

# SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH IN CANADA

REPORT

AUGUST 1993



LIGHT & LIFE PRESS CANADA

PREPARED BY

NANCY C. SMITH, DIRECTOR

LIGHT & LIFE PRESS CANADA is looking forward to an exciting future. As reported to each of the three Annual Conferences this year, THE PRESS has taken on a new dimension over the past 18 months.

At this General Conference level, I wish to address all present with a specific word to the four working Commissions. If the needs of all of our member churches are to be met with full services from the Mississauga Ministries Centre, then LIGHT & LIFE PRESS CANADA has to be one of them. I say this by the very nature of church needs for print materials, most of which are imported from the United States. It has become beneficial for our church personnel to have one place to request most of these print requirements. It is also beneficial for the church personnel to know by name and by face the voice on the other end of the phone. All of this contributes to the ease with which the work of the church is conducted. It is appreciated that this is not any great revelation in thought, but, it is one to which we *fail to give importance* until it is lost.

It is important for each commission member to take back to their own conferences the thought: ***"to use the tool is to keep it sharp for future need"***. For LIGHT & LIFE PRESS this means its very survival.

To support the **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION:**

There are a number of books, pamphlets, video training programs and brochures to support tithing, investing and just good money management for the individual, the Pastor and for the church organization. Plus, there are a multitude of big books, small books to assist conferences, churches and pastors how to administer and manage their affairs by getting a better handle on the "how-to's" for personnel and other matters resulting in good business management and productivity, all written by the Christian community.

To support the **OUTREACH COMMISSION:**

Almost every week there is a new title to latch onto. Our own denomination in Indianapolis has several new items out this spring to support this direction. We carry many titles which I have been assured are very good but appear to be overlooked at all the conferences. It may be that a representative from each Conference should be in consultation with me to ensure that we carry what you want and that you get the support from THE PRESS you need.

To support the **OVERSEAS COMMISSION:**

Better liason is obviously needed between the World Missions Department in Indianapolis and our own people. There isn't a week that passes without some request for "anything new?". Again there are many resources available. A special listing of mission materials and related subjects has been produced and forwarded as recently as early June, 1993. Our communication in this area with Indianapolis has greatly improved in recent months but both sides know it's a matter of creating a new habit. However, is their thrust the same as our thrust or is it different? THE PRESS wishes to keep up with our thrust, as well.

To support the **EDUCATION COMMISSION:**

Each conference should be in direct communication with THE PRESS on a regular basis. The purpose: to ensure that the best materials known by all sources are co-ordinated and capable of endorsement with names available for recommendations. This is an on-going and most challenging task for which I am, personally, always under stress to ensure the correct slant is maintained in our literatures. I have cultivated some real helpers. I appreciate any quick memo you send in my direction about something you have perused with a line or two of explanation. I need more of this help. Please do not wait to be solicited. Volunteer! I learn more quickly from you and by you. The task to review is too onerous for only one person.

A special word is necessary here. The viability of LIGHT & LIFE PRESS CANADA has been with the orders of Sunday school materials. Although there has been major effort to provide some shift, it still remains to be true. A large minority of our churches do not use a prescribed curriculum for the education of their children. Too many of our adult teachers think that they know best, can do a better job, etc. etc. Of course, there are always exceptions and there are people who excel in the teaching of their class. However, that is not so in many situations. We, too frequently, tolerate the 'Mr. So & So' and the 'Mrs. No No' to continue to do it "my way" for fear of loosing their help. How foolish we are to loose sight of the real need to teach our children with methods and materials which are in-keeping with the children's world as they know it. We need to find the way to reach these committed servants to make it easier for them to be a greater value to the children they teach. There are materials and tools to help in this direction and we have them! PLEASE NOTE: too often, only adult materials are being ordered. Where are the children's?

All this to say: the deadline ordering date for the Fall Quarter has long passed and in fact, extended. To date, out of 142 churches across the 4 conferences in Canada, only 72 churches have placed orders for Wesley-doctrine materials. Only 27 of these are for the "free Wesley curriculum". I submit to each of you that it is more expensive to put together a fragmented program from a local bookstore than for a prepared program.

There are only two curricula written with Wesley theology: Wordaction and Wesley. Why are our Sunday schools using other materials? If my very brief exposure has any value, it is because the teachers involved do not know the materials, do not know what is available and often do not ask because it never occurs to them to do so. Where is the needed leadership coming from to teach our Sunday school teachers how to teach? How do we help our teachers to learn how children learn? Perhaps it is timely for some changes.

We have a challenge on our doorstep. I would be happy to become part of the process within LIGHT & LIFE PRESS CANADA to encourage better education of our future church in Canada. This requires a team effort of the first order!

IN CONCLUSION, I recognize that there are many needs out there in every field. And it does appear, that no matter how much time and effort is given it is never enough. Attending each Annual Conference this summer with a considerable exhibit each time, determines new challenges and new ideas for new needs. Apart from our own Free Methodist churches in Canada, we serve some 52 churches from 9 other denominations from Quebec to Victoria, B. C. to Watson Lake, Y.T.

Communication is everyone's biggest problem. There is much room for improvement in communication between Conference chairmen and LIGHT & LIFE PRESS CANADA. Conference chairmen need to be made aware that the Ministries Centre has provided a great resource for everyone with LIGHT & LIFE PRESS CANADA. It needs to be used and used! Make my position too big for me alone!

THANK YOU for the privilege to address this body. Thank you to those who have been my greatest teachers, great in their patience, supportive in nature and new best friend. I love this work. I have much to be thankful to the Lord IN this work.

**FREE METHODIST CHURCH IN CANADA  
SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**JULY 30 - AUGUST 3, 1993**

**ALDRSGATE COLLEGE REPORT  
JOSEPH F. JAMES, PRESIDENT**

**INTRODUCTION**

Bishop Bastian, Bishop elect Gary Walsh, delegates, honoured guests, and friends. We praise God for His provision and protection of Aldersgate College through a period of institutional instability and transition. We have seen our Lord at work. He is inspiring the faculty, staff and trustees with a renewed vision. He is opening up new opportunities for service. He is providing financial resources. He is bringing needed personnel. In a word, God is doing a new thing at Aldersgate College. And so today, I want to express my praise to Him and my thanks to you, for your patience and prayers, for your financial support and encouragement.

**OUR COLLEGE**

Aldersgate College is our college. It is our only Canadian Free Methodist educational institution with a campus. It has served the Canadian Free Methodist church for 53 years. Hundreds of trustees, faculty and staff from across Canada have given sacrificially to fulfill its mission. These leaders have served the church well. We are the beneficiaries.

**OUR PRODUCT**

You recognize the names of leaders like Bishop Bastian, Doris Meredith, Tanis Mealy, Muriel Teusink, Glenn Teal, Lee Barbour and Sheldon Carlson. They, along with Earl Grigg, Craig Peters, Jerry McCall, Phil McAmmond, Matt Thomas, Vern Frudd, Tony Hedrick, Steve Merriman, David Griggs, Cam Taylor to name just a few, have received part of their preparation for lay or ministerial service to Christ through Aldersgate. They join 1500 alumni, who have been challenged through their studies at Aldersgate, to give themselves fully to God.

Did you know that nearly one-half of the Free Methodist pastors in Canada have received part of their theological training on the campus of Aldersgate College or through its extension courses in Toronto and Montreal. In addition, hundreds of lay leaders serving in our churches and communities have benefited from the training and education that Aldersgate provides. Beyond Canada, alumni serve in the United States and overseas in Free Methodist missions, para-church organizations and lay ministries world wide. I do not have the time to name them. For 53 years Aldersgate College has been preparing Christian leaders.

## OUR STATURE

However, in spite of its significant contribution to the work of Christ, Aldersgate College has never made the headlines. Its campus facilities have never received any architectural awards. Its budgets have never been overflowing with extra funds. Its faculty and staff have managed on meagre salaries. Its enrollments have risen and fallen like the tide. But year by year, God has been doing His work in the lives of a few students. At times in our short history, when college leaders were faced with impossible circumstances, God provided needed resources in miraculous ways so that Aldersgate could continued to pursue it's mission.

For 53 years, God's Word has been taught and proclaimed and lives have been changed. Students have been equipped for ministry. Young people have been counselled. Young men and women have obeyed God's call to ministry, graduated, pursued further education and served the church with joy. Many alumni have set an example before the believers in their devotion and service to Christ. For this we are grateful.

Now we know that no college or university bats a 1000. We have had our share of disappointments. We have made our share of mistakes. At times we have failed miserably. But I am enthusiastic about the ministries of Aldersgate College just now, because God is doing a new thing. I believe the climate is right for us to look to the future with confidence, to dream God's dream and to do great things for Him. The faculty, staff and trustees are committed with God's help to fulfill the mission He has called us to.

## OUR MISSION

*The Mission of  
Aldersgate College  
is to prepare Christian leaders:  
holy, effective disciples  
of Jesus Christ,  
who obey  
the Great Commission  
and serve  
in the marketplaces  
of the world.*



## TEN NOTES OF PRAISE

(SINCE THE 1990 INAUGURAL CANADIAN GENERAL CONFERENCE)

### 1. CURRICULUM IS EXPANDING

- 1990      Established J-Term, extension studies in Toronto and later on campus
- 1991      Arranged for our first 4 courses transferrable to the University of Regina  
Added extension courses in Montreal (5th course begins soon)
- 1992      Established the 2 year Early Childhood Development and Youth Care Worker  
programs in cooperation with SIAST (Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and  
Technology)
- 1993      Offered first course in the Khmer language for Cambodian leaders  
Launched our Correspondence Program in cooperation with the Canadian Church

### 2. ENROLLMENT IS GROWING

Full Time (FT), Part Time (PT), Total (T), and Full Time Equivalency (FTE) Students at Aldersgate College

YEARS	FALL				SPRING			
	FT	PT	T	FTE	FT	PT	T	FTE
1990-91	50	17	67	55	52	18	70	59
1991-92	44	26	70	52	39	59	98	55
1992-93	45	32	77	55	44	59	103	62

Note: These figures do not include students who audit classes.

Our spring semester Total (103) and FTE (62) was the largest in 5 years.

BETTER NEWS STILL!! As of July 25, we are anticipating a 40% increase in full time students this September, bringing our full time student body to more than 60 students.

### 3. DEBT IS DIMINISHING

YEAR-END	TOTAL DEBT	less	ACC'TS RECEIVABLE	=	BALANCE
1991	\$747,000	-	\$58,855	=	\$688,145
1992	\$702,045	-	\$55,894	=	\$646,151

#### 4. BEQUESTS ARE INCREASING

Our participation in the Canadian church Department of Planned Giving has led to bequests designated for Aldersgate College as follows.

YEARS	TOTALS
1977-1989	\$ 2,682,357
1990	270,788
1991	262,436
1992	349,562
TOTAL	\$ 3,565,143

These figures include only those supporters who have included Aldersgate College in their wills through the estate planning services of the Canadian church. There are many others who have included Aldersgate College in their wills. The above figures include some bequests which have already benefited the college. Our largest bequest to date has been the \$210,000 received through the Gerald and Naydene Davey Estate. We thank God for the blessing they have been to Aldersgate College in their Christian stewardship through the years. We appreciate the good work of Rev. Keith Lohnes on our behalf.

#### 5. PRIVATE LOAN DRIVE IS SUCCEEDING

Since 1990 supporters of the college have invested more than \$500,000 in private loans (now at 7% or less). All of our capital/operational debt is now serviced through private loans. We have no mortgages or encumbrances on our properties. All interest payments are current. Interest costs (all debt combined) stands at 6%. The private loans have reduced our interest expense and I believe are another evidence of increased confidence in the college.

#### 6. NEW FACULTY AND STAFF ARE ARRIVING

Changes in Faculty and Staff at Aldersgate College over the past three years include:

President	Joseph F. James
Academic Dean	Richard P. Huston
Business Manager	David R. Church
Dean of Students	Norman P. Winslow
Admissions Director	Leanne M. Woolsey
Director of Early Childhood Development/ Youth Care Worker	Donna J. Elford.
Dean of Women	Myrna Buckingham
Dean of Men	Wayne Hungate
Music Instructor	Del Kahlstorf
Registrar	Kathy Kahlstorf
Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds	Keith R. Taylor
Administrative Assistant to the President	B. Joan Taylor

I am grateful to God for the excellent leadership He is bringing to Aldersgate College to help us fulfill our mission.



## **7. ACCREDITATION PROCESS IS BEGINNING**

In October, 1993, the American Association of Bible Colleges (AABC) granted Aldersgate College "Applicant Status". This is the first step toward accreditation. Aldersgate College is now preparing a major self-study as part of the process toward the second step, Candidate Status.

## **8. CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAMS AND CREDIT TRANSFERS ARE EXPANDING**

In 1991, the Faculty of Arts at the University of Regina authorized full transfer of credit for four Aldersgate courses (12 hours). We are currently exploring with the Dean of Faculty of Arts the possibility of offering a full year of university studies on our campus.

We have been very pleased with the development of a partnership with SIAST (Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology) in 1992 in offering their Early Childhood Development and Youth Care Worker programs on our campus. These courses are combined with our one year Certificate in Religious Studies to build a two year associate of arts degree program. We are exploring other areas of cooperative programming as well.

We are very thankful for the partnership established in 1991 with Canadian Theological Seminary that allows Aldersgate extension students to receive seminary credit for our Toronto J term courses. We are exploring a similar arrangement with Ontario Theological Seminary for the coming year.

## **9. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES ARE IMPROVING**

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1990 | Refurbished Library (carpets, book shelving, lighting)   |
| 1991 | Refurbished Stewart Buffam Hall (halls and kitchen)  |
| 1992 | <p>Refurbished Classroom/Administration building (carpets, window shades, painting of all classrooms, offices, halls)</p> <p>Developed pre-school center</p> <p>Library computerization completed (all books/resources now computer-accessed)</p> <p>Refurbished several rental suites</p> <p>Upgraded and networked Administration Offices computer systems</p> |
| 1993 | <p>Landscaped (80+ trees/shrubs) and exterior signs replaced</p> <p>Refurbished Stewart/Buffam Hall (one floor of dorm rooms and dining commons)</p> <p>Established Student Computer-lab in the Library</p> <p>Completed the purchase of our 15 passenger 1991 Ford Van</p> <p>Received gift of 6' 1" Yamaha Grand Piano (C3F)</p>                               |

## **10. FUTURE IS EXCITING**

Plans/ideas being explored at Aldersgate College that may be in place by the 1996 Canadian General Conference include:

1. develop Master Plan for campus
2. attain Candidate Status with the American Association of Bible Colleges
3. establish ESL (English as a Second Language) program for foreign students
4. pursue a full year of transferable credits with the University of Regina (and others?)
6. expand our Extension Studies to other major centers across Canada
7. explore new programs that provide marketable skills through SIAST
8. reduce capital debt by \$150,000.

## **PERSONAL WORDS AND CONCLUSION**

I attended Aldersgate College as a student fresh out of high school. Aldersgate made a big impact on my life. I would not exchange those days for anything! That is one of the reasons I consider it an honour to be serving the Lord through Aldersgate College. I look forward to many years of service there.

I am thankful for the work that has been accomplished over the past three years. I am enthusiastic about all that God will be doing between now and the 1996 Canadian General Conference. We are on the threshold of a New Day. We covet your prayers for the work God has called us to do. We consider it a privilege to be in partnership with the Free Methodist Church in Canada.