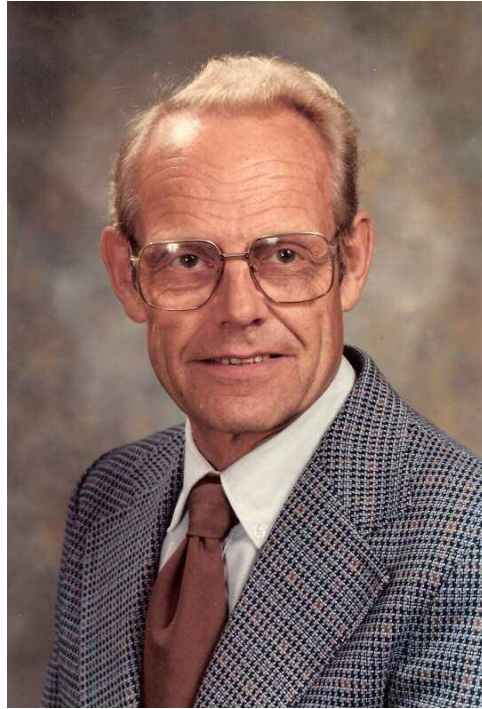


NEWSLETTER

Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society
Winter Spring 2023

EUGENE CHARLES PERRY



(1922 - 2023)

Eugene C. Perry passed from this life in the late evening on February 15, 2023. He was born on July 19, 1922. He and his seven siblings were raised on a dairy farm in Tintern, Ontario. He served as a mechanic in the Canadian military during WW II. He earned a B.A. from Abilene Christian College and an M.A from Pepperdine University. He married Evelyn Huffard on December 23, 1946. They taught at Radville Christian College in Saskatchewan and then moved to Ontario to help start Great Lakes Christian College. He taught and was principal there for 21 years before they moved to Zambia for nine years. There he served as Headmaster of Namwianga Christian Secondary School for several years and then worked with preaching students in Livingston. During his lifetime he was co-editor of the Gospel Herald, manager of the Gospel Herald Bookstore, a preacher, an elder, and a Bible teacher. His influence for Christ has spread throughout the world; he is respected and loved by many.

He is predeceased by his wife, Evelyn Huffard Perry; his mother and father, Grace and Ernest Perry; his siblings: Mary (Ted) Wark; Charles (Francis) Perry; Mabel (Richard) Taylor; Donald (Miriam) Perry; Amy (Don) Halls and great-granddaughter, Kenley Thomason.

He is survived by his four children: Patricia (Charles) Young of Grand Rapids, MI; Linda (Doran) Hammett of Okarche, OK; David (Eriye) Perry of Beamsville, ON and Martha (Larry) Thomason of Yukon, OK; twelve grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; brother Ralph (Joyce) Perry; sister, Myrna Perry; sister-in-law, Dianne Perry (wife of Donald) and many nieces and nephews.

Source: <https://tallmanfuneralhomes.ca/tribute/details/9680/Eugene-Perry/obituary.html#tribute-start>

SERVICE AT GREAT LAKES CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

None of us here have lived in a world that didn't have Eugene's influence as a part of it.

I have been asked to speak about Eugene's role and influence at Great Lakes Christian College. Eugene and Evelyn began to serve in the first year of the school's operation. As noted by Don Rose, Eugene was the last surviving charter employee of the school. He taught there from 1952 until 1974, serving as Principal 14 of those years. He served for 2 more years from 1982-84. Those are, as they say, the numbers. There is much more to the story.

The early years at Great Lakes took a degree of commitment and resolve that few today would be willing to give. Husbands and wives both worked, but only he got paid. The salary was paltry, and if you preached on a Sunday, which Eugene often did, the honorarium was deducted from your salary. When we think of the good that has been done through the years at Great Lakes, it's easy to forget the kind of sacrifice Eugene and his cohorts made.

He was one of my teachers. He would likely say that wasn't a highlight of his teaching career. We know he spoke the truth at all costs. I remember his teaching me Latin, or should I say trying to do so. There were 2 of us in the class. With his help, we got through the course. As a student, I didn't always know how to take Eugene, and yet somehow you knew he had your interest at heart. Our best experiences happened when I would go to the Gospel Herald bookstore where I would ask questions about different books and learn a great deal. He was always patient, and freely gave his time even though my purchases were not proportional to the time he spent.

A few years later I served as a staff member along side Eugene. As our Principal, he later claimed the role of matchmaker for Ruby and me since he assigned us to the same spare period our first semester teaching at Great Lakes. As a fellow staff member, I became more aware that even though he wasn't a "warm and fuzzy" kind of person, behind the facade, there was a gentler side to Eugene that truly cared for the students in his care.

Later when I was President of the Bible College, Eugene served on the Board of Trustees, so the relationship continued, and Eugene continued to add his wisdom to benefit Christian Education.

Eugene believed strongly in two things. First, his life was shaped by his faith in Jesus. As a result of that he gave much of his life to service through Christian Education in a variety of roles. As a teacher he was willing to take on a wide variety of subjects, often working hard to learn the material so he could pass it on to others. That was exemplary of his belief in the value of hard work. He lived by those values. For those of us who knew him we doubted neither.

When Great Lakes initiated a walk-a-thon to raise funds, Eugene participated fully. A few years later, it was changed to a work-a-thon. I remember Eugene commenting on how much better it was that we could raise funds for the school and get things done at the same time.

We have used the phrase, a life well lived in reference to Eugene. Indeed, it was. He leaves us an example of the value of building our lives on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ, our Lord. There are many people, I suppose literally on every continent, whose lives have been impacted for the better by Eugene and Evelyn. I join my voice with theirs to say, "Thank you" Eugene.

– Art Ford, February 20, 2023, As spoken at Eugene's funeral.

MISSION WORK IN ZAMBIA

If Eugene Perry were a book of the New Testament, he would be the book of James. He showed us his faith by his works and my, what a demonstration it was.

Eugene and Evelyn arrived in Zambia on the 10th anniversary of Independence, October 24, 1974. The secondary school had been started in 1968.

In some ways, the school had a rough start. Eugene's influence is summed up by Roy Merritt who wrote,

“Dr Perry was exactly the person we needed at Namwianga Christian Secondary School. None of us on the mission had previous experience working in Christian education—but Eugene had experience building a Christian school in Canada—and he led our school in the right direction!”

From 1980 to 1983, they lived in Livingstone working with churches, teaching in a small Bible college and running a print shop. (Does that last one sound familiar to anyone in Canada?)

Wilson Siazilo served as Eugene’s translator on preaching trips. Wilson wrote, “He was our mentor and most active Headmaster Namwianga has ever had. Rest in peace, Mudaala”

Speaking of active, Eugene’s Tonga nickname was Kaushi, meaning something like a Jack of all Trades or multi-skilled person.

He built a bridge that lasted more than 50 years, Brother Moonga was the first to ride his bicycle over that bridge. He oversaw the building of a house; he fixed the water pumps who knows how many times and the list goes on. Much of this was accomplished when supplies and parts were very scarce due to the civil war in Rhodesia.

Eugene rescued me at least two times. Once the omnibus that we were driving broke down. We had tools and the parts but none of us (so it wasn’t just me) could get the broken part removed. So, I hitched back to Livingstone. It was Saturday afternoon and I found Eugene resting and having some lemonade. I am kidding, of course. I found Eugene working in the print shop, but he accepted the interruption and an hour or two later we were on our way.

The other time our vehicle got impounded at the border. Another visit to Eugene and he drove us all the way back to Kalomo and then home again.

Long term African missionaries such as Chester Woodhall and Sheri Sears, send their heartfelt appreciation for Eugene’s many contributions.

Sheri stayed with Eugene and Evelyn when she first went to Zambia.

Beth Brown also mentioned their hospitality.

Goodson Muchinda wrote that Eugene baptized him on 16 June 1979 when the church of Christ came into existence in the Mweemba area at Siatwiinda village.

Leonard Mujala a Namwianga graduate who has done substantial church work including working in refugee camps in Angola, said that he still has material that was produced in the print shop when Eugene was there.

These are a sampling of the more than 200 comments on social media from past and present missionaries and Zambians.

One of the most traumatic experiences that Eugene and Evelyn had was discovering that their fellow missionary Elaine Brittell had been murdered.

Beth Brown wrote this about the funeral ...

“I remember when Elaine Brittell was murdered. At the funeral, there was a lot of wailing. Dr. Perry got up and with quiet authority got the funeral started. He reminded the audience that Elaine would not want us wailing and mourning as those who have no hope. His calm, but authoritative leadership calmed the crowd, and the funeral proceeded.”

Lastly, there is the Master on Duty. As the name implies, the Master on Duty was on duty from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Responsible for everything on campus before and after school. It came around about once every two weeks.

There were also weekends, from early Saturday until lights out on Sunday night. And we were supposed to eat with the students. The food was not great, so everybody cheated and got food from home.

Well, everybody but Eugene that is. First of all, no other headmasters took a turn as Master on Duty, but Eugene did.

And he ate every meal with the students. Three meals on weekdays and 6 meals on weekends. The only concession he made was to take a spoon rather than using the traditional method. Rules were rules, and if the food was good enough for the students, it was good enough for him.

His personal comfort took a back seat to the kingdom of God. He was an amazing repairman and engineer. His work ethic was beyond description. A frugal and humble man whose life and legacy are an inspiration to us all.

Indeed, He showed us his faith by his works and my, what a demonstration it was.

May God grant the family a measure of comfort as they say goodbye to our wonderful friend. Amen.

– Lawrence Whitfield, February 20, 2023, As spoken at Eugene’s funeral.

CONTRIBUTION TO CCCHS

Eugene is to be remembered as (1) a foremost contributor to the records of the CCCHS, and (2) whose life and service among the Churches of Christ in Canada (and Zambia) remembered, are why the CCCHS exists.

Remembering the earlier days of processing the archival material (in the mid-2000s when Eileen Dale was active), I remember thinking, “75% of the materials received by the CCCHS for the archival collection are coming from Eugene Perry!” He had important material that deserved to be preserved: the materials he had resourced for his thesis on the literature of the Restoration Movement in Canada, the materials collected while serving as co-editor of the Gospel Herald, the repository of the collections of papers, letters, and memorabilia saved by his mother, Grace Perry, and passed on to Eugene, and in turn onto the Society’s collection, plus the documents, letters, and records that Eugene generated in his decades of service as an educator, publisher, preacher, missionary, elder, and writer. And as well, the record of the life and service of Eugene Charles Perry, all preserved in the records of the Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society, all are a significant treasure!

– Geoffrey Ellis



BOARD CHANGES

Over the years we have been the grateful beneficiaries of the talents of Stan Helton. Stan has spoken at our annual meetings and been a valuable resource for us. So when he agreed to serve on the board of directors, we were naturally delighted. Stan worked for Western Christian College in the past and currently serves as president of Alberta Bible College in Calgary. This gives him access to two streams of the restoration movement as well as a great knowledge of the churches in western Canada, both of which have been a blessing as we seek to broaden the scope of the Society. However, Stan recently came to the conclusion that in an effort to streamline life and make it a bit more manageable, the time had come for him to step down from his position on the board. He expressed the difficulty that he found in making this choice as he loves what the Society does.

We are so grateful for the time that Stan has spent on our board. Given the demands on his time and talents, it comes as no huge surprise that he finds himself a bit too busy; we look forward to his continuing contributions in a less formal capacity and thank him so much for his contributions as a board member.

When a vacancy happens on the board outside of our normal cycle (at the annual meeting) the by-laws allow the board to appoint someone to serve in that capacity until the next annual meeting, at which time they may step down or choose to let their name stand for election. The name of David Ford was put forward and we were delighted when David agreed to serve in this way. David also works for Alberta Bible College, as Academic Dean. David holds an M. Div. from Harding Graduate School of Theology and is at the dissertation writing stage of a Ph.D. in historical theology from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. (Both degrees came with a 3.96 GPA – well done David!) David has worked with the Edmonton Church of Christ, Three Forks Church of Christ in Montana, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and now at Alberta Bible College. He has spoken at the Stone-Campbell Journal Conference, Alberta Spring Fellowship, Alberta Fall Fellowship, Pepperdine Bible Lectures and the Western Christian College lectureship. We are very grateful to David for his willingness to step into this role and are proud to have someone of his credentials to join our ranks.

Stan, thanks again. And, welcome David!

DAVID FORD BIOGRAPHY

David grew up in Brooks, Alberta, and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1986, with a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering. He worked as an engineer in Canada for ten years, before being called into ministry. He served as youth minister for the Edmonton Church of Christ for four years, before becoming minister for the Three Forks Church of Christ (Montana) in 2000. David earned an M.Div. (Systematic Theology) in 2010 from Harding School of Theology (Memphis), graduating first in his class. He is author of "Confessions of a Small Town Minister" (2014). He has had an article published in the "Stone-Campbell Journal", "Thomas Campbell and the Westminster Confession of Faith" (Fall 2018), four other articles in two religious encyclopedias and two recent book reviews.

David has been married to the love of his life, Kris, for thirty-three years. They have two grown daughters. Eden graduated from MIT in 2015 with a B.Sc. in Chemical-Biological Engineering and from the University of Delaware in 2022 with a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering. Jessie graduated from Georgetown University in 2017 with a B.A. in English (with minors in Italian and in Women and Gender Studies) and in 2020 with an M.A. in English.

David and Kris moved to Chicago in 2015, so David could pursue a Ph.D. in Historical Theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is currently writing his dissertation, "Uncommon Grace: nature and grace in the theology of Thomas and Alexander Campbell, Walter Scott, and Barton W. Stone, 1800-1874." David moved to Calgary in July 2019, where he serves as Academic Dean and Asst. Professor of Theology and Ministry. Kris is Operations Director at Alberta Bible College, and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Studies, also at Trinity. Kris and David enjoy doing Cross-Fit together. David loves the outdoors, especially hiking and archery hunting. David has a passion for teaching and wants nothing more than to spend the rest of his days on earth pouring himself out for the sake of others.

LIVING LEGACIES PROJECT

As part of our efforts to 'Preserve the Past', the Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society (CCCHS) is launching an initiative called Living Legacies. The idea is to interview some of our more senior church leaders (preferably on video) asking them questions about themselves, their work and their thoughts, which would then be kept in our archive for posterity. This can even be extended to those who have already passed on by interviewing a surviving spouse, child(ren) and/or other family members or close friends.

How you can help:

We are currently in the process of putting together a sample list of questions that can be used to get things started. Obviously, no list of questions is going to serve each interview perfectly. Some may not apply, others may not be on the list. But having something to start with might make the project a lot easier for some. If you would like to make some suggestions on questions that you think might be of interest, please contact us*.

We are also compiling a list of people whom we would like to see interviewed. If you feel that this project would benefit from an interview with certain individuals, please contact us* with their names so that we might be able to make this happen.

If you would like to conduct an interview, please let that also be known*. (Please do not embark on such a project on our behalf without communicating with us first.)

*You may contact us by reaching out to any board member (listed on the ccchs.ca web site, Members tab) or by sending an email to ccchs1@gmail.com.

Your partnership in this initiative would be most appreciated.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday August 19, 2023 at Great Lakes Christian High School. The theme is Preserving The Past For The Future. The event will be offered virtually as well as in person. Here is a tentative schedule for the day.

9:00 – Welcome time & Registration	1:15 – A Day In The Life of an Archivist - Shelley Jacobs
9:30 – Business Meeting - Murray Hibbard	2:15 – Show & Tell: Grandma Bailey's Diary - Margaret Hibbard
10:45 – Introductions and Keynote Address - Shelley Jacobs	2:30 – Break
12:00 – Lunch, bring your own. Drinks and light snacks provided.	2:45 – Show & Tell: An artifact of interest from the archive collection
Tours of the archives facility will be available during the lunch break and after the last session.	3:00 – Living Legacy Interview - Murray Hibbard

FOUND ON A WEB PAGE

"Keeping track of a church's records can help future generations learn from our mistakes and encourage them to persevere in trusting the Lord." What follows is a list of items to consider when trying to record church history. The article finishes with "You may never see the fruit but following these simple steps to document your church's history can serve future leaders and members of your local body. Doing the good work of preservation is an act of hope – hope that God will allow the ministry of your church to last, hope that future generations will want to learn about God's works, hope that God will preserve a gospel-transformed community worshipping together decades or even centuries from now. As the psalmist says, "Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD" (Ps. 102:18)." – <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/preserve-local-church-history>.

Board Members for the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year

Chairman – Murray Hibbard

(Term 1 Aug 20/16 to Aug 17/19)

(Term 2 Aug 17/19 - expired 2022)

(Appointed for one year Aug 20/22 - expires 2023)

Phone: 519-267-2394

hibbard8784@gmail.com

Vice-Chairman – Ben Wiebe

(Term 1 Aug 19/17 to Aug 15/20)

(Term 2 Aug 15/20 - expires 2023)

Phone: 905-563-5956

bpwiebe1@gmail.com

Secretary / Treasurer – Margaret Hibbard

(Term 1 Aug 18/12 to Aug 15/15)

(Term 2 Aug 15/15 to Aug 18/18)

(Appointed Financial Officer Aug 18/18 to Aug 31/20)

(Appointed to Board Interim Aug 31/20 to Aug 21/21)

(Term 1 Aug 21/21 expires 2024)

Phone: 905-734-3890

vhibbard@bell.net

Shelley Jacobs

(Term 1 Aug 20/22 - expires 2025)

Phone: 724-587-3147

shelley.jacobs@gmail.com

David Ford

(Appointed to Board Interim Feb to Aug 19/23)

Phone: 403-282-2994, ext 223

dford@abccampus.ca

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Archives Consultant

Shelley Jacobs

Phone: 724-587-3147

shelley.jacobs@gmail.com

Membership of \$25.00 per year is due at the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1st.

Dues may be paid by cheque to CCCHS, c/o Margaret Hibbard, 47 Madison Crt W, Welland, ON L3C 7G1

or by E-transfer to donations.ccchs1@gmail.com.

Please provide password under separate cover.

CANADIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION	
Name:	Phone:
Mailing Address:	Dues 2023/2024:
Email:	Donation:
I am an active member of the (_____) congregation.	Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque <input type="checkbox"/> E-transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Total Amount Paid _____
Membership dues are \$25.00 per year. The membership year is July 1 st to June 30 th . Registration & membership can be mailed to CCCHS c/o Margaret Hibbard, 47 Madison Crt W, Welland, ON L3C 7G1	