# BROADVIEW GOSPEL HALL



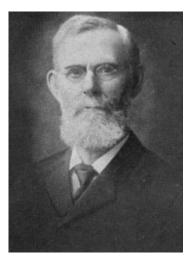
100 Years of Assembly Testimony December 29, 1901 - December 29, 2001

**GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS** 

## Early Days

(Deuteronomy 32:7)

The history of the Christians who have been meeting at Broadview Gospel Hall for the past 100 years goes back to an even earlier date.



Donald Munro

Following the Toronto Conference of 1888, there had been considerable exercise among the Christians living in the east-end of the City to see a testimony started there. As a result of this exercise, Donald Munro, a Scottish evangelist who first came to Toronto in 1875. began Bible Readings in a hall at the north-east corner of Queen and Boulton Avenue in October 1890. Early the next year, evangelists James

Kay and R. Jamieson took up the challenge and Gospel Meetings were held in the area in the Smith Block. Following these meetings a testimony began for the East-end Christians at 639 Queen Street East on September 27, 1891.

As the testimony continued to grow, it was decided to seek more commodious quarters. They relocated to Poulton's Block situated at the north-west corner of Queen and Boulton Avenue. It was here that the name East-end Gospel Hall was used.

The continued labours and exercise of the saints led to the building of the Gospel Hall on Broadview Avenue. Following Gospel Tent Work by Robert McClintock and Robert Telfer, the testimony moved



Robert McClintock

to its new location at 194 Broadview Avenue where the doors were first opened on December 29, 1901 - 100 YEARS AGO.

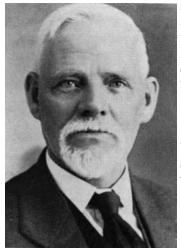
There were many notable and gifted evangelists and teachers whose names and efforts, while not mentioned here, were greatly used in the building up and blessing of this East-end Testimony. How thankful we are that their record is on High and their labour was not in vain

in the Lord - 1st Cor.15:58.

We bluow he remiss, however, if we did not mention one of the more active local Christians in the area at this time, Mr. James Lynn. In his capacity as a letter carrier, he was in a position to know when boats carrying immigrants to the New Land would arrive. He would visit newcomers to this strange country and invite them to the meetings. Only eternity will reveal how many owe their salvation to

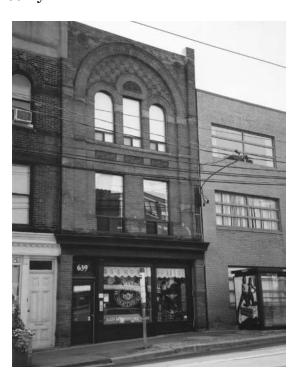


Robert Telfer



James Lynn

this simple ministry. When Robert Telfer was away preaching, it was Mr. Lynn who called regularly at the Telfer home to put out the ashes and do other tasks requiring a man's help. Others can attest to his warm hospitality and other gracious acts of this dear brother beloved.



639 Queen

St. East..1st Testimony



September 27, 1891

Poulton's Block 2nd Testimony 1897

#### **Commended Workers**

Our first commended worker was our brother Albert W. Joyce. His letter of commendation was dated March 22, 1921, and signed by seven elder brethren. It is interesting to note that the assembly was still identified as the East End Gospel Hall and the address was listed as 198 Broadview Ave. (see photo)

East End Yospel Hall
198 Broadwew Gre Voronto
March 20/21.

From the dovembly fathered to the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ at above address

- This is to Certify -

That our Grother Albert W. Joyce: has been for a number of years in hearty Fellowship in this Assembly, and has manifested Grace and Gift. in Jospel Worth. and now desires to go forth wholly into the worth of the Gospel.

He goes with our hearty Commendation. and prayer. that the Blessing of the Lord. may rest upon him and his below's.

Signed on Behalf of the Ausembly:

Shownas W. Breckles

Thomas Cowan

John. B Clarke

James. M. Ary

Our brother's labours are well known and he will long be remembered as the Founding Editor of Truth &

Tidings. He was called home January 17, 1982.

Our next commended worker was a sister, Miss Edith Gulston, who served the Lord in Venezuela since 1924 as a teacher in the Christian school, Colegio Evangelico. She is now with the Lord.

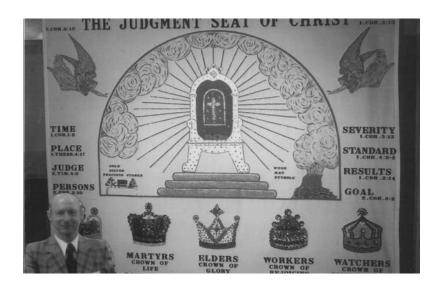
Following Edith Gulston, the assembly commended Mr. Fred Nugent, who laboured much in Canada and the United States. Our



Albert Joyce

brother has now been called up higher and like those who have gone before, there will be a grand reunion as they see the fruit of their labours on the other side.

Our latest commended worker and still with us is our brother Jack Yocum. He was commended November 25, 1978, to work primarily in Metro Toronto and the surrounding area. Our brother Jack was very involved with open-air meetings on Yonge Street for many years. He also organized the large open-air meeting held at Toronto's City Hall in Nathan Phillip's Square, in September, 1979. Many have been blessed by Jack's vivid and colourful charts, mostly on prophetic subjects.



Jack Yocum with his chart on The Judgment of Christ

#### **Outreaches**

## The Homestead - forerunner of Pape Avenue Gospel Hall

From the old records on hand, the first entry for the Homestead at Pape and Browning Avenue was shown in the Annual Financial Statement for the year of 1912.

It read as follows: "Homestead Expenses, including rent, lighting, heating etc. \$162.35". However, it appears that even prior to this, the Christians rented an old Orange Lodge building on Danforth Avenue

about 1910.

Sunday School and Gospel Meetings continued at the Homestead, together with a Wednesday night Bible Reading and a Friday night Prayer Meeting. The meetings continued until 1920 when Pape Avenue Hall was erected. On January 2, 1921, with the full fellowship of the Broadview brethren, Pape Avenue commenced as an Assembly with about forty in the fellowship.

#### **Rhodes Avenue**

In addition to the effort at the Homestead, there was a considerable exercise to have a similar work further east of Broadview. This led to the Christians renting the Orange Hall on Rhodes Avenue (sometimes referred to as the Dian Hall). The first record for this new venture appears in an entry made July 1917 when the rent for Rhodes Avenue commenced at \$10.00 per month.

Here an active children's work and Sunday night gospel meetings were on the agenda and no doubt many started for glory from this humble building. It is noted that for several years, 1927-1930, because of the size of the Sunday School, they had to hold their Annual New Year's Day Treat at a larger hall on the Danforth Avenue, known as Kimbourne Hall.

The work continued at Rhodes Avenue for a number of years and from the records it appears that an Assembly commenced there January 4, 1931. It wasn't long after this that the Assembly was considering other quarters and the first mention of a new Gospel Hall was November 15, 1931, when a special collection was set aside for this purpose. This led to the building of the Highfield Road Gospel Hall

which first met in Assembly Testimony Novmber, 1934



One of the early Sunday School Teachers at Rhodes Avenue - 1920 era -Cecily Cameron (nee Lowes) in her 98th year.



Mary McKay (nee Roberts) Saved at Rhodes Avenue, June 29, 1927, and now in fellowship at Eglinton Avenue Gospel Hall.

#### MANY, MANY CAN SAY:

"I went to Broadview"
"That's where I was saved"
"That's where I was baptized"

The most difficult task of putting together this 100th Anniversary Booklet is to give credit to the many faithful Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers (Eph. 4:11) who have shared Broadview's platform over the many years. Some names have already been mentioned. But let's take a peek at the old records of 1915 for the names of the Lord's servants who received fellowship that year.

· ·		
J. Beattie	J. Goodfellow	J. McCartney
G. Shivas	W. Beveridge	A. Goodwin
R. McClintock	J. Silvester	S. Binch
G. Hicks	R. McCrory	E. Stack
T. Black	G. Johnston	A. McDonald
E. Steen	B. Bradford	W. Johnston
D. McGeachey	R. Telfer	W. Brenman
A. Joyce	J. McMullen	T. Touzeau
R. Dickson	A. Livingstone	R. Milne
F. Watson	T. Dobbin	J. Lyons
J. Pearson	C. Willoughby	W. Douglas
Dr. E. Martin	D. Roy	G. Duncan
W. Matthews	L. Sheldrake	

The efforts of these brethren and others of the same dedication down through the years to the current time have resulted in many, many souls who started on the road to heaven from the Broadview Gospel

Hall.

We are advised that a Gospel Series by William Matthews in 1907 saw some twenty-one souls who professed to be saved. Another tells of a later series when the front hall and the back room were packed



William Matthews

out and they had to have some children sitting on the window sills. However, whether in the past or the present, the Lord knows the whole effort and we will be satisfied to count the fish when the record is taken on the other shore in the Lord's presence.

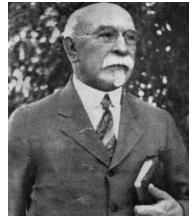
Two other interesting features from the past days could be mententioned here.

\* A very profitable series of meetings on the Second Coming of

Christ held by W.J. McClure in October 1929

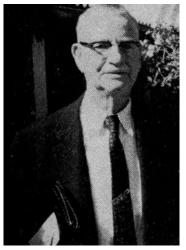
so captivated his hearers that they had to move the Sunday afternoon meetings from Broadview to a theatre seating twelve hundred.

\* It seems that Broadview's baptismal tank was put to good use by others. The old Brock Avenue Gospel Hall lacked a tank and as some of their numbers desired to be baptised it



W.J.McClure

was arranged that this would be carried out at Broadview. And so it was that William Williams and his wife, along with others, obeyed the Lord in this most important step on a Tuesday night in 1907. Little did brother Williams know that this was one of the first steps that would begin his journey to the



distant land of Venezuela for a lifetime of service for his Master.

Willam Willams

Don Jennings Baptizing Scott Elliott April 1996



Yesterday Things Were Different

It is very interesting to note some of the cash outlays and the stories they tell.

- \* In the old days wine was purchased by the keg: some as cheap as \$2.50 per gallon.
- \* In the early years from 1913, although gifts of fellowship varied, it was quite usual to forward to the Lord's servants gifts in the amount of \$10.00.
- \* In November 1913 we see an entry showing food for orphan \$2.95.
- \* October 1915 you could buy lamps and a scuttle for 60 cents.
- \* In 1916 coal could be purchased for \$8.50 a ton.
- \* For many years a chronically ill sister was assisted, including stays in the Grace Hospital. It was noted that the weekly charge was \$8.75 per week in 1918 and and had risen to \$10.50 per week by 1924.
- \* An entry dated November 1919 reads, "To a returned soldier (sick and in need) \$5.00".
- \* In 1920, the Assembly purchased 249 chairs for \$2.14 each.
- \* Another interesting entry was made in March 1921. It appears that a separate collection of \$12.00 was taken for any who could not afford to keep visitors during the Conference.
- \* Air conditioning was no problem in the hot months of June and July 1921. They simply purchased fans 24 @ 8 cents and 24 @ 10 cents each.
- \* December 1921 a doctor was paid \$2.00 to attend to a Sunday School girl who was hit by an auto.
- \* February 1926 an entry reads, "To our sisters for the poor children \$10.00.

And just think, they got by without any OHIP, Social Assistance or Pensions.

## **Open-Air Meetings and Tract**

#### Distribution

From the early records available (1921), the Broadview saints were quite involved in this work. Separate collections were taken for expenses of tracts and for the Bible or Gospel Car, which was well used



in conveying the folks to their open-air outreaches.

Like the early saints, we are still quite involved in the distribution of tracts. The current area covered has ranged as far west as Yonge Street, east to Jones Avenue and south from Danforth Avenue. This is a great work and provides healthy exercise for the trackers on the first Saturday of the month.

For some time, open-air meetings were held on a dead-end street called Napier. However, the homes on Napier, together with other streets in the area, were expropriated for the Don Mount Court Housing Complex, which was built in 1968. For the past 33 years, this has been our prime location for open-air work.



Andrew Wilson holding forth at Don Mount Court



Jeff Macko and Shane Robinson handing out invitations at Gerrard and Broadview

## Sunday School and Children's Work

One of the greatest works for Broadview has always been the work among the boys and girls, whether on Sundays or mid-week night meetings. Looking at the old records, one is very impressed at the amount of supplies used at the picnics and Sunday School Treats that were held on New Year's Day. For example, lets look at the supplies used for the Sunday School Picnic to Port Dalhousie July 15, 1920.

-- 56 lbs of butter @ 60 cents- -96 tins Clover Leaf salmon @ 25 cents-- 38 lbs sugar @ 22 cents--7 lbs tea @ 68 cents--39 lbs meat loaf @ 30 cents--19 lbs cheese @ 34 cents--10 lbs bologna @ 20 cents--16 lbs cooked ham @ 65 cents--120 long sandwich loaves @ 24 cents. In addition, there were other supplies including cakes and butter tarts ( or did they call them butter scots back then?). Who could forget the excitement of going down to the city docks on Picnic Day, to board one of the steamships, perhaps the Northumberland or the Dalhousie City for the trip across the lake. To add to the pleasure, children were allowed one day a year from school back then to attend a Sunday School Picnic.

As time went on, Broadview lacked sufficient young people to carry on the children's work and a call went out to others to help in this work. And so they came from the east and west end of the city to join with the Broadview teachers. Many of these dedicated helpers could be named, but I will only mention Emily and David Garvin, who was the Sunday School supertintendent during that time period. Who can forget the sad occasion when we heard the news that both Dave and Emily went home to glory together as the result of a car accident that stormy winter night of

December 28, 1982.

Times have changed. Our children's meetings were called "Happy Hour" for many years--long before the world adopted that term. Now it is the Boys' and Girls' Bible Hour. The number of children have decreased (see George Telfer's report on Broadview Reflections) and we now have sufficient capable teachers in the Assembly who continue to give the same dedicated and faithful service to the children's work.

......Broadview and Rhodes Avenue Sunday School Picnic...... at Wabasso Park, Port Dalhousie June 26, 1924

...At a Children's Treat...... Guess What's on the



Menu.



At the Bible Hour Guess What the Story Is.

#### Conferences

After the Massey Hall Conferences terminated in 1932, Broadview hosted the

East-End Conference for several years - 1933 to 1939. It was then moved to the Eastern High School of Commerce

Our hall, with the large adjoining prayer room, was commodious but perhaps sometimes crowded for these gatherings. We still have some of the old enamel tea jugs and large metal trays used at dishwashing time to remind us of those happy times.

However, there was one occasion that will always be remembered that was very sad and solemn. It was an



William Pinches

afternoon meeting in 1939 when, after a session of prayer, our brother William Pinches of Niagara Falls rose to speak. His text was Matthew 18:20. As he started to expound this verse, his very last words were "The two or three that were gathered together there are". Not another word was spoken. He passed into the presence of the Lord from Broadview's platform. This had a profound and sobering effect on the gospel meeting that evening.

I was four years old when my sister, Eileen, and I first attended the Sunday School at Broadview. I still have my award prize, a beautiful picture text and on the back a sticker marked "First Prize 1933".

The song leader I remember and a good one too, was Len Virgin. Some of the faithful teachers whose memories I hold dear were Mr. John Lamont, Miss Edna Coomber, Mr. Bill Ockenden and Mr. Walter Howard of Howard's School of Safe Driving. There were others, but memory fails to recall their names.

There was one Sunday afternoon (for that's when Sunday School was held at 3:00 p.m.) that we got a big surprise - what happened to the hall? Surrounding every door and window was very ornate and dark woodwork, the contribution of one of the members, George Buckner. Mr. Buckner was a contractor and the woodwork came from a mansion that he was demolishing at the time. As a little lad, I thought that it made the Hall look forboding, but it was there to stay and everyone now likes it and most people think that this was the way it was originally built.

I might add, at this point, that through the exercise of this dear brother at the time of his death, June 16, 1946, a Trust Fund was established for the Assembly, which assisted us to carry on during some lean years. So brother Buckner's works remain both visually and financially.

But it was in this Sunday School, forboding or not, that I was made to know that I needed to be saved. In fact, I wanted salvation more than anything else in the world, thanks to the faithful efforts of those Sunday School teachers. I can truthfully say that I was cradled in the gospel and it was my teachers that

rocked the cradle.

Like many other teenagers, I thought that I was getting too old for Sunday School and stopped attending regularly. But one summer Sunday night in 1947 I found myself at the Gospel Meeting. Afterwards, while talking to Russ Took, another product of Broadview Sunday School who had been saved six years earlier, I too received the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. Yes, I now had what I wanted more than anything else in the world. Thanks again Faithful Teachers.

But I must move on -- I was received into Broadview's fellowship in 1950. Again, partially through the influence of Russ Took. I was given my first Sunday School class that same year. It seems that one of the teachers was giving up her work and it was passed over to me. I never regretted this task and found myself quite happily engaged in children's work from this early time. It has been my privilege to work with many faithful and dedicated teachers over the years. They hold many precious memories for me.

In due time, I was encouraged to share in the responsibility of the oversight of the Assembly with my esteemed brethren, Mr. John Virgin, Mr. Robert Boam, Mr. Harry Taylor and Mr. Joe Higgins, who were the elders at that time. It has been my privilege to continue in this capacity to the present day with elder brethren of like mind.

Don Jennings



Present Elders Anthony Morales, Cyril Lallion, Andrew Wilson, Don Jennings

#### **More Memoirs**

Several years ago, a friend of mine was visiting in Toronto and I suggested I show him some of the usual spots.

We visited the Bridal Path, Edwards Gardens, Kew Beach etc. Then very casually, I suggested that I show him what I considered the most beautiful spot in all Toronto. He was all ears.

I drove down Broadview Avenue south of the Danforth, past Riverdale Park, turned west along Gerrard Street, past the Don Jail to Munro Street, turned south past number 241 where I was born, then turned east on Dundas Street to Hamilton Street and came to a stop at number 17, a little four room cottage.

Getting out of the car we went to a spot where I proceeded to tell him that as a young lad of thirteen I

trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour in the small bedroom of that cottage. What a wonderful spot, the most beautiful spot in all Toronto.

Some time later my dear Brother Don Jennings would come to the same Saviour outside the same cottage on Hamilton Street. He saved outside the cottage and me inside the cottage.

It no longer stands, long since demolished; but to both Don and myself, the most beautiful spot in all Toronto.

We both have much to thank the Lord for, most of all for Salvation and for the Broadview Gospel Hall Sunday School and its dedicated teachers over the many years.

Russ

Took

### **Broadview Reflections**

I join in rejoicing with all the saints at Broadview today as we reflect on the goodness of God over the 100 years of testimony to the Lord's Worthy Name.

It was some 45 years ago that I first became involved in the Sunday School work at Broadview. I, along with seven others, began travelling from our home assemblies to the afternoon Sunday School, to give assistance to some of the teaching needs at that time. There were just not enough younger people available in the assembly, so the call went out to others who might be available. We joined in to help Don Jennings, Dave Brown and Russ Took, as we tried to teach the ever increasing attendance of boys and girls from the area. Without question, it was a challenge to

bring these rambunctious children to pay attention to the Word of God. But as we gained their confidence, they became more eager to listen to the story of God's love for them, and eternity alone will reveal those who truly found the Saviour.

Then came the challenges of the Monday Night Happy Hour. While average attendance ran upwards to a couple of hundred boys and girls each Monday evening, there were occasions when well over this number attended. It was different then ... we could physically dismiss the disturbers from the meeting, without fear of lawsuits, human rights, or any of the situations faced today in dealing with misbehaving young people. How did we keep order? Only by the help of the Holy Spirit, and our patience to try and win them to Christ.

One occasion stands out above others. Norman Lorimer was the speaker and the attendance that evening was one of the highest. But you could have heard a pin drop, as he illustrated and told the story of Abraham and Isaac, and the offering of Christ upon the Cross.

There is one sad memory. It was the Sunday before the picnic, and as we spoke from the familiar text, "boast not thyself of tomorrow", little Billy said, "I betcha two bucks I'll be there". We tried to tell him that none of us could be that sure of tomorrow. On Monday morning as I rode the streetcar downtown, I was shocked to read an article concerning that same Billy. He had been struck by a car while riding his bicycle, and was ushered into Eternity. He never made it to the Sunday School picnic.

But praise God, now in its 100th year, boys and girls still hear of the Saviour's Love at Broadview.

## Early Memories of Broadview Gospel Hall

I was raised in the Assembly at Broadview and my parents brought me to the meeting from a very early age. My time in Broadview covered the years from 1950 to 1972. My first view of the proceedings was from beneath the chairs as I would be sitting on the floor. My mother always felt that it was best to start the children going to meeting right away. It was good for us.

I have some fond memories of the believers that met in this old building. It always struck me that it must be very old because of the ornate door posts and the size of the room.

I remember men of the caliber of Mr. Boam. He was a friendly old man as I recall. He would take my brother and me downstairs after the morning meeting to the kitchen area. He always had some candy or a package of gum stored up over the door. He would reach up and bring that down for us. He was a true man of peace in the Assembly. When Mr. Boam went home to Heaven, I rode to the cemetery with Mr. Russ Took. I remember us talking of Mr. Boam and his kindness and how he would be missed.

Mr. Virgin sat at the end of our row of seats, and I remember his flowing white hair. He was a kindly brother as well, and he always took part in the meeting. Joe Higgins led the singing in Broadview. He loved to sing and I remember him saying that he had dedicated his voice to the Lord. I don't think I ever heard him stumped for a tune.

When Mr. Murphy first came to Canada, he was always alone. I remember when the rest of the family joined him in Canada. They had a number of children, and one boy was my age, Simeon, and we became lifelong friends.

I was saved in 1956. In the fall of 1963, I had a desire to be baptized, and my mother drove me across the city to meetings that were being held by Mr. Jim Hutchinson in West Toronto Gospel Hall. The subject was Baptism. I was thrilled to hear about this and asked for baptism. Mr. Harry Taylor baptized me and several others that fall. I was received into the fellowship of the saints the following week.

As the years passed, the Fearon family arrived and then Anthony Morales. The Assembly grew and was nurtured. The Happy Hour on Tuesday evenings was always interesting. I saw the love that Mr. Don Jennings and Mr. Dave Garvin had for the children of the area. It gave me the seeds of care that guided my own desire to work with children later in my life.

The Macdonald sisters were always at the meetings and always happy. I don't remember them being anything else but happy. They were a consistent testimony along with Mrs. Curtis and Jean Gamble. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Graham were there and his favourite hymn was No. 149 of the BHB, Meeting in the Saviour's Name.

There are some that have had a profound effect on my life. Jack Yocum gave my brother and I jobs when we were teenagers. I learned a tremendous amount about work life and spiritual life from Jack. It helped me settle into my own endeavours and his friendship has always been greatly appreciated. Jack always prayed with such passion.

I am thankful for my formative years in Broadview. God has blessed in so many ways over the years. In the time that remains, may he continue to use the Assembly and each one in it to His Glory.

I hope that I have not missed anyone in these

thoughts. How good that our God knows each one and will reward each one with His own "well done".

There is a lesson to all in the Assembly, both then and now. The conduct of the saints has a tremendous effect on the young. They are learning and they need to see love and care fostered among those they watch. If the Lord tarries, they are the future generation and they will carry on in His service, guided by the example that has been set.

Doug Booth



**Special Occasions** 

There are a number Special Occasions that the Assembly has enjoyed and continues to enjoy over the years. These include our Annual Fellowship Supper, Saturday Night Ministry Meetings, Holiday Week-end Fellowship Sings, Assembly Picnics, and Weddings. Of course, these activities call upon the resourcefulness of our sisters in the food preparation area. We are treated to a wide variety of goodies, and the last few years in particular, our appetities have been whetted by the many West Indian dishes on the menu.



It Takes Preparation



## At an Assembly Picnic



Let's just sit down and eat



One of the early weddings - Robert and Ellen Booth June 9, 1945



(Brother Booth made Broadview his home assembly after his marriage)

What Does The Future Hold?

We know that our God is able to maintain the testimony for His Honour and for His Glory, regardless of the many changes taking place.

It is rumoured that Don Mount Court will be demolished because of the great costs for maintenance due to deterioration. This was one of the main sources of children for both the Bible Hour and Sunday School.

Stores and residents are changing. Broadview Avenue in the Gerrard - Dundas area is now referred to as Chinatown No. 2. (See the background in the picture under the section Open-Air Meetings and Tract Distribution).

How thankful we are that the Gospel has been brought to so many through tracts, open-air meetings and the work with the boys and girls in this needy area.

We know that our God holds the future and His Will will be done. Perhaps soon our Lord will return and there will be no more Assembly Testimonies. Until that time, pray with us that Broadview will continue to be a light in this Community faithfully preaching the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our times are in Thy hand; Father, we wish them there! Our life, our souls, are all we leave Entirely to Thy care.

Our times are in Thy hand; We'll always trust in Thee, Till we have left this weary land, And all Thy glory see.

(The Believer's Hymn Book No. 222)

#### Acknowledgments

We acknowledge the great help we freely drew from the Old Account Records; John S. Robertson's book "In His Name"; Articles from Truth & Tidings; William Williams' booklet "Rabbi Where Dwellest Thou" plus pictures from Sidney Sayword's book "Fifty Years With The Gospel In Venezeula"; the 100th Anniversary Toronto Easter Conference booklet compiled by T.W. Stainton and gleanings from Pape Avenue's booklet "75 Years of Assembly Testimony".

We extend our thanks to those who contributed the memoir articles. Also, we greatly appreciated the many conversations, pictures provided and the memories shared with the Lord's dear people.

Finally, thanks to our brother Jimmy Elliott for the set-up and printing.

Don Jennings

There is Always a Welcome at Broadview