into lightly.” They warn against dangers such as loneliness, depression, and poverty which can be the fallout of divorce. But in the end, the message is this: if you need to divorce, then do so with your eyes wide open and turn this failure into the beginning of a new and successful endeavour.

I suppose that this is what one can expect from a secular publication. The dismantling of marriage and family, and the acceptability of divorce and remarriage is a way of life in our world. The 7-year itch or the 27-year itch is not going away. It extends to all age groups and to every corner of society.

What about us?

In the pages of our little magazine, Clarion, there have been plenty of warnings against the spirit of individualism or narcissism which is the very thing that puts self-expression ahead of commitment to others. We also are well aware of the biblical mandate to remain married “till death do us part.” Commitment as husband and wife to the marriage bond is sacred. Understanding this and remaining committed to one another protects us from the lackadaisical attitude that so many have toward marriage. Of course we cannot be smug or complacent: we are not immune to the attitudes and lifestyles of our world. We may think of the Book of Revelation, which consistently warns the church living in the end of times that compromise with the world is our biggest threat. We are to stand on guard, holding to the Word of God and being obedient to Jesus Christ.
Something further?

It is, however, simply not enough to resist the spirit and practice of our modern age and avoid the pitfall of divorce. Marriage is not simply a matter of staying together no matter what! When God instituted marriage, husband and wife were designed to be each other’s helpers. In passages such as 1 Corinthians 13 and Ephesians 5 it is clear that husband and wife are to blossom in each other’s love.

“If you need to divorce, then do so with your eyes wide open, and turn this failure into the beginning of a new and successful endeavour”

Two things should happen in marriage: first husband and wife are to build each other up in every possible way and secondly they are to help each other live to the praise and glory of God. A marriage is to be typified by such things as love, respect, tenderness, empathy, and caring. If there are wrongs, they are to be forgiven and forgotten. Husband and wife are to be each other’s confidant. That is a very important component to marriage: our spouse should be the one person in our life with whom we can be completely open, relaxed, and comfortable. This is our bosom friend. This is the one person we can trust, with whom we can share anything and from whom we can expect complete support. A marriage partner is a wonderful gift from God to be appreciated as long as we have life together.

At the beginning of this article, I quoted Bair, “People change and they forget to tell each other. An indifference comes to pass, a lack of communication, a non-sharing of anything on any level.” While I don’t like where Bair ends up with her research on divorce, I do appreciate this insight into a fundamental problem with marriage. A fundamental problem is a failure to communicate. When husband and wife do not talk to each other, sharing their struggles, their fears, their dreams, their hopes, and when they no longer listen to each other and therefore know each other, then marriage becomes an empty shell. Husband and wife can become like two strangers under one roof. How important it is that every day husband and wife talk openly and tenderly with each other. It is not uncommon to see in a good marriage that a couple spend at least two hours a day in good conversation with each other. If there are any struggles or concerns, husband and wife can show support for one another, forgive one another if that is necessary, and most importantly, bring that together to the throne of God’s grace.

Marriage is an amazing and beautiful relationship. It was designed by God to bring two people closer to each other and to God. With his grace and blessing, husband and wife can walk hand-in-hand through this life, even for many decades, going from strength to strength, leading each other to eternity and the great wedding feast of the Lamb.
Humility is a very important virtue in many different aspects of our life. Lord’s Day 45 teaches us that humility is important for prayer, where we need to humble ourselves before God. The Lord Jesus taught in John 13 that humility is important for those who lead. The one who would be first must be last and the servant of all.

Humility is especially important in our relationship together as brothers and sisters in the communion of saints. We cannot live together in a meaningful way if we are not humble to each other. The Apostle Paul says in Philippians 2:3 that we must consider others better than ourselves, having the same attitude as Christ Jesus, who made Himself nothing (v 5).

Proverbs 15:33b teaches us that humility comes before honour. Both humility and honour are good things, but humility comes before honour. This means that humility is more important than honour. It also means that humility leads to honour.

In what way is humility more important than honour? Humility benefits the person who has it. A humble person can accept his own shortcomings and failings and ask forgiveness for them. A humble person also benefits the communion of saints more. He is able to sacrifice himself for the sake of others, as is demanded of us in our office of priest. Our office of priest (LD12) is that we sacrifice ourselves for the sake of our Lord. One way in which we do this is by sacrificing ourselves for the sake of his body.

Indeed, how can we say that we love Christ if we do not also love his body? But how can we really love the body of Christ if we are not humble servants of one another? It is nice to receive honour from one’s fellow brothers and sisters. But who, really, are the ones that we honour in the communion of saints? We honour those who are most generous and faithful in serving others. It is through service that we obtain honour.

Our Saviour taught his disciples that he who would be first must be last and the servant of all. And He Himself got down on his knees to wash his disciples feet as a visible example of this teaching. The Lord Jesus received honour when He first humbled Himself, taking the form of a servant and enduring the shame of the cross.

The Apostle Paul speaks of the example that the Lord Jesus has set for us in Philippians 2. Have the same attitude as Christ Jesus, he says, who did not seek his own honour but found it through serving. We, too, will find honour in the sight of God and of our fellow believers, if we are willing to be humble and to serve.

Being humble is not an easy thing. Especially if we have to be humble for others who are not humble. But the Lord requires this of us as part of our sacrifice to Him. Throughout Scripture we see honour being given to the small, the weak, and the humble, because these are the ones who can put their trust in God rather than in themselves.

Yes, being humble is a matter of faith. Counting others better than yourself is a matter of faith. In the eyes of the world it makes no sense for us to follow the example of Christ. From an earthly point of view, what did Christ gain by his humble service? He gained a death on a cross. From an earthly point of view what do we gain if we consider others better than ourselves and give way to their point of view or to their needs?

But we do not judge things from an earthly point of view, we judge by the eyes of faith. With the eyes of faith we see that humility has great value. It has value for us and it has value for the communion of saints when we submit to one another and serve one another. We also see that God will reward those who are humble.

Humility comes before honour. A congregation made up of truly humble members is a credit to the Lord Jesus Christ who is the head of that congregation. It will also be a happy congregation, whose members consider the needs of their fellow believers ahead of their own. If everyone does this, then no one...
Introduction

Today I am going to briefly talk about constitutions, interpretation of constitutions by judges and others, and participation in the legal/constitutional process in general and by the ECP Centre – what has been achieved and to some extent what we hope to achieve.

Let me first tell you what I am not going to do. I am not going to give a complete overview of the law in Canada on freedom of religion. There is some good literature available, particularly from David Brown (for example, “Freedom From or Freedom For?: Religion as a Case Study in Defining the Content of Charter Rights,” 33 U.B.C. Law Review 551), a constitutional expert and, among other things, the legal counsel for Chris Kempling in his appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, which I will touch on later. My focus is not the political side, but the legal side and the battle in the courts.

Let me tell you also who I am not. I am not a constitutional expert. I do not profess to know all the constitutional arguments and minutiae – there are experts on those issues and I defer to them to try to make sense out of the case law we have in this country. I am not sure that the case law in our country makes sense; there is much inconsistency, even between decisions of the highest court in our land, the Supreme Court of Canada. I am not a litigator either – I do not go to court as an advocate.

However, this background reflects in part who I am: I am a fairly experienced lawyer; I have been a regulator; I articled for a lawyer who later became a Supreme Court of Canada judge, John Sopinka (although I am sure the fact I articled for him had nothing to do with him getting the job!); and I have been an associate professor of law at Canada’s largest law school. I know lawyers, judges, law professors, and the legal system and have worked with them for a considerable period of time. I have come to the view that the legal system and its participants have not assisted the Christian cause. On a personal level, I am someone who believes that in order to fully serve our Christian mandate to glorify our God and serve Him, we have to be participants in the legal system. Political involvement, speeches, letters to the editor, and so forth are not enough. We are in a war for our God and his soldiers also need to do battle in courts, using the weapons we have at our disposal.

Constitutions and their interpretation

I would like to start with two excerpts from the Canadian constitution. In the preamble, there occurs this phrase: “Whereas Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law....” In Section 2(a), the Charter states, “Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms – freedom of conscience and religion.” This sounds good so far, especially from
a Christian perspective. “The supremacy of God” is a good sounding phrase and, coming from a country brought up in the Christian tradition, one may expect that such a phrase refers to our God, the Christian God. “The rule of law” sounds pretty good too. We all like rules and law and order seem like good things, also from a Christian perspective. “Freedom of conscience and religion” provisions, representing fundamental freedoms, are very, very heart-warming on their face to the Christian believer, implying that a Christian, or indeed any religious person, has the freedom to believe what he or she believes and to express it, not only privately, but publicly.

In sum, the basic wording of our constitution is something most can and would support, including Christians. From the perspective of a Christian believer, the constitution itself is not a problem. The words sound good. But we need more than wording for real protection and the ability to act for God’s glorification, also in the public square.

Let me make a few broad comments, which I think are reflected in historical context. Constitutions, even though very nicely worded, and the law itself or the rule of law itself, have not always protected people, or people’s rights, that one would have thought they are designed to protect. For example:

- The need to find fault before conviction, part of Roman legal rights and the rule of law, did not protect our Lord Jesus Christ from the cross. Pilate stated he did not find fault and yet delivered Jesus up to crucifixion on the cross;
- The constitution of the Soviet Union was worded very nicely, as are most communist manifestos, and yet the rights of individuals, especially in the religious context, have not been protected;
- The application of the German constitution and the rule of law in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s led to the finding that it was permissible, even mandated, under Germany’s rule of law to send not only Jews, but handicapped people, retarded people, Slavs, etc. to camps for extermination because, under legal interpretation of those rules, such groups were not really Aryans; that is, not really people under the law, deserving of its protection;
- The American constitution is a wonderfully worded document also. “All men are created equal,” it says. But, in defining that phrase, originally “men” did not include black men and later I believe it only included a percentage of a black man. For many years women were denied the vote.

Constitutional wording is never enough, the rule of law is never enough. This is because the constitution has to be interpreted. And words can always be ambiguous. The reality is that constitutions are interpreted by people; the law then reflects the views of the people that do the interpreting and how they are motivated by the arguments before them.

The interpretation of a constitution and of rights

Judges interpret the law. Judges are people and products of their society. They reflect society and respond to the cases brought before them as people. Who is a judge will ultimately help determine constitutional rights and protections. And not just judges, but regulators at first instance, such as commissioners of a human rights tribunal.

That is why, for example, we have seen in the United States a huge debate on the makeup of the Supreme Court. President Bush has been pushing for a more conservative court, one which is more likely to interpret the constitution from a socially conservative perspective and, one may suppose, Christian perspective. With one candidate in, another candidate dropped her nomination, in part because social conservatives felt she may be soft on abortion. After a further nominee, a recognized social conservative, was nominated, the
battle lines have been drawn. Americans know that who judges is critical to constitutional protection and religious freedom.

Canadian judges are no different, despite many protestations to the contrary. And why would they be? People are people and judges are judges. The same issues being debated in the U.S. context apply in Canada as well.

Let me share with you a story from my law school days. I heard this from my tax professor, who told it to the class, so in my view it is in the public domain. He was a clerk to a Supreme Court of Canada Justice, a respected Supreme Court judge. A case came before the court, a negligence case, where the parents of a paralyzed young boy hit by a car when his toboggan crossed the road were arguing the driver of the car was negligent. The parents had lost at trial and on appeal; the driver was clearly not negligent. He had been driving his car on the road and the unfortunate boy’s toboggan had come into his path. Clearly an accident, albeit a tragic one. The case made it before the Supreme Court. My professor, a student at the time, had to do the research and concluded that it was clear the driver was not negligent, consistent with the views of the lower courts. His boss, the judge,

Constitutions are interpreted by people; the law then reflects the views of the people that do the interpreting

sent him to do more research, looking at case law throughout the Commonwealth to see if there was a principle of law that would hold the driver negligent – it seems like there may be a theory of negligence here, he thought. My professor went back – nothing; clearly, no negligence. The judge said there must be a theory of negligence. My professor said, “You don’t understand – there is no law to support fault here.” His boss stated, “No, it is you who does not understand – if there is no liability, this poor boy will grow up with a terrible life and the insurance company can pay to fix that.” The result: a finding of negligence and liability. Note that this occurred in the times prior to no fault insurance.

I have never forgotten that story and everything I have seen since supports that basic view. Hard facts may make bad law, but it is clear that the personal views of the judges of the results of their decisions are relevant to the making of the decision itself. The personal element will affect decisions. Judges are people and are affected by their views of the facts. They are often active in promoting their own perspectives. Many of you have heard of “judicial activism.”

In many cases, first comes the conclusion and then comes the reasoning. This happens much, much too often. Members of the legal system often deny this. But how else can differing decisions be explained, especially when interpreting constitutional rights under the same constitutional wording?
By now it has become a regular routine to review the local bulletins sent my way. Receiving them electronically is efficient and enables for a timely review.

What stood out over the past weeks was the repeated mention of church building projects at various stages. I will list them in chronological order.

On November 25, the church at Smithers had an official dedication of their new worship facilities. From other pieces gleaned from their bulletin, they have wasted no time in making the building a busy place for all the congregational activities. Undoubtedly this building will not only serve the congregation well but also provide a better venue for the forthcoming synod to be convened in Smithers in May of 2007.

In Grassie, the congregation was able to meet for worship in their new building for the first time on December 3, 2006. Rev. S.C. Van Dam wrote,

Today we may worship in our new building for the first time! How good the Lord has been to us in making this possible in such a relatively short time. All the hard work by so many in our midst has paid off and just over a year after the ground breaking ceremony, we may meet together in our new church. What a tremendous blessing! It is wonderful to be able to have our own place of worship and more suitable times for worship. May we also show our thanks to God for this and not take it for granted. Let us never forget what being the church of Jesus Christ is all about. He alone is the cornerstone. The church throughout the generations is not made of brick and mortar but of people bound together in the unity of the true faith.

From other information it is clear that the whole project is not quite finished, especially in the landscaping department. This prompted the chairman of the building committee to relate a few rules on behalf of the building committee a few weeks later: “Rule number one! PLEASE refrain from walking around the building since there is no grass yet and as some are not aware. . . mud tends to stick to shoes, then once inside a clean building, seems to release itself from shoes without notice. Please Do not walk in the building if you happen to miss rule number one.” I suspect that many a caretaker will be tempted to cut out that rule and post it near the door of the church building.

Finally, on the other end of the building spectrum, the church at St. Albert met on December 21 to discuss purchasing a property. It turns out to have been a successful meeting as it was stated, “Having heard the brothers and sisters, council has decided to proceed with this property, according to the resolution that was voted upon. May God grant his blessing on our plans!”

Reading these reports, it is reason to rejoice with the churches at Smithers and Grassie as they could begin using their new facilities and the church at St. Albert for having made the concrete step of obtaining property for building.

From time to time, the pastoral columns contain more than the normal updates on what is happening in the congregation. While meant for very concrete situations, some of the thoughts are worthwhile to be read by more than just the local congregation as they are valid in many different situations. Three examples follow,
two of which are left anonymous as the points raised are very general.

First, one minister wrote, “It has come to my attention that the going to and fro from the auditorium is happening far too frequently. Let us remember that we are gathered for reverent worship, not for a casual get-together. Do ensure, if at all possible, that the facilities are used before the service rather than during it.”

Second, another minister wrote, Just as an aside, as your pastor and preacher I notice that many of us do not consider the time of giving of “Christian offerings for the poor” (as the Catechism calls the collections) part of the worship service. As soon as the deacons stand up to take the collection, all sorts of conversation and chatter rises up. Perhaps for those 3 or 4 minutes we should quietly and thankfully reflect on the gifts God has given us, instead of engaging in all kinds of conversation. The giving of Christian offerings is part of our worship of our heavenly God and Father, and should be done in a worshipful way.

The third example is taken from the bulletin of Carman West. Rev. Pol wrote,

In response to a question raised in regard to public prayer, here is a clarification that may be helpful for more people. If you have a personal issue or event that you would like remembered in public prayer, please bring this to the attention of your ward elder or the minister. It is difficult for consistory to respond to a prayer request coming from someone who feels that a prayer should be offered for someone else if whoever that “someone else” may be has not personally requested this. Some people prefer to keep things “in the family” and do not request public prayer. Or they prefer to wait first and determine when a particular matter should be made public. They would be quite offended if at someone else’s instigation, their personal affairs would be made public without their knowledge and consent. Of course, this also applies to matters for the Manitoba Church News! Do not assume that just because some people know something personal about someone that it should therefore be publicized.

One might argue that none of these three items constitute “news.” At the same time, it may be new to some. Furthermore, the comments are meant for edification. As such, reading them will serve our ongoing renewal.

As it is time to wrap up it up, I invite any congregation that has not yet started sending the local bulletins, to please consider doing so. The email address is eric.kampe@canrc.org. Till next time, the Lord willing.
Have you ever come to the crossroads of good and evil? When we reach a point like this in our lives, our minds may be busy deciding what to do. Can we just not do some things that are not too evil? Will God really be so angry with us? Let us work through these questions and see what this text teaches us.

When we read this proverb, it shows us how the ways of the Lord have different effects on different people. This effect depends on whether there is faith or not. We can then see here how the ways of the Lord are like a two-edged sword.

The Word of God is not simply a collection of words from God; it is living words, life changing and dynamic as it works in us. God’s Word reveals who we are and what lives within us, both good and evil.

As we read in Hebrews 4:15, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet without sin.” He knows the many temptations that we face each and every day. He knows them for He has experienced them throughout his life as a human being, yet without sinning. He shows us that when we stand at the crossroads of good and evil we may not fall into sin. We must follow Christ’s example.

The covenant ways of the Lord can easily be learned from the Bible. We can see the blessings, but also the curses. A faithful child of the Lord can indeed find a refuge, a hiding place in the God of the covenant. The Lord’s promises of forgiveness of sins and life everlasting are most true and trustworthy because of the blood of his Son Jesus Christ. God’s children can safely hide under the everlasting wings of God’s love and care which He has spread out over his people.

Yet the ways of the Lord will be terrible for those who insist on disobeying Him and choosing the road to evil. Destruction comes to those who turn their backs on Him.

 Truly, the way of the covenant does not change. Those who live by faith will be saved but those who do not will perish eternally. “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (Heb 4:16).

Blest be the Lord of my salvation,
For He has heard my supplication.
He is my strength, my shield forever;
I trust in Him, He fails me never.
So I am helped. Exult, my heart,
To Him your joyful songs impart.

Psalm 28:4

Birthdays in February:

24 FRED LUDWIG will be 55
653 Broad Street West, Dunnville, Ontario N1A 1T8

Birthdays in March:

3 TREVOR HOF Sink will be 29
C106 8920 165th Street, Edmonton, AB T5R 2R9

10 JAMES BOONE will be 11
1020 Abbeydale Drive, NE, Calgary, AB T2A 6H5

12 GERRY EEL HART will be 45
C/O Mr. & Mrs. Peter Elhart
# 305, 10041-149 Street, “Summit Village”
Edmonton, AB TSP 4V7

15 JIM VANDERHEIDEN will be 48
653 Broad Street West, Dunnville, ON N1A 1T8

18 ROSELYN KUIK will be 33
68 Lynn Lake Drive, Winnipeg, MB R2C 4N7

Congratulations to all of you celebrating a birthday. May our heavenly Father grant you all enjoyable days together with your family and friends. Continue to place your hope and trust in Him alone.

Till next month,

Mrs. C. Gelms and Mrs. E. Nordeman
548 Kemp Road East
RR 2, Beamsville, ON LOR 1B2
905-563-0380
Jubilee Celebration at Smithers Canadian Reformed Church

On April 15, 2006, the Canadian Reformed Church at Smithers, British Columbia celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. What a blessing this was! In preparation for this big day, a beautiful commemorative book was put together by several ladies of the church. This book includes a summary of events over the last fifty years as well as many photographs. It contains family and group pictures and personal contributions consisting of illustrated stories of founding families and former ministers. (81 pages, full colour, bound; copies available for $10 plus shipping by contacting Judy Hofsink at 250-847-9364 or sunnysidehill@telus.net).

Prior to the formal evening service that commemorated this special day, a fellowship celebration was held at Ebenezer School in the afternoon. At the school we enjoyed dressing in 1950s period clothing, watching a revolving PowerPoint presentation and movies of the olden days, and the camaraderie of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Games were hosted for the young kids and a potluck supper filled the gymnasium to its maximum.

Our current pastor, Rev. Julius VanSpronsen, opened the formal evening celebrations by reading Psalm 124. He explained how this Psalm is relevant for every church service as well as a celebration such as this because “if the Lord had not been on our side... they would have swallowed us alive.” Many children’s children’s children (i.e. third generation) were sharing this evening with their grandparents who had founded the church. This would not have been possible if the Lord had not been on our side! The congregation has had to face its weaknesses and the community also sees this. At times it may have felt as though “the flood would have engulfed us,” but we were always reminded that “our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

The Smithers church has changed in many ways since its institution on April 15, 1956. There were forty members at the time of institution as compared to almost 400 today. The first presentation acknowledged an aspect of the fifty years that hasn’t changed. Of the forty original members, eight were in attendance at this evening and seven of them are still members in Smithers today! To recognize the special part that
these eight members have played in the development of the congregation, a painting was given to each that depicted the first church and our current church with the backdrop of the beautiful Bulkley Valley surrounding the churches.

The second presentation was a skit performed by the Women’s Society to share some of the changes that have occurred over the fifty years. Back then it was a Ladies Auxiliary, then it became a Bible Study, and finally Deborah Women’s Society. A review of the minutes of the early years (all in Dutch) indicated that the ladies were sent a kind note to say the sweaters and knitted hem pes could not be used by Mission Aid Brazil! It was also dutifully noted in the minutes that they now had enough money to move from instant coffee to real coffee grounds! Today, the ladies take water to meetings, nursing mothers bring their babies, minutes are recorded on the computer, and the Internet is used as a research aid. How times have changed!

The audience was also treated to some excellent music including a performance from the elementary school children, an organ solo, and a piano duet.

The last portion of the program was an opportunity for guests to speak some congratulatory words. A representative of the Smithers Ministerial Association reminded us that fifty years is a testimony to faithfulness, unity, and growth – to what God has done for us.

Next, the Mayor of Smithers explained why he thought the statement that Smithers is a community with “too many churches” was actually a very positive thing and that Smithers is very blessed to have so many churches. He said the original families came to new land, they came with the gift of Jesus Christ, and they left a lasting legacy – the church. He shared how he personally knows many of the families in the congregation and was thankful for how we have become part of the community. He ended by quoting from Philippians 4:8, 9, “Whatever is true... noble... right... pure... lovely... admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

The last two speakers were representatives of the local United Reformed Churches who testified as to how the churches have grown in love and respect for each other through the local unity talks. It was their prayer that we may have full unity with them one day.

What a great privilege it was to hear so many wonderful words spoken during this portion of the program and indeed throughout the entire evening!

Finally, Rev. B. J. Berends, a former minister, recounted some of his own experiences in Smithers and then closed the evening in prayer.

During this joyful time of reminiscing it became very clear that the Lord has been faithful to his covenant promises – also to his children here in Smithers.
Press Release:  

The Reformed Curriculum Development Committee (RCDC) meets twice annually as stipulated in its mandate. At its November 23, 2006 meeting, the RCDC received several reports on activities conducted on its behalf. This press release is intended to provide you with a brief overview of the activities, decisions, and plans of the RCDC and its subcommittee, the Curriculum Cooperative Committee (CCC).

The K-12 social studies curriculum development project

Three summers in the making, this project was finally completed during this past summer, when writers developed the third stage of its development. As you may recall, the writing team made use of a curriculum design that develops curriculum in three stages: stage 1 deals with formulating desired understandings; that is, what is it we want the students to know and do. Stage 2 deals with assessing what the students are to learn and do. The teaching and learning activities comprise the third stage of this design. Each stage took the writers a summer week in July to complete. The RCDC is grateful for the cooperation from many Canadian Reformed schools across the country. The curriculum writers expended many hours on this effort.

The socials project was coordinated by the CCC, as are all RCDC-sponsored curricular projects. As part of the project’s implementation, the CCC organized an orientation to this curriculum development by hosting an orientation session just before the start of the new school year (August 31, 2006). This was received with enthusiasm and appreciation. Many found the curricular model used to be very clear and purposeful. The CCC will be working on further implementation strategies as well as on review of implementation at schools.

Feedback was also received from the Curriculum Assistance for Reformed Education committee (CARE), the CCC counterpart in Ontario. This committee has studied our document in quite some detail and has forwarded us its observations and comments.

A professional resource centre

As approved by the RCDC at its March 3, 2006 meeting, the CCC has installed a few shelves in the CCES building location. This site will function as a resource for valley-wide Canadian Reformed schools. As the title suggests, the resource centre contains books, periodicals, videos, DVDs, and copies of RCDC curricular projects. These are available upon request from staff members.

The RCDC has also approved the creation of an RCDC website to make all RCDC materials accessible to interested parties, password accessible and mostly as “read only.”

Church history project

This project is mainly the work of authors Mr. A. Nap and Mr. P. Torenvliet, who, under the auspices of the RCDC, have been busy with the writing of a church history series, *The Flame of the Word*, geared primarily for the grade 4-7 grade levels. The series is comprised of three volumes, each dealing with main events and activities in the history of the church, covering material from Pentecost to the twenty-first century. Volume two is actually split into two books. The authors are now working on the last volume in this series. Each volume is accompanied by an elaborate and beneficial teacher’s manual, which has proven to be extremely helpful for teachers of this course. While they are happy to report that many of our schools across the country have now purchased class...
sets of the first two volumes, the authors keep being challenged by time, as both are busy with their other commitments.

The RCDC is grateful for the blessings upon this project and encourages its authors to persevere under challenging conditions. The RCDC also informs all readers and supporters of our schools that *The Flame of the World* is available at VanderHeide Publishing and at Anchor Books. Especially parents of our students are encouraged to obtain these books. Not only can they themselves learn from this material, but they can also read and study along with their children.

**Narration course**

This is a course that was developed by Mr. Nap and Mr. Torenvliet almost fifteen years ago. It has been offered to our valley schools twice and in other Canadian Reformed schools jurisdictions. Over the years, this course has acquired global recognition. In its November 23, 2006 report, we were informed that Mr. Nap and Mr. Torenvliet had traveled to South Africa (late June/early July, 2006) to present their story-telling course and have been asked to come back for a second run. In January of 2007, Mr. Nap is scheduled to teach it in Mexico. There is also the possibility for a session in Suriname, where the Evangelical School for Theology in Paramariba would like to give the story-telling and church history a higher profile. All this globe-trotting demands much time and energy, not only in travel but also in formulating presentations meaningful to the area.

**Conclusion**

The above demonstrates again to us that God has richly blessed us. He has given people gifts to be used for his Kingdom. We are grateful for these gifts and we ask that you continue to pray for wisdom and strength in our endeavours. Pray that we maintain our focus on God’s calling to fulfill our cultural mandate.

*The Education Matters column is sponsored by the Canadian Reformed Teachers’ Association East. Anyone wishing to respond to an article written or willing to write an article is kindly asked to send materials to Clarion or to Otto Bouwman obouwman@cornerstoneschool.us*

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**Press Release**

**Press Release for the Combined Meeting of the Board and Committee of Administration, Inter-League Publication Board, December 13, 2006**

The chairman of the Board, Mike Vandeburgt, opened the meeting in a Christian manner and all were welcomed.

Present were the following. For the board, representing the League of Men’s Societies in Ontario, John Schutten and Mike Vandeburgt. Representing the League of Women’s Societies in Ontario, Mary DeBoer and Betsy Kingma. For the Committee of Administration (CoA), Paul DeBoer, Cathy Jonker, Brian Jager, Annette Nobel, and Debbie Swaving. Theresa Westrik was absent with notification.

The agenda was established.

The marketing report prepared by Theresa Westrik was presented. All the representatives in each congregation have recently received a newsletter with an update on new materials. The ILPB Direct Book Club is growing slowly and Theresa will continue to publicize it to encourage membership. The web page (www.spindleworks.com/ILPB) will be updated as needed.

Debbie Swaving updated the meeting with sales figures for the last year. In the last six months 1,724 books were sold.

Cathy Jonker gave a progress report indicating the progress of various books being worked on. A new translator is now available. Since the last meeting a workbook on James by Rev. Schouten has become available. The commentary on 2 Corinthians by Rev. Selles has been reprinted.

Brian Jager presented the financial statements. The financial situation is good, even though sales are a little down. There are sufficient funds to print some new books.

Information for the yearbook of the churches was reviewed for accuracy. The board will discuss ways to recommend other Reformed study guides that are not printed by the ILPB. The board updated the CoA on books being reviewed for publication. Possibilities for book reviews in a couple of Reformed magazines were discussed.

Question period was held. The press release was approved and the meeting was closed with prayer.
In our postmodern world, the notion of truth as conveying what is factually accurate and trustworthy has come under considerable pressure. The idea of truth has become subjective. The pragmatic credo of many is that whatever works for me is true. Postmodernism does not like to hear of absolute truth. To meet the challenge of changing conceptions of truth, the Evangelical Theological Society organized its 2004 Annual Meeting under the theme “What is Truth?” The four plenary addresses that came out of those meetings have now been made available in print. There is much to learn and reflect on in this book.

In the first chapter, Andreas Kostenberger examines Pilate’s question, “What is truth?” within the context of the gospel of John and the entire Scripture. In the process he underlines some of the biblical perspectives on truth such as that truth is embodied in the person and work of Christ (John 14:6) and in his ongoing work in the world today. Kostenberger’s careful exegesis and his stressing that the truth is the gospel of salvation which is found only in Jesus is a necessary and welcome emphasis in an age that derides absolutes.

Next, R. Albert Mohler addresses the issue from a cultural perspective. After showing how our culture dislikes absolutes and struggles with the loss of objective meaning, he underlines how Christians should be deeply concerned about the challenge postmodernism presents. However, he also sees reason for hope. Postmodernism is inwardly contradictory as it too needs a firm beginning point which is not subject to doubt. Furthermore, postmodernism is not sustainable since no one can live without some understanding of truth as corresponding to reality. Mohler correctly asserts that the way out of the dilemmas brought about by postmodernism is to recognize and understand that God has revealed Himself to us in the Bible. He has spoken to us in language we can understand and we can have confidence that what He says is true. The Bible is God’s speaking to us. We can never fathom God’s truth in an exhaustive way but we accept that divine revelation is the source of all truth. Although postmodernism urges us to doubt, we must never affirm less than what is asserted in the creeds, confessions, and doctrinal statements of the church. Mohler ends his paper with a call to meet the challenge of our culture with a solid reaffirmation of biblical truth.

J.P. Moreland approaches the topic of the nature of truth as a philosopher. His refutation of postmodernism is tightly argued and strongly worded because the burden of what is at stake rightly weighs heavily upon him. His arguments are not easily overturned. He concludes with a call to arms, especially for those called to be teachers and scholars to serve the church and indeed also the unbelieving world. We are to defend and impart truth and knowledge of it. He warns that “not only are postmodern views of truth and knowledge confused, but postmodernism is an immoral and cowardly viewpoint that people who love truth and knowledge, especially disciples of the Lord Jesus, should do everything they can to heal” (p. 76).

The fourth address entitled “Lost in Interpretation? Truth, Scripture, and Hermeneutics” is by Kevin J. Vanhoozer. It is a fitting climax to the book since it is an excellent and patient grappling with the issues of truth that reading the Bible in postmodern times evokes. He draws no hasty, cheap conclusions but carefully distinguishes the issues at stake. He clearly shows, for example, the limitations of simply relying on the idea of inerrancy to describe the authority of Scripture. His desire to rehabilitate the usage of the term infallibility is commendable (Cf. “this infallible rule,” BC, Art 7). Although one may quibble about the way some issues are expressed or formulated, reading his discussion is most stimulating and rewarding. Due to the nature of the case, it will of course not be the last word. The debate on the proper way to interpret Scripture will continue, but those who have read this contribution (and his other writings) will be better equipped to meet the current challenges.

The editor concludes this worthwhile volume with an appropriate epilogue which pulls together the major themes of the book.
Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His, we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Psalm 100:3
We thank the Lord, our Heavenly Father, who again blessed us richly with one of His covenant children, another son whom we have named

**LUCAS ELIJAH**
Born on September 26, 2006
A little brother for Caitlin Sophia, Emma Rachelle and Benjamin Mitchell
The 26th grandchild for Sophia Leffers
Matthew and Bonnie Tassie (nee Leffers)
10033-173 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5X 3Y1

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Hymn 6
The Lord has blessed our family by entrusting to our care another of His children, a precious baby girl

**JAYMEE ALICE**
Born January 17, 2007
Excited big sisters: Tylyn Ranelda and Kendra Ritany
Don and Terri-Lynn Vandersluis (nee Schuilenberg)
4148 Guyatt Road W., Binbrook, ON L0R 1C0

With great joy and thankfulness to our Heavenly Father, we announce the birth of

**MARIA FAITH**
A sister for James and Leah
Gary and Jackie Smid
4148 Guyatt Road W., Binbrook, ON L0R 1C0

Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from Him. Psalm 127:3
With praise and thanksgiving to the Lord, the giver of life, we joyfully announce the birth of our first son

**RYAN EDWARD**
on the 5th of January 2007
A brother for Emma and Julia
Robert and Melinda Span
58 Henderson Crescent, Alliston, ON L9R 1Y4

Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to Your Name be the glory, because of Your love and faithfulness. Psalm 115:1
With joy and thanksgiving to our Lord, we announce the birth of our daughter

**JOSETTE WILHELMINA BREUKELMAN**
Born December 19, 2006
Brian and Tonya Breukelman
A granddaughter for Simon and Betty Breukelman and Pieter and Willemien Torenvliet
2402 Parkfront Drive, Unit E, Fort Collins, CO 80525
1977 ~ February 11 ~ 2007
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:5
With much thankfulness to our Heavenly Father, we joyfully announce the 30th Wedding Anniversary of our parents and grandparents
ARIE and LOIS MUIS (nee Oosterhoff)
Congratulations Dad and Mom, Opa and Oma!
May the Lord continue to bless you in the coming years.
Dunnville, ON: Jeremy and Melissa Muis
Annika
Smithville, ON: Shawn Muis
Fenwick, ON: Melanie and Phil Glasbergen
Ethan
Smithville, ON: Dwayne Muis and Nicole Ludwig
6341 Townline Road, Smithville, ON L0R 2A0
1982 ~ March 26 ~ 2007
"Unless the Lord will build the house…"
With thankfulness to the Lord, we joyfully announce the 25th Wedding Anniversary of our parents
STAN and SHELLEY VANDENBOS (nee Lof)
Hamilton, ON: Sharalee and Fred DeWit
Caledonia, ON: Jonathan
Christi
Rachel
David
Kimberly
You are welcome to join us in an Open House on Friday, March 30, 2007 from 7:00-10:00 pm, D.V., in the Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church in Hamilton.
(Best wishes only please)
Mailing address: 995 Haldimand Road 66, Caledonia, ON N3W 1P6

50th Wedding Anniversary
February 27, 1957 ~ February 27, 2007
HERMAN and JANE WOLTJER
We would like to announce with heartfelt thanks to the Lord, the 50th Wedding Anniversary of our dear parents [also known as Harm Alje and Jantje].
The Lord has greatly blessed them during their 50 years of marriage. We would like to celebrate with an Open House on Saturday, March 3, 2007 from 7-9 pm at the Langley Canadian Reformed Church.
Best wishes only please.
From their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren!

After a lengthy illness, the Lord in His infinite wisdom took Home to Himself our dearly loved stepdaughter, sister, sister-in-law and aunt
THERESA VEEENDAAL (VANSYDENBORGH)
May the Lord give Gerald and his family all they need in the days ahead.
Psalm 121
Grace VanSydenborgh (deBeer)
Wayne and Helen VanSydenborgh
Piet and Nelly VanSydenborgh
Albert and Nelly VanSydenborgh
Gus and Freddie Veenendaal
Eric and Grace Steiva
Steve and Anne VanderMolen
Bill and Rhea Muis
nephews and nieces

February 8, 1989 – January 13, 2007
On Wednesday, January 17, 2007, while all of Southern Ontario glistened in a thick layer of ice, we had the sad duty to lay to rest, at the young age of 17, our beloved grandson, nephew and cousin
DANIEL JOSEPH VAN SPRONSEN
Dan fought a courageous eight month battle against cancer and was able to witness to many about his Lord and Saviour. May the Lord surround in His loving care Dan’s parents Maurice and Lorraine and his siblings Andrew, Alisha and her boyfriend Tyler Blokker, Jonathan, Jordan, Luke, Lorissa and also Dan's girlfriend Kaitlin Buitenwerf. He will be missed by all of us.
John and Joanne DeBoer
James and Simone DeBoer
Justin and Anne DeBoer
Scott, David DeBoer and Lindsey Dekker,
Rachel, Colin
Fred and Joyce Bosscher
Darryl and Emily Bosscher
Brian, Michael, Greg, Thomas, Kevin
Dave and Nancy Elgersma
Randy Elgersma and Emily Toenvliet
Blake, Leah, Kara
Frank and Sandra DeBoer
Joshua, Cailyn, Evan
Jason and Debra Bouwman
Josina, Jamie, Jackson, Jewel
Dan’s chosen text: 3 John :11
Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good.
Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.
Van Spronsen address:
4630 John Street, Beamsville, Ontario L0R 1B1

Advertise in Clarion
OBIITUARIES

The Lord has taken up into His heavenly glory suddenly, but in
His time, our dear nephew
MATTHEW FREDERICK BOS
Beloved son of Edward and Patricia Bos
and dear brother of Bradley and the late Christopher.
Donald and Tiena Bos
Ietie and Adrian Koster
John and Carol Bos
Richard and Margaret Bos
Rennie and John Linde
Ricki and Fred Bos
Jeanie and Art VanderVelde
Tina and John Dekker

We were comforted with the words of Isaiah 40:6-8 at the
funeral service, Rev. Souman officiated.
Edward Bos
6240 Young Street, RR 3, Smithville, ON L0R 2A0

TEACHING POSITIONS

NEEDED
1 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER
1 ELEMENTARY / JUNIOR HIGH TEACHER

Due to the happy circumstance of significant growth
projections, the Board of the Covenant Canadian Reformed
School at Neerlandia invites applications for 2 teachers for
the 2007-08 school year.
Applicants must be confessing members of the Canadian
Reformed Church or a sister church and must possess a
Bachelor of Education degree.

We are a rural K-12 school with a projected 2007 student
enrolment of 170.
Perks include mostly 4 day work weeks, a good benefits
package, small class sizes, a terrific staff, a supportive
membership and Board, and a low cost of living within an
hour drive of big city conveniences.
Inquiries should be directed to
Harry VanDelden, principal, at:
School: (780) 674-4774, Home: (780) 674-3704
e-mail: hvd@xplornet.com
Applications should be sent
attention: Mrs. Sonya Van Leeuwen
Covenant Canadian Reformed School
PO Box 67, Neerlandia, AB T0G 1R0

JOHN CALVIN SCHOOL
320 Station Street, PO Box 280, Smithville, ON L0R 2A0
“The Heart of the Niagara Peninsula”
As the result of a major expansion, John Calvin School now
boasts 14 classrooms, new offices and staff room, not to
mention a large, new gymnasium with state-of-the-art
kitchen attached. Current enrolment is 264. We may be
looking for teachers in any of the three divisions.
Therefore the Board and Education Committee of
JOHN CALVIN SCHOOL invites applications from
QUALIFIED TEACHERS
for the school year 2007-2008. Enquiries about and
applications for these positions are encouraged.
Please contact the Principal, Mr. F.C. Ludwig,
for further information, at
(905) 957-2341 School or (905) 957-3111 Home
Applications and résumés may be faxed directly to the school
at (905) 957-2342, to the attention of the Principal,
or addressed to:
The Education Committee
c/o Mr. D. Bos, Secretary
2106 Highway 20, PO Box 145, St. Ann’s, ON L0R 1Y0

Credo Christian Elementary School (Langley, BC) invites
applications for the following possible positions:
- A KINDERGARTEN TEACHER
  (50% full time equivalent)
- A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER
  (60% full time equivalent)
- A PRIMARY TEACHER
  (full time), grade 3 level
for the 2007/08 school year, with duties commencing the
last week of August, 2007.
The successful applicants must be BC teacher certifiable.
For more information contact the principal,
Mr. J.A. Roukema: 604-530-1131 (school);
604-856-0544 (home); or ccesprincipal@telus.net
Applications should be sent to:
Credo Christian Elementary School
21919 – 52 Avenue, Langley, BC V2Y 2M7

Attercliffe Canadian Reformed Elementary School
in Attercliffe, Ontario, invites applications for a
possible TEACHING POSITION
in the upper elementary grades.
(Being able to teach French at these levels would be an asset.)
Please direct your application to the
Chairman of the Education Committee, Mr. Henry Kelly,
and send it to A.C.R.E.S.
75785 Canborough Road, RR 1, Dunnville, Ontario N1A 2W1
Applications should include
a philosophy of education and references.
For further information, contact the principal,
Mr. Edward Slaa, at
905-774-9009 or 905-701-0696 (home)
or email at acres@kwic.com
The Canadian Reformed School Society of London and District, operating Covenant Christian School, invites applications for the following possible opening for the 2007/2008 school year

**GRADE 3 AND 4 TEACHER**

Applicants with teaching experience and skills in developing Special Ed. resources are especially encouraged to respond.

What we offer:
- Positive Christian work environment.
- Small class sizes
- Supportive school community with excellent volunteer base.
- Competitive salary (we follow the salary grid of the League of Canadian Reformed School Societies).

For more information please contact the Principal:

**Mr. James Meinen** at 519-681-1196
Or email: csclondon@rogers.com

Letters of application may be sent to:

**Mrs. Miriam Slaa**, Secretary of the Education Committee
218 Spence Drive, Strathroy, ON N7G 3S8
Telephone 519-245-7319
email james.slaa034@sympatico.ca

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The Owen Sound Canadian Reformed School Society invites applications for a full-time **TEACHING POSITION**

in the elementary grades for the 2007-2008 school year.

Duties to commence in August of 2007.

Our school is located in the countryside in the beautiful Owen Sound area about 2 hours northwest of Toronto. Our small and growing school currently has 58 students in grades 1-8.

If you are interested in this position or have any questions about this position or about the school, please contact:

**Diane Jonker**, principal
(519)371-4498 (school); (519)371-4847 (home)
jonker@wrightman.ca

Please submit applications to:
OSCRS Education Committee
c/o James Gunnink
RR 4, Chatsworth, ON NOH 1G0
jj_gunnink@sympatico.ca

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The Board of the Canadian Reformed School Society, Hamilton, Ontario operating the Timothy Christian School in Hamilton invites applications from qualified teachers to fill the following positions, commencing August 2007.

1 (possible) **ELEMENTARY TEACHER (maternity leave position)**
1 **SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER**
1 **PART TIME FRENCH TEACHER**

For more information, please contact the principal,

**Mr. H. Plug**
Phone School: 905 385 3953
Home: 905 574 6498; Fax: 905 385 8073
Email: hplug@timothyschool.org

Applications to be sent to:

**Education Committee** c/o Timothy Christian School
430 East 25th Street, Hamilton ON L8V 3B4

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Guido de Brès Christian High School – Hamilton, Ontario
Due to possible staff retirements and an increase in enrollment, we require **FULL OR PART-TIME TEACHERS**

Preferences will be given for applicants with qualifications in the following areas:

- Geography / Mathematics / Science

Candidates with other qualifications will also be considered.

All positions would commence September 1, 2007.

For further information, please contact the principal,

**Mr. J.G. (Hans) VanDooren** at school.
Telephone: 905-574-4011, Fax: 905-574-8662
E-mail: gdb@bellnet.ca

Letters of application should include university and teaching qualifications, two letters of reference, and a statement about your view of Christian education.

Mail to:

**Guido de Brès Christian High School**
Education Committee
Box 30013, 1576 Upper James Street, Hamilton, ON L9B 1K0

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Dufferin Area Christian School near Orangeville, Ontario, offers grades K-8 and has a current enrolment of 124 students with relatively small single-grade primary classes.

DACS invites applications for the following positions for the 2007 - 2008 school year

**PRIMARY TEACHER**

**LEARNING ASSISTANCE TEACHER (part time)**

For further information, please contact the chairman of the board, **Mr. Ed Groen** at 519-928-3453, or the principal, **Mr. Keith Sikkema** at 519-941-4368 (school) or 519-928-3412 (home).

Please email your resume and application to dacs@on.aibn.com to the attention of the principal, or send it to

**Dufferin Area Christian School**
c/o Education Committee
General Delivery, Laurel, ON L0N 1L0

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The **EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL SOCIETY** of Fergus, Guelph and district invites applications for possible **HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING POSITIONS**

for the 2007-2008 school year.

Duties to commence August 1, 2007.

Our school is located in a picturesque southern Ontario town, where one would be close to rural life and at the same time close to major urban areas. The school currently has 120 students in grades 9 through 12.

If you are interested in teaching at our school, or have any questions about aspects of the positions or of the school, please contact one of the following for more information, or submit your resume to the following address:

**Mr. Henk Nobel**, principal
(519) 843-3029(work); (519) 843-1790 (home)
Mr. Andrew Mulder, Education committee chair
(519) 780-1060

Applications to be addressed to:

**Emmanuel Christian High School**
c/o Education Committee
RR 3, Garafraxa Street, Fergus, ON N1M 2W4

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The Canadian Reformed School Society of London and District, operating the Covenant Christian School, invites applications for the following possible opening for the 2007/2008 school year

**GR AD E 3 AN D 4 TEACH E R**

Applicants with teaching experience and skills in developing Special Ed. resources are especially encouraged to respond.

What we offer:

- Positive Christian work environment.
- Small class sizes
- Supportive school community with excellent volunteer base.
- Competitive salary (we follow the salary grid of the League of Canadian Reformed School Societies).

For more information please contact the Principal:

**Mr. James Meinen** at 519-681-1196
Or email: csclondon@rogers.com

Letters of application may be sent to:

**Mrs. Miriam Slaa**, Secretary of the Education Committee
218 Spence Drive, Strathroy, ON N7G 3S8
Telephone 519-245-7319
email james.slaa034@sympatico.ca
The Board of the Ebenezer Canadian Reformed School (in the Bulkley Valley) invites applications from certified teachers who are members of the Canadian Reformed churches, United Reformed churches, or sister churches, for the following positions for the 2007/2008 school year. There are possibilities for part time work.

**PRIMARY TEACHER PREFERABLY GRADE 1** (12 students)
**GR. 5/6 TEACHER** (24 students)

We are looking for teachers that:
- are professional in their work
- love God and his covenant children.
- set and maintain high personal standards
- understand the responsibility they are entrusted with as teachers, and continually strive to submit their whole life to God.
- know how to have fun

If you meet the above criteria we urge you to contact us about working at ECRS.

**Why come?**
- Great kids
- Beautiful scenery and world-class outdoor activities
- Fabulous preachers
- Friendly church and local community

**Please call or email the principal, Derek Stoffels, at work:** (250) 847-3492; principal@ebenezerschool.com.

To apply please email your application to the principal or mail it to: The Education Committee

**Ebenezer Canadian Reformed School**
Box 3700, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

Check our website for a “taste” of the school: [www.ebenezerschool.com](http://www.ebenezerschool.com)

Check [www.town.smithers.bc.ca](http://www.town.smithers.bc.ca) for information on the community the school is located in.

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The Board of the **Ebenezer Canadian Reformed School** (in the Bulkley Valley) invites applications from certified teachers who are members of the Canadian Reformed churches, United Reformed churches, or sister churches, for the following positions for the 2007/2008 school year. There are possibilities for part time work.

**PRIMARY TEACHER PREFERABLY GRADE 1** (12 students)
**GR. 5/6 TEACHER** (24 students)

We are looking for teachers that:
- are professional in their work
- love God and his covenant children.
- set and maintain high personal standards
- understand the responsibility they are entrusted with as teachers, and continually strive to submit their whole life to God.
- know how to have fun

If you meet the above criteria we urge you to contact us about working at ECRS.

**Why come?**
- Great kids
- Beautiful scenery and world-class outdoor activities
- Fabulous preachers
- Friendly church and local community

**Please call or email the principal, Derek Stoffels, at work:** (250) 847-3492; principal@ebenezerschool.com.

To apply please email your application to the principal or mail it to: The Education Committee

**Ebenezer Canadian Reformed School**
Box 3700, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

Check our website for a “taste” of the school: [www.ebenezerschool.com](http://www.ebenezerschool.com)

Check [www.town.smithers.bc.ca](http://www.town.smithers.bc.ca) for information on the community the school is located in.

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The **MARANATHA CANADIAN REFORMED SCHOOL SOCIETY INC.** of Fergus, Guelph and District in planning for the 2007-2008 school year invites applications for:

**POSSIBLE OPENINGS**

With duties to commence August 1, 2007

Our school is located in a beautiful and picturesque southern Ontario town, where one would be very close to rural life and within easy reach of major urban areas.

The school currently has 246 students in grades K – 8.

If interested in the above position, or have any questions about aspects of the position or of the school, please contact one of the following people for more information, or submit your résumé to the following address:

**Lydia VanVeen**, principal
519-843-3029 (work); 519-843-4062 (home)
lydia_vanveen@bellnet.ca

**Mark Veenman**, Education Committee Chair
519-669-6274
Mark Veenman, Education Committee Chair
519-669-6274

Applications to be addressed to:

Maranatha Christian School
RR 3, Garafraxa Street, Fergus, ON N1M 2W4

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The **MARANATHA CANADIAN REFORMED SCHOOL SOCIETY INC.** of Fergus, Guelph and District in planning for the 2007-2008 school year invites applications for:

**POSSIBLE OPENINGS**

With duties to commence August 1, 2007

Our school is located in a beautiful and picturesque southern Ontario town, where one would be very close to rural life and within easy reach of major urban areas.

The school currently has 246 students in grades K – 8.

If interested in the above position, or have any questions about aspects of the position or of the school, please contact one of the following people for more information, or submit your résumé to the following address:

**Lydia VanVeen**, principal
519-843-3029 (work); 519-843-4062 (home)
lydia_vanveen@bellnet.ca

**Mark Veenman**, Education Committee Chair
519-669-6274

Applications to be addressed to:

Maranatha Christian School
RR 3, Garafraxa Street, Fergus, ON N1M 2W4
**Cornerstone Christian School**  
Lynden, WA  
The Board of Directors invites applications for the following position for the 2007/2008 school year:  
**ELEMENTARY TEACHER**  
and for a possible opening for a  
**HIGH SCHOOL MATH / SCIENCE TEACHER**

Our school currently has 119 students in grades 1-12, 7.5 FTE teachers, many volunteers, and enjoys a high level of community support. For the 2007/2008 school year, we anticipate the need for an elementary teacher for the Grade 5/6 level, and there is the possibility of a need for a math/science teacher at the high school level.

Lynden is a vibrant community, just minutes away from Fraser Valley, B.C. and its attendant attractions, yet with a taste of rural America. Interested applicants may contact either of the following people for more information, or submit your resume to the following address:

**Mr. Bob Lodder**, Chairman of the Board  
cschoolboard@aol.com, phone: (360)966-3123  
**Mr. Otto Bouwman**, Principal  
obouwman@cornerstoneschool.us  
phone: (360)318-0663 (school); (360)354-0112 (home)

Mailing address:  
Cornerstone Christian School  
8872 Northwood Road, Lynden, WA 98264

**EBEN-EZER CANADIAN REFORMED SCHOOL**  
CHATHAM ONTARIO  
The Board invites applications for  
**POSSIBLE TEACHING POSITIONS**

for the 2007/2008 school year. We seek interest from teachers with a sincere love for the Lord and a strong desire to educate His covenantal children.

Eben-Ezer Christian School has an enrolment of approximately 50 students, K to 8, with 5 full-time staff. Our school has a low student to teacher ratio and excellent working relationships between teachers, principal, board and school society. Our church is soundly Reformed and warmly welcomes new members and their families.

Chatham and surrounding area is free from the stress associated with large city centers as well as being a very economical place to live and raise a family.

For further information contact the principal,  
**Mrs. Carol Bos**  
519-354-1142 (school); 519-695-2445 (home)  
519-354-2159 (fax); email: cokie@netrover.com  
Please send resumes and applications to the Education Committee Chairman  
**Allan Bergsma**  
c/o Eben-Ezer Canadian Reformed School  
485 McNaughton Avenue East, Chatham, ON N7L 2H2

**Dufferin Christian School, Carman, MB**  
The Board of Directors is seeking applications for the position of **PRINCIPAL**

for the 2007/2008 school year.  
We are seeking an enthusiastic Christian leader capable of providing visionary leadership in Reformed education within the school community.  
We are a K to 12 school with approximately 208 students and 20 full-time staff.

We have excellent facilities and great parental support. The successful candidate must meet the criteria for a Manitoba Professional Teacher’s Certificate.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the principal:  
**Rob vanSpronken**  
Phone: 204-745-2278 (work) or 204-745-3996 (home)  
Email: dcsprincipal@mts.net  

Interested candidates are urged to contact either  
**Harry VanKammen**, Board President  
Phone: 204-379-2427 (home), 204-745-7107 (cell)  
Email: hjvankammen@mts.net  
**Anton Borst**, Board Secretary  
Phone: 204-436-2032 (home), 204-745-8935 (cell)  
Email: acborst@mts.net

**PROVIDENCE REFORMED COLLEGIATE**

Invites applications for three definite openings as  
**HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER**

in the areas of Science, Math, English, History, Computer Studies and French for the 2007/2008 school year. Full and part-time applicants will be given consideration.

Providence has a student body of 100 students in grades 9-12. Now in its 10th year, the school is located a few minutes west of London in a recently built facility.

Qualified individuals who seek to serve in the field of Reformed Christian education, who submit to Scripture as summarized by the Reformed Confessions, are invited to submit a resume, a statement of faith, a statement of your philosophy of education, and letters of reference (including one from your church consistory) to:  
**Providence Reformed Collegiate**  
P.O. Box 114 – 93 Queen Street, Komoka, ON N0L 1R0

For more information contact the principal,  
**Mr. Roger Vanoostveen**  
at (519) 471 0661 (school), (519) 264 2575 (home),  
or e-mail prc_principal@rogers.com

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Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College

HAMILTON, ON

ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2007

The Board of Covenant College invites applications from prospective students for the 2007-2008 academic year. The College offers teacher training programs to prepare candidates for teaching positions in the K-Grade 10 range. Admission Requirements:

For the 1-year Diploma of Education Program:
- a suitable university degree

For the 3-year Diploma of Teaching Program:
- a grade 12 diploma with university equivalence.

Prospective candidates are invited to contact the College for more information and/or to obtain an enrolment package. Students are encouraged to apply before March 31, 2007. Those who plan to seek admission in the year 2008 are also encouraged to contact the College as soon as possible.

Visit our website: www.covenantteacherscollege.com

Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College

Location: 410 Crerar Drive, Hamilton, Ontario
Telephone: 905-385-0634 Fax: 905-385-8409
Email: covenant@covenantteacherscollege.com
Postal: 1576 Upper James Street, P.O. Box 30026
Hamilton, ON L9B 2Y5
American Reformed Fellowship

PALMETTO, FLORIDA

Sunday Services: 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
Location: Palm View First Baptist Church
Corner US 41 and 49th Street East
Minister: Rev. R. Stienstra
Parsonage: Phone: (941) 721-4519
Information: Phone: (941) 723-6898

Budget Environmental Disposal is accepting resumes for

DRIVING POSITIONS

for spring time employment.
A D licence and experience is an asset but not necessary.
We offer competitive pay, incentives, company uniforms and
benefits to qualified employees.
Please deliver resume and abstract to
375 Gage Avenue North in Hamilton.

Free Reformed Missions International

The mission board of the
Free Reformed Churches of North America
Invites applications for the position of
EDUCATION DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATOR
In the region of CubaLco, Guatemala beginning in 2007.
The role requires a heart for missions
and involves developing and overseeing various education
projects in the region of CubaLco, Guatemala.
It includes supervision of teachers
(including their professional development), interaction and
negotiations with local government officials, as well as active
teaching both in the church and broader community.
Opportunities to develop further education projects with other
organizations are expected to present themselves.
The position also involves administrative duties including
bookkeeping and legal matters for other departments of FRMI in
CubaLco. The successful candidate must have a love for the
Reformed faith, be self-motivated as well as patient, while being
a team player with an innate ability to motivate other team
members to improve themselves.
An education degree, as well as a degree or experience in
administration is preferred. Familiarity with Spanish is an asset.
Please include a letter of recommendation from your pastor or
consistory together with your resume.
Please e-mail your resume to John Brink, Clerk
Free Reformed Missions International
johnjbrink@aol.com
by March 30, 2007
The mailing address is:
2103 Berwick Drive, # 5, Burlington, Ontario L7M 4B7

American Reformed Fellowship

Investment Planning Counsel

of Canada inc.

Financial Planning Professionals

Roland Van Andel

59 Kirby Avenue, Unit 1, Dundas, Ontario L9H 6P3
PHONE: 905-628-9666 • FAX: 905-628-1035
TOLL FREE: 1-866-856-5910
E-MAIL: rvanandel@ipcc.org
MEMBER OF IPC FINANCIAL NETWORK INC.

Free Reformed Missions International

Roland Van Andel

Free Reformed Missions International

John Meerveld

Serving the Community Since 1979

Email: johnmeer@sympatico.ca
www.johnmeerveld.com

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