



Beyond the Broadcast

A chronological listing for
Spirit Connection programs: 15th, 16th, and 17th seasons
October 2002 to June 2006

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Spirit Connection Programs – 15th Season: 2002/2003

October 2002

October 6, Premiere Show: 15th Anniversary

Host Royal Orr is joined by former hosts Mardi Tindal, Ken Gallinger, and Bruce McLeod for a look back at 15 years of television ministry and a look ahead at the upcoming season!

October 13, Mano a Mano

Mano a Mano tells the story of farmers in northern Nicaragua who replanted with help from the United Church after weather destroyed their crops. Also, an interview with Canadian Foodgrains Bank executive director Jim Cornelius. (R)

October 20, Sowing Our Future: Biotechnology and Food Production

Various perspectives on the ongoing deliberation of the impact of biotechnology on food production—from theological points of view to the business approach.

October 27, Caregivers

The ministry of the congregation in Cole Harbour, N.S. The life of John Smeltzer of L'Arche, and an interview with Patricia Gilmore about resources for caregivers available from United Church Resource Distribution (UCRD).

November 2002

November 3, Voices for a Just Peace

Taped in July in the West Bank and Gaza, the voices of Christian and Arab Palestinians and Jewish human rights workers call for an end to the violence on both sides and a just peace.

November 10, For the Boys

Canadian airmen return to meet the Belgian families who sheltered them in 1944. (R)

November 17, The Least of These

A unique school in Nicaragua, Los Quinchos, supported by many international organizations, including the United Church of Canada, that works with children who make their living on the streets of Managua.

November 24, AIDS/HIV Special Appeal

The United Church launches a special campaign, Beads of Hope, to help address the growing HIV/AIDS pandemic that is gripping the world. This show features an interview with Suzanne Matale of the Christian Council of Zambia, and a personal story from a long-term survivor. A detailed study guide is available to accompany this video.

December 2002

December 1, A Song for Pele

In the town of Barberton, South Africa, a White woman, referred to as Mother Sophia, has (despite the sometimes hostile disapproval of her neighbours) opened her home to care for Black babies who have been neglected, abused, or afflicted with AIDS. As word of Mother Sophia's mission spreads, people both Black and White assist with funding and volunteer time. (R)

December 8, Advent: Telling the Christmas Story through Music

What better way to celebrate this joyous time of year than through music? Two United Church choirs—one a youth group called the Liturgically Hip and the other a traditional group from Eglinton-St. George's United Church—bring their own different expressions of the season to you in gladsome song. (R)

December 15, Blessed among Women

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is one of the strongest women in the Bible but she is also a figure in the Koran. *Spirit Connection* looks at the woman at the centre of the Christmas story and her place in several faith communities. (R)

December 22, Journey to Bethlehem

Spirit Connection celebrates Christmas in rural Ontario with a "Journey to Bethlehem." Marking its 5th anniversary, this interactive pageant, complete with carol singing and a marketplace, attracts over 400 people each year to the magical background at Five Oaks. (R)

December 29, A Christmas Card

The timeless story of Jesus' birth, told in familiar carols and drama, moves us to reflect on God's relationship with the world. Its retelling is done by a cast of all ages and of multicultural backgrounds. It's a Christmas card to share with friends and family. (R)

January 2003

January 5, When a Bird Has Wings: Haiti

Spirit Connection met with church members in Haiti where the struggle continues to bring about social justice in the shadow of free trade liberalisation and to reduce the poverty that limits the opportunities of the majority of the people. (R)

January 12, The Hidden Story: Confronting Colombia's Dirty War

An analysis of the roots of state terror and Canada's connection to the worsening human rights situation in Colombia, featuring the powerful testimony of men and women who risk their lives each day to build peace with social justice in Colombia.

January 19, All That Glitters: Part 1

The latest rush for gold, by both small independent operations and the larger Canadian mining companies is seriously disrupting the existence of the Indigenous people of the Philippines. This program focuses on the rights of and the United Church partnership with these Indigenous people. Interviews with Bern Jagunos, Area Secretary for East Asia, United Church, and Marie Hilao-Enriquez, Secretary General for Karapatan, provide an updated picture of the situation.

January 26, All That Glitters: Part 2

The *Spirit Connection* crew was given rare access to the sites and the people caught in the repeating saga of the upheaval caused by gold's allure. Mining operations in the Philippines have caused immense destruction to both the environment and to a way of life essential to the Indigenous people. An interview with Joan Kuyek of MiningWatch discusses the effects of mining on development, both in the Philippines and in other parts of the world.

February 2003

February 2, Advocating Peace in a Time of War

Guests join Royal Orr to discuss the United Church's theology and efforts to nurture a culture of peace.

Paths of Grace series

This series looks at the meeting of native and Christian spiritual traditions through the eyes and voices of four aboriginal Canadians. Following the Lenten journey the interviews with host, Royal Orr, focus on:

February 9, Paths of Grace: The Broken Relationship (Part 1)

Guest: Pearl Cornell, a member of the Ojibway Nation at Cape Croker, Ontario. (R)

February 16, Paths of Grace: Suffering (Part 2)

Guest: Roger Obonsawin, a member of the Abenaki Nation at Odanak, Quebec. (R)

February 23, Paths of Grace: Forgiveness (Part 3)

Guest: The Rev. Maggie McLeod, minister at Cape Croker United Church, Ontario, and who was born in the Cree Nation at File Hills, Saskatchewan. (R)

March 2003

March 2, Paths of Grace: Grace (Part 4)

Guest: The Very Rev. Stan McKay, former moderator of the United Church and a member of the Cree Nation in Manitoba. (R)

March 9, Mano a Mano

Mano a Mano tells the story of farmers in northern Nicaragua who replanted with help from the United Church after weather destroyed their crops. Also, an interview with Canadian Foodgrains Bank executive director Jim Cornelius. (R)

March 16, Caregivers

The ministry of the congregation in Cole Harbour, N.S.; the life of John Smeltzer of L'Arche, and an interview with Patricia Gilmore about resources for caregivers available from United Church Resource Distribution (UCRD). (R)

March 23, Special: Responding to War

A visit to St. John's United in Halifax, where peace activists and military families share the pews; an interview with Maj. Laurelle Callaghan, a United Church chaplain who served in Afghanistan; and an interview with Dale Hildebrand about how people can continue to advocate for peace in a time of war.

Hope Unfolding: Reflections on Lent (2003 Lenten series)

Music to get you in the mood, reflections to help you focus, and dynamic discussions to bring energy to your Lenten study. This four-part video series looks at the key themes of Lent: Crucifixion, Resurrection, Judgement, and Hope. Guest reflectors join Royal Orr, host of *Spirit Connection*, and his lively panel: Anthony Bailey and Lynda Katsuno.

March 30, Hope Unfolding: Reflections on Lent – Part 1: Crucifixion

Guest reflector: Ken Gallinger.

April 2003

April 6, Hope Unfolding: Reflections on Lent – Part 2: Resurrection

Guest reflector: Marion Pardy.

April 13, Hope Unfolding: Reflections on Lent – Part 3: Judgement

Guest reflector: Cheri Di Novo.

April 20, Hope Unfolding: Reflections on Lent – Part 4: Hope

Guest reflector: Rick Garland.

April 27, The Architecture of Worship

What are congregations doing to change their spaces to keep pace with changing styles of worship and who they are as communities? We look at two United Churches that have made changes to their sanctuary with positive results. An interview about the "how-to" aspects of making physical change and church development trends. This program includes an Easter message with the Rt. Rev. Marion Pardy, and an interview with guests Wilson and Usuili Mtebe from Tanzania.

May 2003

May 4, Camping and Ministry with Youth

The "heart & soul of it"—cooperative spirit at Pearce Williams Camp, a story of a congregational youth group and an interview about camping ministry.

May 11, McClure

A look at the life and work of medical missionary Dr. Robert McClure in India and China. (R)

God's People...Among All God's People (two-part series)

God's People...Among All God's People tells the story of the evolution of mission in India during the 20th century; from foreign church mission outposts to independent, indigenous movements. A look at how our understanding of mission has changed, the new exciting partnerships it has created, and the uncomfortable challenges that linger from our past.

May 18, God's People...Among All God's People (Part 1)

Includes an interview with the Rev. Bruce Gregersen, Area Secretary for South Asia and the Pacific.

May 25, God's People... Among All God's People (Part 2)

Includes an interview with the Rev. Chris Ferguson, Executive Minister, Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations.

June 2003

June 15, Issues before General Council 2003

This year marks the 38th gathering of General Council. Representatives of the church across the country will meet to address issues facing the United Church, to make decisions and policies that will offer direction for the next three years and beyond. What are the issues General Council will be discussing in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, this August?

August 2003

August 17, Highlights of 38th General Council

News of the new Moderator and General Secretary of the United Church, highlights, decisions, and issues express from General Council 38.

Spirit Connection Programs – 16th Season: 2003/2004

October 2003

October 5, 16th Season Premiere

Join us for a snapshot of General Council and a feature interview with the new General Secretary, Jim Sinclair, about where the church goes from here.

October 12, From Alberta to Argentina; includes Basta: Building a New Argentina, Part I

Beef farmers from Clyde, Alberta, have suffered three years of loss yet they are still talking about how to give more to their churches. Also, *Basta: Building a New Argentina*, Part I. In Spanish, "basta" means "enough." And that's what Argentinians are saying about economic policies of globalization that have brought their country to collapse. Half the population now lives below the poverty line. But churches and partners aren't sitting still. They're challenging the system and creating new ways forward. The program begins with an interview with the documentary's producer, Kathy Price.

October 19, Basta: Building a New Argentina, Part II

Want to be inspired? Tune in to Part II of *Basta: Building a New Argentina* for stories of hope and resistance from the southern-most tip of our hemisphere, where churches and communities are showing by doing that a more just and inclusive world is possible. And what can we do? An interview with Jim Hodgson, Area Secretary for the Caribbean and Latin America, provides some answers.

October 26, Affordable Housing: ...and you welcomed me, Part I

In this program, part I in a three-part series, learn how the United Church funds a major initiative, the Stella Burry Community Services, named for a former United Church deaconess, that deals with the hidden problem of homelessness in St. John's.

November 2003

November 2, Affordable Housing: ... and you welcomed me, Part II

Part II in a series on affordable housing. Garneau Place in Edmonton, Alberta, is a United Church congregation that built assisted housing for seniors beside the church building and now runs the facility for the care of seniors in the congregation and the community.

November 9, Remembrance Day

In this program, a United Church member, retired Commander, Wendall Brown recalls life aboard the WWII naval corvettes. Native elder Vern Harper, a veteran of the Korean War, talks about his experiences. This is the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War and we visit a Korean congregation here in Canada to ask how they see the anniversary.

November 16, Affordable Housing: ...and you welcomed me, Part III

Part III in a series on affordable housing. The Fred Victor Centre is over 100 years old. It is a former Methodist and now United Church centre that works with the hardest to house people in Toronto with great success.

November 23, Wesley 300

A Legacy in Canada. Methodism was the largest founding denomination of The United Church of Canada in 1925. A look at its influence and the teachings of its founder, John Wesley, on the 300th anniversary of his birth.

November 30, Beads of Hope First Anniversary: Trinidad

HIV/AIDS infection rates are growing in the Caribbean. The churches in Trinidad are working to create awareness among young people about the dangers of the disease and how to prevent it. An interview with East and Central Africa Area Secretary Lee Holland provides an update on the Beads of Hope campaign.

December 2003

December 7, Deaf Ministry

In this program, the United Church looks at ways to answer the needs of the Deaf and hearing-challenged members of its congregations. Program includes a profile of Helen Bickle, lay pastoral Deaf minister.

December 14, Of Holly and Homecoming: Traditions and Music of Advent, Part I

In this program, choirs from several churches perform Christmas music. National staff person Choice Okoro shares her memories of Nigerian Advent/Christmas celebrations. Chris White talks about his new book, *Our 12 Days before Christmas*.

December 21, Of Holly and Homecoming: Traditions and Music of Advent, Part II

Choirs from several churches perform Christmas music; Sandi Hill lights candles for an advent liturgy, with teachings of the Medicine Wheel. Fair Trade and alternative gifts for Christmas; shopping at Ten Thousand Villages.

December 28, Blessed among Women

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is one of the strongest women in the Bible but she is also a figure in the Koran. *Spirit Connection* looks at the woman at the centre of the Christmas story and her place in several faith communities. (R)

January 2004

January 4, Affordable Housing: ...and you welcomed me, Part I

In this program, part I in a three-part series, learn how the United Church funds a major initiative, the Stella Burry Community Services, named for a former United Church deaconess, that deals with the hidden problem of homelessness in St. John's. (R)

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Part II in a series on affordable housing. Garneau Place in Edmonton, Alberta, is a United Church congregation that built assisted housing for seniors beside the church building and now runs the facility for the care of seniors in the congregation and the community. (R)

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February 2004

February 1, From Alberta to Argentina; Basta: Building a New Argentina, Part I

Beef farmers from Clyde, Alberta, have suffered three years of loss yet they are still talking about how to give more to their churches. Also, *Basta: Building a New Argentina*, Part I. In Spanish, "basta" means "enough." And that's what Argentinians are saying about economic policies of globalization that have brought their country to collapse. Half the population now lives below the poverty line. But churches and partners aren't sitting still. They're challenging the system and creating new ways forward. The program begins with an interview with the documentary's producer, Kathy Price.

February 8, Basta: Building a New Argentina, Part II

Want to be inspired? Tune in to Part II of *Basta: Building a New Argentina* for stories of hope and resistance from the southern-most tip of our hemisphere, where churches and communities are showing by doing that a more just and inclusive world is possible. And what can we do? An interview with Jim Hodgson, Area Secretary for the Caribbean and Latin America, provides some answers.

God's People...Among All God's People (Two-part series)

God's People...Among All God's People tells the story of the evolution of mission in India during the 20th century; from foreign church mission outposts to independent, indigenous movements. A look at how our understanding of mission has changed, the new exciting partnerships it has created, and the uncomfortable challenges that linger from our past.

February 15, God's People... Among All God's People (Part 1)

Includes an interview with Rev. Bruce Gregersen, Area Secretary for South Asia and the Pacific.

February 22, God's People... Among All God's People (Part 2)

Includes an interview with Rev. Chris Ferguson, Executive Minister, Justice Global and Ecumenical Relations.

February 29, Dare to Change: Changing Demographics and the Church, Part I

Shifts in demographics, cultural changes, and generational differences all affect how the church carries out its mission as an institution. This program looks at United Church congregations in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Richmond, British Columbia, that are finding new energy and ways to integrate these changes into their own vision and mission. Includes an interview with Anne Martin about a book for small group ministries and with Jim McKibbin, who talks about demographic trends and the church in the future.

March 2004

March 7, Dare to Change: Changing Church Buildings, Part II

Shifts in demographics, cultural changes, and generational differences all affect how the overall church carries out its mission as an institution. This program looks at some thriving United Church congregations in Whitby, Brampton, and Toronto, as well as Calgary, that are finding new energy and ways to integrate these changes into their own vision and mission. Includes an interview with Vince Alfano of the Toronto United Church Council.

Criss-Cross Theology – Lenten series 2004

People can view the same situation in different ways. It all depends on context: our unique experience and perspective determines how we understand the world. Context also affects how we interpret the Gospel, both as a church and as individuals. This year at Lent, *Spirit Connection* invites four Christians, from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Canada's First Nations, to share how their personal stories and theologies have been shaped by their cultures.

This series of four 30-minute interviews explores how theology in a modern context makes the Gospel a dynamic and living presence.

March 14, Criss-Cross Theology: Royal Orr in conversation with Wesley Mabuza

Wesley Mabuza is a Methodist minister from South Africa with an impressive background including six years as General Secretary for the Institute for Contextual Theology and five years with the South African Council of Churches. He is in Canada with the Toronto Conference Partner in Residence Program.

March 21, Criss-Cross Theology: Royal Orr in conversation with Nestor Medina

Nestor Medina is a doctoral student at Emmanuel College and an ordained minister of Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. He was born in Guatemala.

March 28, Criss-Cross Theology: Royal Orr in conversation with Wenh-In Ng

Wenh-In Ng has been involved in Christian education within the United Church context for three decades—writing curriculum, serving on conference staff, and teaching in theological schools.

April 2004

April 4, Criss-Cross Theology: Royal Orr in conversation with Alf Dumont

The Rev. Dr. Alf Dumont is former Speaker of the United Church's All Native Circle Conference, former Director of the Jessie Saulteaux Centre, and is in team ministry at St. John's United Church in Alliston, Ontario.

April 11, Sanctuary

A Montreal congregation provides sanctuary for a Colombian refugee family. Interview with national staff Chris Ferguson on the sanctuary issue for churches. Beads of Hope petition is presented in Ottawa. Eleanor Scarlett talks about global partner visit of a group from The United Church Women to Zambia.

April 18, The Future of Congregational Ministry

A profile of team ministers Ross and Laura Lockhart in Dryden, Ontario. From Vancouver School of Theology, a discussion about financial concerns and solutions. Second-career minister Brenda Ottawa shares the challenges and joys of sole ministry in a rural charge near Cambridge, Ontario. Interview about directions in congregational ministry.

April 25, Branching Out

Check out the "wildlife" at Camp Big Canoe. Interview with Wendell White about United Church camps across the country. Planning and preparation for a youth exchange—from Ontario to Newfoundland. Includes images of the wilderness in Algonquin Park.

May 2004

May 2, First comes love, then comes marriage?

From newlywed bliss to seasoned harmony—marriage through the eyes of three couples. With the divorce rate up, and more people choosing to live common-law, what continues to draw couples to the altar, and why are same-sex

couples eager to be included? What are some of the blessings and some of the pitfalls of getting married today? What is the glue that holds couples together? Find out if these three duos have the answers.

Spirit Connection Programs – 17th Season: 2004/2005

October 2004

October 3, Profile of the Moderator (17th Season Premiere)

A profile of the Right Rev. Peter Short, the 38th Moderator of The United Church of Canada. An update with the Rev. Jim Sinclair, General Secretary of the General Council of the United Church, on where the church and government are on the question of refugees seeking sanctuary in congregations.

October 10, A Life amid the Tension: Churches in Cuba

The United Church has always maintained a strong relationship with churches in Cuba. In recent years, American churches have been renewing their ties with Cuban churches. But the "war on terror" has restored tensions and put Cuba back in the sights of people who would like to see a "regime change," and this is making life difficult for the Cuban churches. The program includes an interview with Jim Hodgson, the church's Area Secretary for the Caribbean and Latin America.

October 17, Healing at Lac Ste. Anne—Part 1

This is the first of a two-part documentary about a unique pilgrimage by Aboriginal people to the shores of Lac Ste. Anne in Northern Alberta in search of emotional, physical, and spiritual healing. This documentary was produced by Cindy Bisallon.

October 24, Healing at Lac Ste. Anne—Part 2

This is the second of a two-part documentary about a unique pilgrimage by Aboriginal people to Northern Alberta to the shores of Lac Ste. Anne in search of emotional, physical, and spiritual healing. This program concludes with an interview about healing with (the late) Anne Miller, a member of the Healing Fund Committee and a former speaker of the All Native Circle Conference.

October 31, First comes love, then comes marriage?

From newlywed bliss to seasoned harmony—marriage through the eyes of three couples. With the divorce rate up, and more people choosing to live common law, what continues to draw couples to the altar, and why are same-sex couples eager to be included? What are some of the blessings and some of the pitfalls of getting married today? What is the glue that holds couples together? Find out if these three duos have the answers. This show also features an interview with Jackie Harper, Family Ministries staff, about a book for couples called *Passion and Freedom*. (R)

November 2004

November 7, Lead 2004

An innovative event that encouraged people to try an edgier approach to congregational leadership. Filmed on location this past summer at Banff, Alberta.

November 14, *The United Church Observer*—175th anniversary

A venerable and vital force in the life of the church, *The Observer* is the first in a long-standing tradition of United Church magazines.

November 21, Clergy in Politics

Why would a nice United Church minister want to go into politics? *Spirit Connection* looks at two who ran for office. Interview with Bill Blaikie, ordained United Church minister and MP, re-elected to the House of Commons six times since 1979.

November 28, Beyond Beads of Hope: Mozambique

Mozambique has endured civil war and natural disasters, but now it is facing another challenge. The country has been left with little infrastructure to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. Yet grassroots groups and the churches have organized to help affected families and to create exciting programs that reach young people through film, music, and drama.

December 2004

December 5, Beyond Beads of Hope: Tanzania

HIV/AIDS is decimating Tanzania's young adults and leaving thousands of children orphaned—jeopardizing recent strides in economic development. Churches are shouldering the burden of care, including supporting nearly 40 percent of the nation's health centres. Partners provide a variety of programs aimed at reducing the stigma HIV-positive people face and ending the deadly silence that has enabled this pandemic to explode.

December 12, Beyond Beads of Hope: Moving Forward

A look back at the Beads of Hope advocacy campaign—launched in 2002 by the United Church in response to the global HIV/AIDS pandemic—and how the world's perspective on HIV/AIDS has changed in two years.

December 19, Christmas Carols

Christmas is a season rich in traditions and music that convey the spirit of the holiday season. Some of the most popular carols have been with us for generations. Enjoy the harmony of both the Etobicoke Children's and Youth Choirs. Patricia Wright shares the history behind some of our favourite carols. Tune in to *Spirit Connection* for a gift of music that will treat your senses to the joy and splendour of Christmas.

December 26, Architecture of Worship

What are congregations doing to change their spaces to keep pace with changing styles of worship and who they are as communities? We look at two United churches that have made changes to their sanctuary with positive results. An interview about the "how-to" aspects of making physical change and church development trends. This program also includes an interview with guests Wilson and Usuli Mtbebe from Tanzania. (R)

January 2005

January 2, Lead 2004

An innovative event that encouraged people to try an edgier approach to congregational leadership. Filmed on location this past summer at Banff, Alberta. (R)

January 9, Profile of the Moderator

A profile of the Right Rev. Peter Short, the 38th Moderator of The United Church of Canada. An update with the Rev. Jim Sinclair, General Secretary of the General Council of the United Church, on where the church and government are on the question of refugees seeking sanctuary in congregations. (R)

January 16, Deaf Ministry

In this program, the United Church looks at ways to answer the needs of the Deaf and hearing-challenged members of its congregations. Program includes a profile of Helen Bickle, lay pastoral Deaf minister. (R)

January 23, The Money Show

Jesus talked a lot about money but the subject still makes church people cringe! Here is a show all about money, what our theology says, and how to move beyond guilt to start a meaningful discussion about giving.

January 30, Community Ministries

Community ministry is a vital part of what The United Church of Canada is all about. This is where day-to-day justice work, advocacy, and attention to specific local needs are addressed in very practical ways. Also in this show, interviews with national staff Gary Kenny and Margaret Sumadh about the United Church special appeal for tsunami relief, and with ecumenical chaplain Ralph Wushke.

February 2005

February 6, Listen: A Journey of Social Justice

Moved by the news stories of the fishing crisis in Newfoundland and its effects, particularly on the young people there, a group of Ontario teens wanted to do something to show their solidarity. Their congregation rallied around and they raised money to travel to Newfoundland. This is the tale of their encounter with a social issue that has altered the face of a province.

February 13, Beyond Beads of Hope: Mozambique

Mozambique has endured civil war and natural disasters, but now it is facing another challenge. The country has been left with little infrastructure to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. Yet grassroots groups and the churches have organized to help affected families and to create exciting programs that reach young people through film, music, and drama. (R)

February 20, Beyond Beads of Hope: Tanzania

HIV/AIDS is decimating Tanzania's young adults and leaving thousands of children orphaned—jeopardizing recent strides in economic development. Churches are shouldering the burden of care, including supporting nearly 40 percent of the nation's health centres. Partners provide a variety of programs aimed at reducing the stigma HIV-positive people face and ending the deadly silence that has enabled this pandemic to explode. (R)

Glimpses of the Spirit - Lenten Series 2005

Glimpses of the Spirit offers profound theological reflections and insights from people of faith around the world. In his travels with the show, host Royal Orr has conversations with people who articulate their faith in powerful ways. Due to the larger demands of the television medium, not all of these insights make it into the final version of our programs. Here are some of the theological gems that rise to the surface. These interviews will provoke lively discussions in study groups and for individuals pondering the season of Lent. The four programs deal with the following themes: Reconciliation, Hope, Eco-Theology, and HIV/AIDS.

February 27, Glimpses of the Spirit - Part 1 - Reconciliation

This program begins with a discussion of what it means to be Christian in international partnership today. We hear from Dr. Lal of the Church of North India; Leela Carnara, who speaks about missionaries of old; and Canadian Ginny Srivastava, who works with an organization called Astha in the hills of Rajasthan. And in the Middle East, we get glimpses of the Spirit in others. The Reverend Petra Heldt, a Lutheran living in Jerusalem who has survived a bomb blast, believes that "we are [God's] tools to bring reconciliation to this world." Father Elias Chacour, a Palestinian Christian priest and Israeli citizen, brings together Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Druse children who learn in an environment of tolerance and respect.

March 2005

March 6, Glimpses of the Spirit - Part 2 - Hope

This program opens with the thoughts of Amal El-Sana, a Bedouin woman from the Negev Desert. As a Muslim, Amal would like to help bring peace to her Middle Eastern homeland. In Haiti, Paul Louiseus, a principal and teacher in a tiny rural school, feels the future of his country is in its children. We also meet up with Guillermo Majilla and his family, who live at the edge of a dump in Managua, Nicaragua. Wendy Evans recalls working with children at Los Quinchos School in Nicaragua.

March 13, Glimpses of the Spirit - Part 3 - Eco-Theology

In the Philippines, the United Church has a number of partners who are standing up to industrial development that threatens their environment. In this program we talk with Father Albert Bael, who lives in a beautiful village where cyanide run-offs from a local gold mine have destroyed the rice fields, and with Bishop Jose Manguiran, who speaks about what is at stake theologically in the fight to stop destructive lumbering and mining practices. In Haiti, where

environmental degradation has reached crisis proportions, we focus on the challenges of staying faithful in the face of extreme deprivation.

March 20, Glimpses of the Spirit - Part 4 - HIV/AIDS

In this program, we travel to Trinidad, Tobago, and Africa to glimpse the Spirit in talks with partners as they provide leadership and hope for their congregations and members dealing with HIV/AIDS. We meet Father Clyde Harvey, a Catholic priest who teaches young people in the Caribbean how to protect themselves from HIV. In the highlands of Tanzania, we listen to the Widows of Makete, who tell us about their lives and how they understand Jesus' concern for widows and orphans. Ainsley Reid, the Caribbean Council of Churches' program officer for HIV/AIDS, draws on the story of Exodus for hope and sustenance.

March 27, Arts & Spirituality

Expression of spirituality comes in many forms. Artists share their understanding of faith and the gospel in tangible and visual ways. Among them is Sandy Harron, who explores biblical figures in her canvases and uses her paintings to initiate conversation about the Bible with youth. Pat Krug, a potter from the prairies, finds a sense of peace while creating pottery for everyday use. William Hodge weaves spiritual symbolism into his inspirational banners for church sanctuaries. Artist/author Regina Coupar discusses the theological and sacred significance of art.

April 2005

April 3, Native Issues

An encounter with Chief Perry Bellegarde at the Treaty Four Pow Wow in Saskatchewan addresses the need to create healthy Native communities. Then a panel of the church's Aboriginal elders in Winnipeg discuss the challenges facing their future and look to the church for support.

April 10, WebSight: Connecting Youth for Global Justice

In this program, youth at a confirmation event at Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre discover WebSight, a multimedia resource designed to connect youth in action around social justice issues globally. A second segment highlights a celebratory Sunday service led by youth at Wesley Urban Ministries, which has had close ties to many United Church congregations and is marking its 50th anniversary this year.

April 17, Community Ministries

In this program we feature two exceptional approaches to community ministry. The Jane-Finch Ministry in Toronto is a community development model funded by Toronto-West Presbytery, providing a variety of services to the community. An interview with Judy Shand, mission strategist for the presbytery, explains the concept behind this kind of ministry. The Davenport-Perth Ministry presents a unique partnership of a congregation with government agencies to create services for the community.

April 24, Colombia: Weaving Hope

Produced by Amnesty International Canada, this video is a moving testament of two human rights defenders, leaders of Colombia's Association of Families of the Detained-Disappeared (ASFADDES). The two women talk about the worsening human rights crisis in their country. Followed by an interview about the United Church entering into a new relationship with the Methodist Church in Colombia.

May 2005

May 1, Health and Wellness

As part of a holistic approach to encouraging healthy communities, some churches have created wellness programs and Sunday healing services. An increasing number of congregations are hiring parish nurses. This program looks at examples of how congregations are not only nurturing spiritual health, but also contributing to the physical well-being of their members.