

INVITATION Joseph F. James

(The bishop to be commissioned shall be addressed as follows:)

Brother Gary R. Walsh, we rejoice that God, by his sacred providences, has brought you to the office you now enter. We rejoice to share this sacred hour of commissioning with you. And now, let us call upon the Father, both for you and for the church you oversee, that your ministry may have good success and that Christ's church, expressed in the people called Free Methodist, will grow in holiness and increase in numbers, for the glory of His name.

(The one being commissioned, with his wife, shall kneel)

FIRST PRAYER Laverne W. Bates

O God, our Father, who has made us your people by sacrifice and has assigned us to preach the gospel, to call sinners to repentance and faith in your Son, Jesus, to nurture believers, to call out workers, to plant churches, to send forth missionaries to the ends of the earth, and to carry out these assignments until our Lord returns in visible presence, we pray for the renewal of our Zion that we may do your will in these things with glad hearts. Throughout Canada and to our most distant field, send down your Spirit upon us until worldliness is banished, smallness of vision is healed, and we are again like a mighty army going forth to do conquest for you. This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Then all present at the altar shall lay hands on the inductee, one praying.)

SECOND PRAYER Paul G. Johnston

O God, our Father, who has set apart to be a bishop over your church, this, your servant, Brother Walsh, we humbly ask your benediction upon him. May he be effectual in preaching your holy Word, clear in teaching your doctrines, gentle in his admonitions, firm in his corrections, and ever loving as he leads your people in the doing of your will. Make him a pattern of godliness and an example always of the life of faith. Give him good success in all he attempts for you.

THIRD PRAYER Keith A. Elford

(Here shall be offered an extemporaneous prayer for the health, well-being and safety of the bishop, his wife and family.)

(The commissioned bishop and his wife shall arise.)

4.

HYMN O Zion, Haste

O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling,
To tell to all the world that God is Light;
That He who made all nations is not willing
One soul should perish, lost in shades of night.
Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace;
Tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.

Behold how many thousands still are lying
Bound in the darksome prisonhouse of sin,
With none to tell them of the Saviour's dying,
Or of the life He died for them to win.
Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace;
Tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.

Proclaim to every people, tongue and nation
That God, in whom they live and move, is love:
Tell how He stooped to save His lost creation,
And died on earth that man might live above.
Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace;
Tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.

Give of thy sons to bear the message glorious;
Give of thy wealth to speed them on their way;
Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious;
And all thy spending Jesus will repay.
Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace;
Tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.

BENEDICTION Donald N. Bastian

GREETINGS BY THE CONGREGATION

Participants

Cherith M. Alexander	Lloyd R. Eyre
Laverne W. Bates	Joseph F. James
Carl V. Bull	Rachel A. James
Dennis H. Camplin	Paul G. Johnston
J. Sheldon Carlson	Edna D. Snider
Keith A. Elford	

5.

THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH IN CANADA

**2nd GENERAL
CONFERENCE**



Commissioning Service

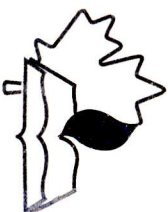
for
GARY R. WALSH

into the office of

**Bishop
of the**

Free Methodist Church in Canada

August 3, 1993, 1 p.m.
Arlington Woods
Free Methodist Church
225 McClellan Road
Nepean, Ontario



COMMISSIONING SERVICE

for

BISHOP GARY R. WALSH

*Arlington Woods Free Methodist Church
August 3, 1993*

WORSHIP LEADER Bishop Donald N. Bastian
SPEAKER Bishop Richard D. Snyder
ORGANIST Rev. Keith E. Lohnes

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 67:1,2
Donald N. Bastian

HYMN Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

*Rejoice, ye pure in heart,
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King.
Rejoice, rejoice, Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

*With all the angel choirs,
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
True rapture, noblest mirth!
Rejoice, rejoice, Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

*Yes, on through life's long path,
Still chanting as we go,
From youth to age, by night and day,
In gladness and in woe.
Rejoice, rejoice, Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

*Still lift your standard high,
Still march in firm array;
As warriors through the darkness toil
Till dawns the golden day.
Rejoice, rejoice, Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! Amen.*

SCRIPTURE

THE OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 78:1-7
Lloyd R. Eye
THE EPISTLE Titus 1:7-2:1
Edna D. Snider
THE GOSPEL Luke 4:16-21
J. Sheldon Carlson

INTERLUDE Shepherd's Song

Cherith M. Alexander

SOLO Search Me, Oh God
Rachel A. James

MESSAGE The Winning Team (Luke 24:44-53)
Bishop Richard D. Snyder

READING FROM THE DISCIPLINE . . . ¶785.1-3.11
Carl V. Bull

RITUAL OF COMMISSIONING

(The leader shall say:)

Dearly beloved, we rejoice because our God has ordained that in his church there should be various orders of ministry and that these, his ministers, should feed his flock, admonish the wayward, seek the lost and, in every way, testify to the gospel of the grace of God. We come now to acknowledge his call upon his servant, Gary R. Walsh, and to commission him as a bishop of Christ's church.

The Free Methodist Church acknowledges two levels of ordination, deacons and elders. From time to time, the Canadian General Conference chooses from the order of elders a person to serve the whole church as general overseer. After much prayer, it makes this choice by ballot and, in doing so, it sets apart the one so chosen to the office of bishop.

We now call you, God's people, to entreat his blessing on this one to be commissioned, and to pray, with us, that the Lord of the church will empower him for this special task, grant him great success, and through his labors cause his church on earth to multiply in numbers and to grow in holiness.

The commissioning we here carry out is an act of the whole church, clergy and lay, men and women, young and old, and we reflect this fact in the representative persons who participate in the laying on of hands. May the Lord of the church look with favor upon us in this hour.

(At this time, the one named above will come, with his wife on his right, and stand, facing the chancel.)

(The secretary shall say:)

I present to you to be commissioned as bishop of the Free Methodist Church in Canada, Gary R. Walsh.

PRAYER Carl V. Bull

Let us pray. O God, our Father, before the universe was created you ordained that from the beginning of history you would have a holy people to live as a redeemed community in the world, to bear witness to your greatness and love, and to proclaim your saving power through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and that among them you would establish various leaders -- patriarchs, kings, prophets, apostles, and others -- to shepherd your people in the ways of righteousness and to lead them in witness to your saving power. We bow before you now, asking that this one whom the General Conference, in your name, has elected to a special position of leadership, will receive your seal and benediction and that we, together with him, will hear afresh the great commission of your Son, our Lord, who has put before his church the command to go and make disciples of all nations. We pray this in his holy name. Amen.

ADDRESS Dennis H. Campkin

We are told in God's holy word that in the city of Antioch, "while (the people) were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' So, after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands upon them and sent them off." (Acts 13:1-3) Thus, leaders called by God were recognized and assigned by the church.

Regarding bishops, we are also told in God's holy Word that, "the bishop must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to much wine, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap." (1 Timothy 3:27) Thus, leaders assigned to the general oversight of the church, depending ever on God's grace, must be wise and godly.