

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2002 MEMORIALS

INTRODUCTION

We wish to remember those who served the Lord as Pastors or spouses in the Free Methodist Church in Canada, and have passed away since last General Conference. I (note: David Dyer) am joined by Jennifer Anderson in this remembrance service, and we will read the memorials in chronological order of their deaths, and if available their picture will be shown.

1. **Rev. Alex Queen**: A jolly Scotsman by descent, received his Biblical training at Cliff College, Calver, England. Alex married Mary on Sept. 12, 1947 in Kirkintilloch, Scotland. They served together as missionaries in Nigeria and gave oversight to 87 churches and 27 schools. Other highlights of this dynamic duo include:

- Serving as missionaries to India instrumental in the invention of solar operated baby incubators
- Served as pastor to Ryde Centennial F.M. Church, Gravenhurst, Cordova Mines
- Then in 1985 retiring to Jackson's Point, ON, involved at the Belhaven F.M. Church.

Rev. Queen is remembered as being a dear, humble gentlemen with a great sense of humour, and positive attitude and outlook of life. He was knowledgeable of the Word of God and held a strong love and devotion to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

2. **Rev. Charles Ross Brown** passed away September 11, 1999. He was ordained in the Standard Church and after joining the Free Methodist Church, he pastored in Brantford and Ottawa. Following his retirement he and his wife, Phyllis, served as missionaries in Egypt. After returning from Egypt, Ross took several short interim pastorates. He was especially good in ministering to churches that had special needs.

3. **Rev. Irwin and Zella Brown**:

Rev. Irwin Brown: Began his walk with His Lord at the age of 17 and soon felt called into the ministry. He served the Standard Church and the Free Methodist Denomination for a total of 58 years, retiring from active ministry at the age of 76. Highlights of his Free Methodist Service include:

- Director of College Affairs, Lorne Park College
- Evangelist in Egypt
- Professor at Union Biblical Seminary, Yeotmal, India
- Academic Dean, Aldersgate College
- Pastor of Killarney FMC, Manitoba
- Accomplished author of 3 books, numerous articles and poems.

He enjoyed life with its many challenges, had a rich appreciation of nature, loved to travel, and enthusiastically cheered for his favorite hockey and baseball teams.

He will always be remembered by those whom he touched through his many ministries. His strong commitment to his God first, to his family, and the many young people with whom he

worked and loved, is an example to each one of us, as running the steady, faithful race and finishing well.

Mrs. Zella Brown

Zella was a teacher by profession and a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. Devoted wife, mother, and grandmother.

Following the death of her first husband, she returned to teaching and furthered her education. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree, and her Master of Theology degree. She also completed classes in writing and in painting and was very accomplished in both aspects. It was while teaching at Aldersgate College that she met, fell in love with, and married Rev. Irwin Brown, college professor at that time.

Apart from her devotion to her family, accomplishments as educator, author, and artist, most importantly, she is remembered by her service to Jesus Christ in a quiet, steadfast, faithful way and always looked forward to the day when she would meet her Savior face to face. This is quoted of her life, **"The song is ended, but the melody lives on."**

4. **Aleta Coates** went to be with her Lord on January 1, 2000 at the age of 91. She was the wife of the late Rev. William Coates, who pastored for many years in the Canada Great Lakes Conference. She was the grandmother of Rev. Paul Shaw.
5. **Rev. Lloyd Robertson**: Served his Lord and Savior faithfully. Born in Moose Jaw and moved with his family to Benito MB, where he received his education. He was a graduate of Greenville College, Illinois with a B.A. degree in 1949. Lloyd served as Assistant Pastor in Moose Jaw from 1949 until 1951. He then served as a Missionary and Director of Native Ministries in Saskatchewan and Alberta. He later was Pastor at Kindersley from 1983 to 1986, when because of ill health, he retired to Moose Jaw. Lloyd spent 9 years in St. Anthony's Home and Providence Place. He is survived by his wife, Bessie.

A pastor wears many hats of responsibility and much can be said to describe one's life of ministry, but I believe these words portrait the heart well, **"We are not primarily put on this earth to see through one another, but to see one another through."**

6. **Rev. Earl Sims Bull** passed away February 15, 2000. He began his ministry in the Oshawa Free Methodist Church in 1937. He and his wife, Violet, served the Lord and His Church together in ministry for 55 years. His denominational service across these years included pastoral ministry, and Superintendent of the Canada East Conference for 17 years. He also was secretary of the Canada East Conference, served on the Canadian Executive Board, Canadian Jurisdictional Conference, and Aldersgate College Board. He was the first board Chairman of Wesley Acres, and first Administrator of Aldersgate Homes. Rev. E.S. Bull was a champion of church planting and evangelism outreach. His family continues to serve the Lord with Carl presently pastoring the Picton Free Methodist Church and Norman as Director of Administrative Services of the FM Church in Canada. He is remembered as a devout, quiet, patient and godly man.

7. **Rev. Peter and Margaret Bodnar**

Rev. Peter Bodnar: Member of the Canadian Conference for 64 years. He was a college graduate, (B.A. at McMaster).in contrast to many of his fellow ministers in that generation.

He was married to Meta Hyndman and raised 3 children, Bernice, Dalton, and Morley. They served together in Essex and Windsor, Galt, Wabash, Brantford, Niagara Falls, Port Rowan, and Zion where sadly Meta passed away.

Peter believed that it was not good for a man to be alone and later married for Margaret Moulton. They served together at Thedford and Sharon and then retired near Dresden. Peter was known for his active prayer life, visitation ministry, and preaching the Word of God faithfully.

Mrs. Margaret Bodnar

Margaret was the eldest daughter of the late Mr. And Mrs. John Moulton of Zion (Sombra). She was a wonderful Christian lady who demonstrated the fruits of the Spirit in her life.

Love for her Christ, family, step children, husband and friends.

Joy in Bible study, reading, missions, and travel.

Peace in teaching, and organizing secular and church libraries.

Longsuffering in further education B.A., B.Lib. Sc., and dealing cancer illness.

Gentleness, with pupils, many nieces, nephews, and step-grandchildren.

Goodness, generous in giving to her church and sharing meals and visits with others.

Meekness, in service on local and conference level committees.

Temperance in all things.

Truly, she lived a life lovingly remembered by family and friends.

Well done, good and faithful servant!

8. **Grace Goheen**, wife of the late Rev. Elmer Goheen, passed away April 11, 2000 at the age of 93. Together the Goheens served Free Methodist pastorates in Timmins, Barrie, Belhaven, and Clarenceville, Quebec. Although Grace was physically handicapped and walked with crutches, she was never stopped by life's obstacles. Her name served her well for she was full of grace, mercy, and truth. Grace had a deep love for the church and in her retirement years prayed for and encouraged, by letters, the pastors across the Canadian Church. She was a dear saint of God.

9. **Mrs. Elsie Hindmarsh** devoted wife of Rev. Milburn Hindmarsh.

Elsie married Rev. Milburn Hindmarsh on July 7, 1939 and worked together as a team in a number of different pastorates throughout the province.

Elsie was an avid reader and an excellent student. She was a creative teacher and always interested in pursuing innovative ways to encourage and instruct her students. Elsie was very artistic and could transform an ordinary parsonage into an attractive, pleasant home. She loved to sketch and oil paint. Her sincere love for her family and concern for their spiritual welfare will always be remembered with deep gratitude. She was constantly on the sidelines prodding her family on and being their greatest cheerleader. A quick wit, keen sense of humor, and compassionate spirit were a few of her special qualities. She is fondly

remembered as a devoted wife and mother, who maintained an unwavering Christian faith and provided a secure, loving environment in her home.

10. **Clara Armitage** went to be with the Lord at the age of 94. She served faithfully with her husband, Rev. George Armitage, in ministry for 46 years. They served in Welland, Caistor Centre, Port Burwell, Hannon, Charlemont, and Zion. Clara was a radiant Christian with a song always on her lips.
11. **Rev. Pearl Reid** served as missionary to China beginning in 1934 and to Japan in 1950 and retiring in 1970 after 36 years of mission service.

Pearl received her nurse's training in Canada, attended Greenville College, Illinois and earned a Master's degree in Religious Education from Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky. Pearl served in many aspects through her medical training, preaching the Word of God, and Christian Education.

In her ministry she observed much suffering, unhappiness, and experienced sometimes life threatening situations. Her reaction to this would be that these happenings were interesting, but not important. The significant events in her life were the souls born into the Kingdom, broken hearts healed, little children who found they have a heavenly Father who cares for them. Pearl trusted completely in her Father and said this, "Praise God for strength to serve at this time and the privilege of being here. God has revealed Himself to me as my protector and special body-guard. His wings are bomb-proof and He is standing between me and any flying shrapnel. Other refuge I have none. My one desire is to do His will whatever it may be. I realize the only happy place is in the center of His will." Truly, Pearl's decision to follow God to the ends of the earth has brought eternal results.

12. **Elmira Webb Freeman Teal** passed away December 24, 2000 at age 89. She was the wife of the late Rev. George Freeman, who died in the late '50s. In 1990 she married retired pastor and evangelist, Rev. William Teal. Elmira was a gracious and faithful servant of the Lord.
13. **Mrs. Ruth James**
Wife of Rev. Joseph H. James. She was a loving of 9 children, grandmother of 26 and great-grandmother to 3.

A romantic story is told of a young man named Joe, who rode his bicycle from Summerland to Kamloops in the spring, over hills, through snow and ice to visit a certain young lady named Ruth. The ride was eventful and Joseph and Ruth were married. Together they pastored for over 44 years throughout British Columbia while raising their 9 children. Ruth was a loving and caring person who enjoyed serving others. She was a wonderful cook, seamstress, and extended the hand of hospitality to friends and strangers alike.

Revelation 2:10 says, "**Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**" Ruth realized that God desired faithfulness, not success, and this was eminent of the way she lived her life.

14. **Mary Dawson** went to be with her Lord January 10, 2001. She was the wife of Rev. Bruce Dawson for 57 years. They served the Lord together in several churches in the Canada East Conference. She was the president of the Eastern Ontario Conference WMS for a period of time.
15. **Rev. Mary Gifford**: After her conversion, Mary, then a middle-aged business woman, felt called to the ministry and enrolled at Lorne Park College.

Mary pastored for over 40 years with the Free Methodist Church in Canada and was still actively pastoring at Cordova Mine Free Methodist Church at the time of her sudden death. Over the years, Mary was engaged in Youth Camps and took a number of trips to various foreign mission fields bringing back challenges to pray for mission efforts. Mary was a faithful and dedicated servant of the Lord who impacted many lives through her ministry.

**"All the way my Savior leads me;
O, the fullness of His Love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
In my Father's house above."**

16. **Rev. Ismerial Sanon** died March 29, 2001. Born in Haiti, Ismerial worked with the Baptists there. Upon moving to Canada his credentials were transferred to the Free Methodist Church and he served with the Rosemont Church in Quebec.
17. **Rev. Torance Alexander**: After a childhood conversion in the Holiness Movement Church, Torance recommitted his life to the Lord in his early twenties after his rebellious teenage years.

It was while working in a lumber camp in the North Bay area that God grasped hold of this young man. Torance went off into the woods, and there experienced God's mercy in an overwhelming way and there was confirmed of the call upon his life.

He entered Bible College and was later ordained in 1940. He served as missionary to Egypt for 2 years. Upon his return he became an itinerant evangelist traveling with a tent to various communities to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. In 1944, he married Louisa, also a missionary to Egypt, and together served 5 years in Egypt before returning home to begin their careers in the pastoral ministry. They faithfully served 29 pastoral charges until Torance's retirement in 1973. Torance served a total of 55 years in ministry as an evangelist, missionary, and pastor. He stored up treasures in heaven of eternal value.

18. **Vaida Pritchard** died April 29, 2001 in her 99th year. She was the wife of the late Rev. Manly Pritchard. Together they served the Lord faithfully in the Holiness Movement Church until his death in 1957. Vaida had a remarkable love for people. She loved teaching children by using her gift for telling Bible stories, and in her senior years she actively supported the International Child Care Ministries of the church.

19. **Gladys Thaxter**
Wife of the late Rev. A.J. Thaxter.

In the fall of 1928, in Avonlea, Saskatchewan, the Free Methodists came to town for a tent meeting. During this meeting, at age 12, Gladys decided to accept Christ as her Savior. During the hard times of the depression, she worked various jobs to save enough money to attend college. In September of 1937, she left home with a one-way ticket, \$7.50 to attend Lorne Park College, where she worked to pay her way for two years.

In her second year at Lorne Park, she met Austin Thaxter. Upon their meeting in the cafeteria, his opening line was, "You're the girl I'm going to marry". After graduation in Feb. 1941, Gladys didn't forget the up front approach of her suitor, and married Austin on Nov. 11, 1941.

Gladys was a proud mother of three children: Lorne, Ronald, and daughter Ila. Gladys served lovingly and faithfully with her husband. Phil. 4:13, "**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**" With this divine strength, she ran the straight and narrow track of a fit runner, of the good race.

20. **Rev. Francis Leonard Casement** entered the presence of the Lord July 15, 2001 after a short struggle with cancer. Frances was married to Glendyne and together they served the Lord in various capacities with the Free Methodist Church in Canada. His pioneer spirit enabled him to envision, build, and hand over the torch of the many endeavours in his life. He helped to start the Echo Lake Youth Camp in 1956. At Lorne Park College, he served as Dean, and then in Public Relations and recruitment in the late '50s. Along with Rev. E.S. Bull, Frances pioneered the move to a central camp at Wesley Acres in the mid-70s. He became the Director of Planned Giving for the Canadian Free Methodist Church. His son, David, has served as a VISA missionary.
21. **Rev. Eung Soon Yo:** Was born in North Korea and came to know his Lord and Savior when he was 13 years old. He followed by attending Bible school. He came to South Korea when the communists took over the North shortly after WWII. Rev. Yo planted two churches as well as attending the Methodist Theological Seminary. He graduated in 1955 and from then on pastored and planted several church until 1980.

After being involved in evangelical crusades in Korea until 1980, Rev. Yo moved to Canada and joined Wesley Chapel Free Methodist church and led a Korean congregation from 1980 – 1990. After retirement, he taught Bible College classes in Korea for the next 2-3 years. Rev. Yo leaves behind his wife, Seung Hwan, of 61 years, as well as six children, seven grandchildren, and the many lives whom he touched through his gifts in teaching and church planting.

22. **Rev. John Wong** died January 30, 2002. He was born in Shanghai, China and immigrated to Hong Kong in 1949, where he became a pastor in the Free Methodist Church in 1954 and planted several churches. He was the president of the Free Methodist Church in Hong Kong from 1971 - 1974. In 1986 he moved to Vancouver and planted a church for his brothers and sisters in Christ who came as immigrants. In 1998 he moved back to Hong Kong, but continued to preach and serve in various churches there. He was a faithful evangelist, church planter and servant of the Lord.

23. **Phyllis Winslow**: Beloved wife of Rev. Norman Winslow. Together, they faithfully served together in many different locations such as; St. Joseph's Island, Roberts Wesleyan College, Galt, ON, McPherson, Kansas, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and Weyburn Saskatchewan.

Phyllis kept busy raising her family and with her involvement in the ministry, being pulpiteer at times, as children and youth director, and young adults S.S. teacher. She also served as good service director at Central College. Phyllis enjoyed reading, traveling, and sports of all kinds. Phyllis is remembered by her warm personality and her ability to make friends. This gift was not powered by self, but her loveliness came from Jesus Christ who dwelt within.

24. **Rev. Arthur Wilkins** went to be with his Lord March 10, 2002 at the age of 90 years. He was ordained in 1935 and spent 44 years as a pastor and evangelist. He began in the Holiness Movement Church and was a presiding elder for 17 years. Arthur was part of the Union Committee when the Holiness Movement Church joined with the Free Methodist Church in 1959. As a Free Methodist pastor he pastored in Campbell's Bay, Quebec, Harrowsmith, Campbellford, and Gravenhurst. He and his wife, Edna, retired in 1976 and moved to the Maritimes. After a heart attack they moved to Sault Ste. Marie, where they lived until his death. His oldest daughter, Carroll, was my wife for 34 years. Dad Wilkins was a man of God, a good preacher and pastor. I thank God for His encouragement and example.

25. **Rev. Clinton Bright**: Graduate of Lorne Park College in 1946, took his first pastoral charge at Goldlands F.M. church near Timmins. He was ordained in 1951 and three days later married Donna Denne at Coopers Falls F.M. Church—a busy week!!! Together, along with a growing family, they poured their hearts into serving in such places as Hillsdale, Wyevale, Barrie, Timmins, Peterborough, Oshawa, Odessa, Newburgh, Cole Lake/Parham, Prescott, and Orillia.

Clinton's heart passion for cultivating lives for Jesus Christ was matched by his love for working an annual crop of vegetables. Many people were blessed with gifts of fresh produce during harvest time.

He was known as a man of quick humor with stories to fit all occasions. He seemed able to remain calm even as the storms of life rolled around him. He was not given to complaining about his lot in life, but fully trusted in his Lord and Savior. Many remember Clinton as a man who exemplified the essence of the Spirit of Christ. "Well done, thy good and faithful servant."

CLOSING REMARKS

We thank God for the life and ministry of each of these people. May God touch us that we may carry the torch of those who have so faithfully served the Lord in the Free Methodist Church in Canada and have gone on before us.

PRAYER