

The Fair Havens



Included in this issue:

- One Body—Many Members
- Sister Peggy Pearce
- The Ferreras
- Sister Eunice Andrews
- The Roses
- Sister Pat Cooper
- Brother Tommy Hunter
- Sister Onalee Hamilton
- Doreen Manson
- Terms of Reference

One Body—Many Members

The body of Christ has many members, with each brother and sister making a unique contribution to the body's welfare. As was the case in Corinth, we may tend to overlook the contributions of some in the body simply because they are not center stage. Our more senior members may assume a quieter role, but that is not to say that they have little to contribute. Rather, our older members have considerable experience and wisdom gained from a long life of discipleship. Solomon declared, "Gray hair is a glorious crown; it is found in the way of righteousness" (Proverbs 16:31). Scriptures have many examples of aged believers who make significant contributions for God's people.

Wisdom in particular is a predominate attribute of older believers who in faith, place their confidence in God. "Happy is a man who finds wisdom and who acquires understanding... She is more precious than jewels; nothing you desire compares with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left, riches and honor" (Proverbs 3:13, 15-16). "The fear

of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life" (Proverbs 9:10-11).

Our rich heritage in the Truth is something that is to be passed down. Wise counsel to the young remains the duty of the aged. "Remember the days of old; consider the years long past. Ask your father, and he will tell you, your elders, and they will teach you" (Deuteronomy 32:7). Like the nation of Israel, older generations have the responsibility to impress upon the young the relevance of God at work in their lives as David declared, "O God, we have heard with our own ears; our ancestors have told us the deeds you did in their day, with your own hand in days of old." (Psalm 44:2).

The Psalmist, writing of the aging faithful said, "They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green."

*"Remember the days of old; consider the years long past. Ask your father, and he will tell you, your elders, and they will teach you" (Deuteronomy 32:7).
Like the nation of Israel, older generations have the responsibility to impress upon the young the relevance of God at work in their lives...*

(Psa. 92:15). With so much to offer, how often do we engage our older members, listen to their testimonials and learn from their experience? This issue of our newsletter focuses on individual brothers and sisters who have consented to share with us a glimpse into their lives that we might better appreciate the rich resource we have in our senior members.

Sister Peggy Pearce

Sister Peggy is a young 91 and has attended the McKenzie Ecclesia in Victoria for 9 years, before which she attended the Nanaimo ecclesia for 57 years. She moved from England Small Heath Ecclesia to Canada in 1957. She resides in Simon Manor, the senior's accommodation that is located across the parking lot from the ecclesial hall. Sister Peggy literally springs from her seat – she is a bundle of energy in a petite frame. Peggy has remained single and provided hospitality to numerous people over the years when she resided in her own home. She was one of the organists at the Nanaimo ecclesia until the time she left and one memory I have of her playing was just watching her legs skip quickly from pedal to pedal – something she managed even when wearing high heels. She is wonderful company and has many thoughts and opinions on Bible topics - she is a thinker and a doer!

Peggy worked as a Medical Office Assistant, which involved a lot of planning and constant interaction with a variety of people. Her work mates knew of her beliefs and were very aware of her commitment and community.

Peggy's family became involved with the Christadelphians when she was about three years old. She went through the Sunday School and feels her decision to be baptized grew out of this. She has been baptized for 75 years. Peggy's favourite Bible activity is discussion!!

Peggy taught Sunday School, was on the visiting list at her ecclesia in the UK, taught herself to play the organ, was involved in baptismal "examinations" and provided lots of

Peggy's family became involved with the Christadelphians when she was about three years old...She has been baptized for 75 years.

hospitality. She says meal prep wasn't her specialty but that didn't keep people from staying away.

Peggy is strengthened in her faith by current events. She lived through the bombings in the 2nd world war and while it was exciting times with the establishment of Israel, it was sobering too. They learned that they weren't necessarily ex-



Sis Peggy Pearce

empt from the suffering that surrounded them as 2 brethren in nearby Coventry were killed in an air attack. These days she is excited by the high level of activity seen globally: the weather, earthquakes, volcanoes, sickness, and of course, war. In World War II the enemy was quite obvious, today Peggy feels the enemy is more nebulous so perhaps a little more scary.

Peggy's advice to young people is, Think for Yourself! Don't depend on others for your understanding. Use your Bible and work a matter out. Also, what she has witnessed in her life has shown her that a "clean" life has its benefits and that our community is very special in the way we have old and young interacting and for the most part, enjoy safe, trusting relationships.

Again, Peggy's advice to all would be to make your conviction your own rather than just following traditions. We should think things through and feel free to discuss them and debate them – and not be afraid of questions and challenges to understanding.

The Ferreiras

The Ferreiras were raised in Guyana as Roman Catholics. Growing up, Sister Claire had very little exposure to books except Catholic magazines depicting saints in beautiful flowing gowns looking up to the heavens with rosaries in their hands. At the age of 10, Claire attended a school run by nuns, but she had questions that went unanswered. She was told that she was too uneducated to read the Bible for herself, but would need to rely on the educated priest to disclose its meaning. When her schooling came to an abrupt end, she felt she would never understand the Bible.

Claire continued to want to know what the Bible said but she was convinced that she would never be able to comprehend it. She would read about battles and thousands being killed, but not of the beautiful saints she had read about as a child and in frustration, she would close the Book. “I felt that some day God would allow me to be able to read and understand it. I placed it on a table where I saw it first thing in the morning hoping that God would open it to me.”

Then one day in total despair, she threw herself on the ground and said, “God or Jesus, whoever you are, if you exist, I would like to know because if you do, I want to love and serve you. I promise that if anyone comes to my door speaking of you I will let them in”. God answered Claire’s prayer by sending an Operation Onesimus preaching team. She was so taken by their message that she later had thoughts of seeking some assistance to go to Haliburton where they were attending a Bible School. Claire wrote, “Luckily they returned, I took some classes and within a hundred days of my contact with them I entered the waters of baptism by the grace of God and have been baptized 41 years”.

Sister Eunice Andrews

Both my parents were Christadelphians but I grew up in an age when children didn’t ask questions. We were in a very small ecclesia with no Sunday School, so I did a correspondence class through the Isolation League Sunday School. I usually went to meeting with my mother and brother. Sadly there had been a split over the baptism of a policeman and a retired soldier. My father went one way and my mother another in terms of fellowship.

Brother Denis too, recalls being disillusioned with Catholicism as the rules kept changing. Mass was no longer only on Sunday; laypeople could now touch the host; revered saints were demoted. If God was unchanging, why did the church change?



Bro Denis and Sis Claire Ferreira

Claire’s advice to the younger generation is to “seek God in truth, be still and listen”. Denis wrote, “God has not asked us to accept Scripture on blind faith. By foretelling the future of His people Israel, He has given us the evidence to see that His word is true and His promises are absolutely sure. We should always be seeking for evidence which assures us of His truthfulness and faithfulness so that we can proclaim like Job, “I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.”

I was baptized 61 years ago on March 15, 1953—one month after my brother’s death. I still have the framed notice that appeared in *The Christadelphian* magazine.

My advice to young believers is to not neglect the daily reading of the Bible—even if you’re busy or preoccupied with troubles or family concerns. If you always seem to have no time, it can be difficult to get back in the habit of daily reading. One brother said to me once if someone comes to him

with a problem he asks him if he is doing the daily readings. It is especially helpful to get back on track with the readings and daily prayer after a crisis. Once I heard a brother speaking about what sounded like a very rosy view of life—all sunshine and gardens—and I was so frustrated I burst out, “But what do you do when you CAN’T pray? What do you do when you hit rock bottom?” The brother took me to Deuteronomy 33:27, “The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. And he thrust out the enemy before you and said, ‘Destroy.’” The brother then said, ‘But you see, you can’t hit rock bottom.’ This has been a touchstone verse and comfort all my life and seen me through many trials. I also take comfort from Isaiah 40:31, “But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they



Sis Eunice Andrews

shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

I have tried to remain active in my life in the Truth. In England, I participated in Young People’s gatherings and vacation Bible campaigns. As an adult in Canada I’ve been involved with sisters’ classes and supporting lectures as well as teaching Sunday School and assisting the Superintendent. I was also on the committee for Pinecrest, a weekend camp in Ontario for young marrieds with children.

As a parting thought, I would offer that life in the Truth has had both its ups and downs with many trials yet it is the Truth that has kept me sane and alive. It has been the one constant in my life. In older age, one has the time to read and study—not so much formal study, but rather the opportunity to pursue interesting questions that arise in the readings. Without God’s Word, I would have been lost.

The Roses

Brother Bryan and Sister Georgina reside in Campbellcroft, Ontario and are members of the Peterborough ecclesia where Bryan serves as the Recording Brother. Georgina was brought up in a Christadelphian home, and Bryan after meeting Georgina as a teenager began to learn of God’s plan over the following years. When new opportunities beckoned, the Roses left England and immigrated to Canada where they made a new home for their family in Brampton, Ontario. It was here that Bryan reached the decision to be baptized following instruction and encouragement from Brother Gordon and Sister Joy Webb.

Their advice to the younger generation of believers is to set an example to the world. Our conviction determines our conduct. Just as Israel was called to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation setting an example to the nations round about, so we too are to be a chosen people proclaiming the praises of God who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

Sister Georgina’s favorite Biblical account is the story of Esther having seen it performed by

Sunday School scholars who presented a compelling dramatization. Brother Bryan has found solace in the example of Job who learned never to lose faith in God, irrespective of the trials of life.



Bro Bryan and Sis Georgina Rose

Members now of a small ecclesia, the Roses wear many different hats to address the various needs of the meeting. Bryan, in addition to his administrative and pastoral roles as Recording Brother, also plays the keyboard on Sunday morning, while Georgina is responsible for setting the table, teaching Sunday School, assisting Bryan with pastoral visits and breaking of bread with the infirm.

The Roses find fellowship with other brothers and sisters strengthens their faith, as do following world events that point to the nearness of Christ's return.

Although retired, both Bryan and Georgina remain active with a host of hobbies. Georgina has volunteered with Community Care and enjoys painting, quilting and woodcarving. Bryan is involved with the local horticultural

society, picture framing and woodworking. Bryan's handiwork included construction of the furniture for the Memorial Service at the Scarlett Road Ecclesia (Toronto West).

The Roses find fellowship with other brothers and sisters strengthens their faith, as do following world events that point to the nearness of Christ's return.

Sister Pat Cooper

I was very fortunate to have a mother and a father who were already in the Truth. We lived in a small town near Toronto called Dunbarton. As often as I could I went to meeting in Toronto, which was held in the Heliconian Hall. Brother J.M. Weir taught me together with Kasey Pendyk and Roger Hill. We three were baptized together. I was about 20 years of age.

My parents, together with my sister, younger brother and myself moved to Huntsville, Ontario. Not far from where we lived, there was a beautiful lake called Skeleton Lake. Some of the brethren from the Toronto and Hamilton areas had cottages on the lake and we enjoyed their company during the summer.

When my four children were capable of looking after themselves, I went to North Bay to study to become a teacher. When I got home I managed to get a job right in town. I had a young class and I read them a story from the Bible every morning before we did our work. They asked many questions that I answered as best I could.

We have an ecclesial hall in Huntsville and the cottagers continue to support us. We are so fortunate to have them. We enjoy their friendship and benefit from their words of exhortation. We miss them when they return to the city in the fall, but look forward to their return in the summer.

I have been reading the story of Esther lately and I find it very interesting. Could it be because she was a woman and

was clever enough to save her people?

I also enjoy reading of the encouragement we find in Scripture, "As it is written, eye hath not seen nor ear heard neither has entered into the heart of man the things that God



Sis Pat Cooper (left) together with Sis Nitetis Austin

has prepared for them that love Him" (2 Cor. 2:9). I think children should memorize the word of God to direct their path in life.

Brother Tommy Hunter

Tommy Hunter was born into a Christadelphian family 77 years ago, and attended the Berean Christadelphian ecclesia in London, Ontario. He always had a great interest in music, and after seeing a touring group of entertainers at the age of 9, he knew exactly what he wanted to do. For youngsters, many things can compete with the ecclesia, and Tommy was no different from many young people today. But his early exposure to Scripture, and strong family values, stayed with him during his entire career.

Tommy left home at 16 to pursue his dreams, but when he came home the occasional weekend, he always sought out his parents' monthly Bible magazines, to see if he could find the answers to a few of the world's problems such as events in the Middle East. His early days at Sunday School stayed with him, and as he got older, his curiosity drew him closer to discovering God's plan for the world.

When he was 19, he was asked to be part of a television network summer replacement show, as featured singer and guitar player. The show and Tommy quickly became a favourite with Canadians from coast to coast. At 23, he was given

Bro Tommy Hunter

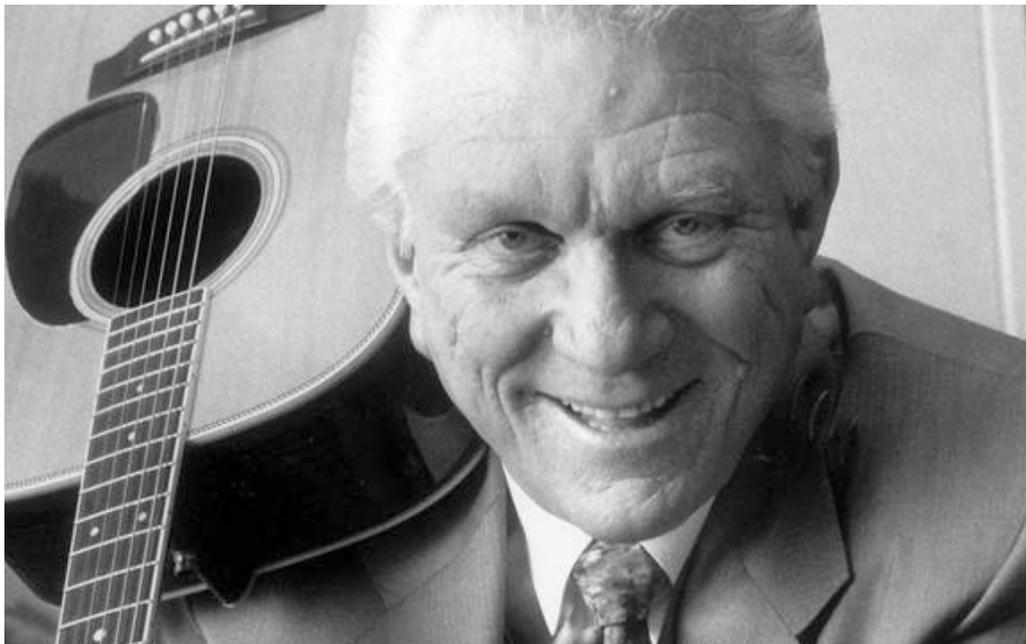


Photo - *The Globe and Mail* reprinted with permission

his own network radio show, which led to his own television series, lasting 27 years, six of those also on an American network. It was the longest running network country music

show in the world. His regular closing, “be the good Lord willing, we’ll see you next week”, reflected back to his early days at Sunday school, and was as familiar to his audience as the music he performed.

He told his writers, producers, and directors “the thread that runs through this show starts with my closing remarks ‘be the good Lord willing.’ From beginning to end, that’s the glue that holds this show together.”

Tommy encourages the younger generation of believers to not be afraid of asking questions— and to keep asking and searching until answers are found.

While on the road with his show, Tommy found himself searching hotel room Bibles as he reflected on God and the strong values instilled by his parents. He remembers his reading often left him feeling confused. But some years ago, he saw a *Learn to Read the Bible Effectively Seminar* advertised in a Brantford, Ontario newspaper. Hoping to find some clarity in the Scriptures, he attended the first seminar not even realizing that the Christadelphians sponsored it; he hadn't been in contact with the group since he was about 10 years old. Tommy found the subject material fascinating and Brother Paul Billington, who was the seminar leader, encouraged him to keep pursuing an understanding of the Word. He attended every class, continued on through the Genesis series and became a regular at the Brantford, Ontario ecclesia. He was baptized in the year 2000.

Reflecting on his life experiences leading up to and following his immersion, Tommy encourages the younger generation of believers to not be afraid of asking questions— and to keep asking and searching until answers are found. If a stumbling block is encountered, continue to seek answers; don't grow dis-

couraged and drift away. Tommy also feels that fellowship with other believers is vital, and suggests that younger people seek the wisdom of elders and those whom they respect when questions arise.

Tommy is actively involved in fellowship with other believers and loves to discuss his faith. His experiences searching for answers have instilled in him a desire to share the Gospel and teach others. The Word of God continues to strengthen him and he also enjoys reading the works of Brother John Thomas, Brother Robert Roberts, and Brother G.V. Growcott, as well as many current Christadelphian publications such as the *Berean Christadelphian*, and the *Bible Magazine*.

Sister Onalee Hamilton

My father, John H. Laird Jr., helped to establish the Canadian Christadelphian Bible School. Each year we looked forward to the week of Bible study, fellowship and activities in the Muskoka region. Our friendships became life long. For many years the brothers and sisters of the San Francisco ecclesia were my spiritual companions. When I married Harry and moved to Ontario, we were members of the Guelph ecclesia. There I reconnected with my Laird- Malcolm family and my Bible school friends. Now Bill and Ginny are active members of Toronto North. Bill's great-grandfather was one of the pioneers of the Christadelphians in Ontario.

In the early 1950s the Vista-Dome California Zephyr carried me west through the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada mountains to a new career in hospital medical records. I loved living in San Francisco, working there and commuting to Berkeley. Hospitals asked: How could patient health records be unified and made easily accessible to all who were giving patient care? Opportunity beckoned. While working with the State of California health information project, I flew many air miles for membership in United

Tommy finds prophecy compelling and chapters like Ezekiel 38 continue to encourage him, providing reassurance that God's redemption draws near. His faith continues to be strengthened as he connects events in the world today with the relevant Scriptures. As Christ's return nears, Tommy reflected on a powerful lesson in his own life; "when we draw near to God He draws near to us (James 4:8). You cannot learn everything, but seek God's plan and try to live by His instructions and guidelines."

Airlines 100,000 mile club. After the health records study was published, I joined a consulting firm working in hospital data processing. Computer technology was developing rapidly.



Sis Onalee Hamilton

Vacation visits with my parents often included a week at Bible school. There I met Harry and Bill. Several years passed. After our marriage in San Francisco, we flew to Collingwood in a plane piloted by Harry and his business partner. A new chapter. A new country. The year was 1971.

Harry had many interests: accordion teacher, co-owner with his father of two apple orchards, winning champion prizes with hand-polished McIntosh apples. After the war his earth-moving machines were building roads in the nearby counties. He followed his passion for flying, earning his commercial pilot and instrument ratings. Harry helped to develop the local airport. He inspired me to earn my private pilot's license.

We enjoyed being at the controls for flights in Canada and the US.

We proudly watched Bill earn his CA and carry his accounting and management skills into ownership of Harry Hamilton Construction as Harry retired.

As I see God's helping hand at work in my daily life, my trust in him is strengthened.

Favorite verses change as our lives change. Recently I have been learning about being thankful. Paul writes to the Greek brothers and sisters in Thessalonica (5:17): "Give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." BUT, " ...in all circumstances"?? Well...yes.

Sister Doreen Manson

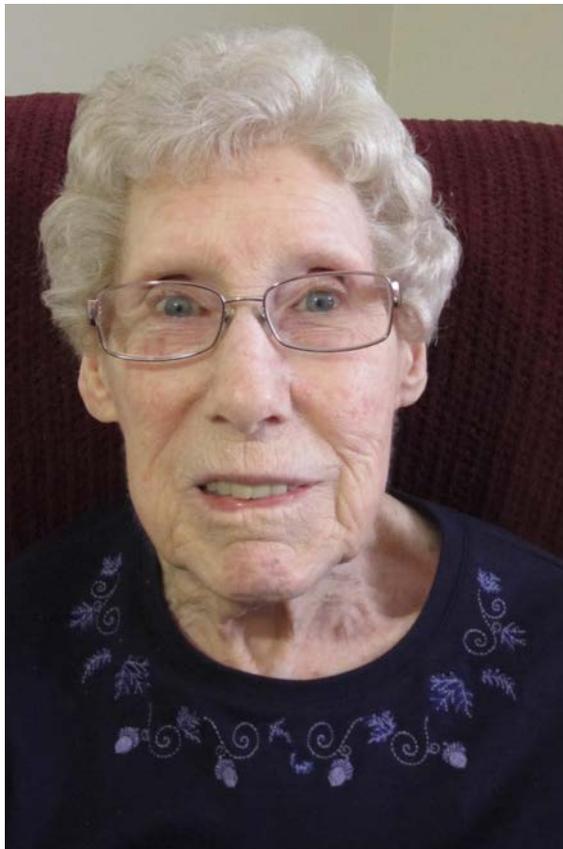
Doreen grew up in a Christadelphian home with both parents in the Truth (Sis. Jean and Bro. Reginald Han-nam) who attended both the Guelph and Hamilton meetings. Doreen's grandparents on her father's side were also Christadelphians and they too attended both the Guelph and Hamilton meetings. She learned the Truth by attending Sunday School and from her family. Sis. Sarah Bigger and Sis. May and Bro. Herbert Vincent were notable teachers who made learning Bible stories very enjoyable.

Doreen was baptized in June of 1946 at age 18 in the West Avenue Christadelphian ecclesia. Bro. Bob Farrar was instrumental in her decision to be baptised. He was highly respected by Doreen who saw him as a father-like figure in her life. He and his wife Sarah (Sadie) were very generous with both their time and money. They often welcomed Doreen and her three sisters into their home and included them in many family outings. She admired their style of living and how they raised their two children. This was in contrast to Doreen's family who was quite poor in comparison; her parents lived in a rented home, had no car, and all their food came from the garden.

When I experienced something that was not my choice, I learned later that God provided it for my good. God has His plan for each of us. "He disciplines us in a way that provides genuine benefit to us and enables us to share in his holiness"(Hebrews 12:10). As I see God's helping hand at work in my daily life, my trust in him is strengthened.

My husband, Harry, and I visited Israel several times. There we were seeing the fulfillment of prophecy: the ingathering of families whose ancestors had been sent into exile, the growing fruitfulness of the rocky hills, the abundant harvests of fields and fruit-bearing trees, the blessing of rain, amazing technology--the restoration of the nation of Israel. The scroll of God's vision is being unrolled to its climax in Revelation 21 and 22. "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men". With God and Jesus are "the river of the water of life" and "the tree of life" and the light of "the glory of God".

Doreen and her husband Stewart met at a Bible class in West Avenue, Hamilton and when they became engaged to be married, they bought a piece of property and built their own house over a two year period. They built the entire house themselves after work except for the installation of the furnace and laying the foundation. Doreen worked as secretary to the president of Firestone in Hamilton until she was pregnant with her first child, John. In those days, you were forced to quit when you were three months pregnant. She and Stewart were married in 1951 and Doreen stayed at home to raise her two children as most women did in those days. Doreen and her husband Stewart hosted many dinners with other members of her ecclesia. She ran the afternoon Sister's



Sis Doreen Manson

class at West Avenue for 15-20 years and provided car rides for those who were in need. After Stewart died in 1980 she looked after her son's and daughter's children (John and Janice), particularly the twin grandsons - Daniel and William Snodgrass who were born premature and needed extra attention. Doreen always reaches out to welcome new or visiting people and she loves to bake and share her famous chocolate chip cookies. Currently, Doreen enjoys knitting squares for Snuggles, a Christadelphian-led project that sends knitted squares to Africa where they will be sewn together into small blankets for needy children in day care centers.

Doreen takes great comfort in reading Bible prophecy and watching it unfold before her eyes. This strengthens her faith and she feels that the return of Christ is imminent based on today's current events. She particularly enjoys reading end time Bible prophecy as described by Christ in Matthew 24 and Luke 21.

Doreen currently lives in the Stone Lodge Retirement home in Guelph and she enjoys talking with fellow residents about her beliefs. She lives amongst many non-believers and when situations arise to share her beliefs and her hope in a simple way, she takes advantage of the opportunity. Many of the residents do not own Bibles and so Doreen likes to explain how Jesus was the Son of

God and tries to impress upon them the importance of baptism. When something significant happens in the world that she thinks is linked to Bible prophecy, particularly events in the Middle East, she enjoys sharing her faith and providing insight into the Scriptures to show that God is in control and that world events are unfolding just as God intended.

Doreen's advice for the younger generations of believers is to read and study the Bible. Decide for yourself what you believe. While it's good to hear what others think, it's better to search out the Scriptures yourself to verify first principles.

Doreen always reaches out to welcome new or visiting people and she loves to bake and share her famous chocolate chip cookies.

Unity in the brotherhood and having a loving relationship with all brothers and sisters of like precious faith is critical to your walk in Christ.

Foundation's Terms of Reference

How can the Fairhaven Christadelphian Charitable Foundation be of assistance to your ecclesia? Are there health and welfare needs in your meeting that require attention, but ecclesial resources are strained or insufficient? The Foundation, operating under the applicable government regulations, may provide grants only to registered charities in Canada. We must disperse a percentage of our investment income each year, based upon a government regulatory formula.

Ecclesias in Canada may request assistance from the Foundation by following these guidelines: Only requests from Arranging Boards will be considered. Requests from an individual member of an ecclesia will not be accepted by the Foundation. Priority is to be given to the welfare needs of Christadelphian elderly, since this reflects the original purpose of Fairhaven House. If additional funds are available after meeting these needs, then more general health and welfare needs of the Christadelphian community will be considered, followed by health and welfare needs of the community at large. Requests must be in writing and should document, in confidence, the need, the background, the amount of help required and the amount of help being provided by the ecclesia. It is expected that the ecclesia requesting support will also provide funds to assist from its own resources. It is preferable, if possible, that ecclesias address emergency situations, and subsequently follow up with a request to the Foundation. The board of the Foundation considers requests at its semi-annual meetings in March and August each year. Emergency requests will also be addressed as quickly as possible.

Requests may be sent to:

The Fairhaven Christadelphian Foundation
c/o Sister Penny Sheppard, Secretary
39 Knox Avenue
North York, ON, M9L 2M2

It is important to appreciate that the primary responsibility to meet the welfare needs of our brothers, sisters and young people lies at the ecclesial level, and consequently the Foundation's role is to supplement, rather than supplant this ecclesial responsibility. We encourage ecclesias to be actively aware of situations where there is a need, extend help, and then approach the Foundation as a funding partner.

Year End Financial Report

Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Fund Balance for the Year Ending March 31, 2014

Revenue

Investment income	9,334
Donations	750
	10,084

Expenses

Grants	15,957
Professional fees	6,960
Administrative	1,874
	24,791

Net Income (14,707)

Opening fund balance 371,272

Closing fund balance 356,565

An Appeal

In this low interest rate environment, income generated from investments has been inadequate to address the needs of recipient ecclesias and consequently, the Foundation's capital has continued to diminish.

The Foundation would welcome ecclesial and individual gifts to support this work of the Lord. Donations may be made via PayPal on the website www.fairhavenfoundation.ca or sent directly to the treasurer:

Bro. Jonathan Farrar
140 Whitwell Way,
Binbrook, ON, L0R 1C0

The Fairhaven Christadelphian Charitable Foundation
c/o 39 Knox Avenue
North York, ON, M9L 2M2

Visit us at www.fairhavenfoundation.ca

Directors

Bro. Jonathan Farrar, Treasurer	Sis. Jennifer Narjes
Bro. Alan Ghent, Chair	Sis. Penny Sheppard, Secretary
Sis. Marie Klien	Bro. Tom Thorp
Bro. Ian McPhee	