

C. G. McPhee



Charles Gordon McPhee was born in Upper Nine Mile River, Nova Scotia 25 Jul 1892 and died 27 Nov 1980. Buried in Mount Osborne Cemetery, Beamsville, Ontario

Married Grace Tallman, daughter of Charles Peter Tallman and Jane (Jennie) Tufford 14 Jun 1922.

She was born Beamsville, Ontario 23 Nov 1893 and died Thorold, Ontario 23 Jul 1972. Buried in Mount Osborne Cemetery, Beamsville, Ontario

Graduated from the Nashville Bible School in 1917.

See references in the *Gospel Herald* by and about C. G. McPhee

A boy of whom Nova Scotia is proud is Gordon McPhee. Born in Upper Nine Mile River, July 25, 1892, his father died soon after, and he moved with his mother to Upper Rawdon, and from there to the home of Bro. and Sister Joshua Wallace of Center Gore, where he became a Christian.

In 1909 O. H. Tallman and the writer along with a few brethren in Hants Co., opened the Maritime Bible and Literary College. Gordon was a charter student. After five years there, he attended David Lipscomb College of Nashville, Tenn.

He preached some time in Carman, Manitoba, as general evangelist in Ontario, and at Meaford, Ont. While there he married Sister Grace Tallman of Hamilton, to which union has come two beautiful children.

Waco, Texas next called him. Then

Denison, Texas, where he now labors.

He is a splendid speaker, a gentleman and a Christian. We'd gladly see him in our work in Canada again. O. E. Tallman, Jordan, Ont.

Christian Monthly Review, Aug./Sept. 1927, p. 15

Jordan church stands well in that it has kept records almost from the first, which can be said of few older churches. . . . Jordan furnishes a list of evangelists since 1854, which is revealing. . . . Other names are: . . . Duncan H. Stirling, W. M. Wright, H. M. Evans, D. H. Jackson, C. G. McPhee, R. K. Akers*, O. H. Tallman, A. Stewart.

The Disciples of Christ in Canada since 1830, by Reuben Butchart. Toronto: Canadian Headquarters' Publications Churches of Christ (Disciples), 1949, p. 426.

The Church in Carman, Man.

The church of Christ at Carman, Man., first met to break bread in the home of Bro. G. W. Saunders in the summer of 1889

... Many brethren could be mentioned, but to name only a few who have contributed in a fine way to the work here: Bro. C. G. McPhee, Bro. D. A. Sinclair, Bro. Jack McElroy.

Gospel Herald, Oct. 1964, p. 7

Hamilton, Wentworth County, Ontario
At first but five persons met at the home of Bro. Wright; in 1899, they were assisted by J. Howard Stirling for a time and H. M. Evans also served them as evangelist. Others who served in this way were C. Tallman, S. M. Jones, and a

meeting was held by C. G. McPhee in 1922. This was after the congregation had secured a very suitable building, used formerly by St. Peters' Anglican church at 77 Sanford Avenue S. *The Disciples of Christ in Canada since 1830*, by Reuben Butchart. Toronto: Canadian Headquarters' Publications Churches of Christ (Disciples), 1949, p. 559 <http://www.mun.ca/rels/restmov/texts/rbutchart/dcc/DCC25.HTM>



June 14, 1922 Hamilton, Ontario

1979

Death – C. B. McPhee (week of Dec. 1 bulletin). Bro. McPhee was greatly beloved in the brotherhood for his dedication to his Lord and for his service to the Master. He served as a minister to this congregation on two different occasions, January 1921-1924 and September 1949-1952. Bro. McPhee left Meaford to become first president at Great

Lakes Christian College.

The Meaford Journals, 1848-1898, p. 94

THE PASSING OF A PRINCE BY ROY D. MERRITT

Charles Gordon McPhee has gone to be with his Lord. We are reminded of the words of King David when news was brought of the assassination of Abner, a great warrior. He said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?"

Men have various standards for measuring outstanding individuals. They look at the size of one's bank account and measure his success by an accumulation of wealth. At other times they look at the noble lineage of a person and place great importance upon the family into which he was born. Others would stress the power and prestige obtained by the individual. Still others stand in awe of men who have obtained great intellectual heights. In the eyes of worldly men, our brother would not be considered great.

He was born into a humble family and orphaned at an early age. There was never a large accumulation of wealth at his disposal. His education was modest although adequate for his chosen work. If you had suggested that he had power and prestige, he would have chuckled aloud with a twinkle in his eye.

Then why do we claim that he was a great man?

For one thing, he had been born by the new birth into the family of God Himself. Jesus stressed the need of being born of water and the Spirit. Our brother heard this great condition, believed, and obeyed. Jesus taught that there had not been a greater human being than John the Baptist, but that even the least in the Kingdom of

God was greater than John. We have every reason to believe that our brother was in the Kingdom. His greatest claim to high birth was the new birth.

Our brother was wealthy in the things that count. He had a beautiful and gracious wife for many years. His children and grandchildren loved him dearly. Such are a heritage from the Lord. He had acquaintances by the tens of thousands and intimate friends in all walks of life.

As to education, our brother was a specialist who was not ashamed of his specialty. No one could listen to him preach for long without knowing where he found, all religious authority revealed. His heart's desire was to preach God's Word. He loved to repeat Paul's affirmation to Timothy: "Every Scripture is inspired of God". In his effort to preach the Word in season and out of season, he made it clear that the Bible was his chart book and compass to lead men to Christ.

Although our brother made no claim to fame, and displayed the marks of a humble servant of God, he had a powerful influence for good. His sermons have influenced the lives of many, including this writer, whom he baptized years ago. There is no way to measure the effect of a lifetime given to compassionate deeds and genuine concern, which was shown to both saints and sinners. He listened to the marriage vows of literally hundreds, perhaps thousands, of couples, and spoke the committal service at vast numbers of graves.

We have lost a beloved brother, a wise counsellor, a diligent servant, and a true prince in Israel. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord ... that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them."

Gospel Herald, January 1980, p. 4

Passing of C. G. McPhee

Funeral services were conducted Friday afternoon, Nov. 30, for Bro. C.G. McPhee, who died quietly as he prepared for bed in his home the Tuesday before.

The service was conducted from the building of the Church of Christ in St. Catharines. Roy Merritt officiated, assisted by Geoffrey Ellis and Tony Mukitus, who led the audience in singing two of Bro. McPhee's favorite hymns.

Interment was in Mount Osborne Cemetery, Beamsville. Pallbearers were Donald MacKenzie, Gerald Ellis, Ora Ellis, Louis Pauls, Joe Molnar, and Art Garner.

Bro. Geoffrey Ellis delivered the eulogy:

We have gathered to affirm our love and respect for a great man of God, a dear brother in Christ, a friend, a father, and grandfather, Charles Gordon McPhee.

He went home on Tuesday, Nov. 27, to be with the Lord he revered and served for three-quarters of a century. Because of the victory of faith, this is a day for hallelujahs.

Yet, because he has filled such a large place in our lives and hearts, it is not easy for us to bid goodbye to this old friend.

The sense of loss, of emptiness, yes, even of sorrow as we experience the loneliness when a loved one leaves us for his last home, this quality of sadness was not a stranger to Gordon McPhee, for he ministered to many, many families in just such circumstances as these. While he did not carry his emotions on his sleeve and was not what you would call a sentimentalist, he did feel deeply about others' griefs. An indelible memory takes me back to my first staff meeting at GLCC in '54 held under his chairmanship. Word of a death of a friend in Meaford came while the meeting was in progress. Tears filled his eyes. The meeting was temporarily adjourned. After time for composure to be regained and arrangements

to be made, we went back to work. Here was a man of compassion, sympathetic to the burdens that people bear.

Yet, while ministering to an amazingly wide circle of families, individuals, and congregations, his native cheerfulness would not be repressed. That sparkle in his eyes, that quick chuckle, will continue to cheer us, even if now only by memory.

Charles Gordon McPhee was born July 25, 1892, at Nine Mile River in Nova Scotia. He was raised by his mother in Upper Rawdon with a sister and two brothers, all who have predeceased him. He was baptized, to the best of our knowledge, in 1905 by a brother McLeod. In 1909 he enrolled in the Maritime Bible College at West Gore under the direction of O.H. and O.E. Tallman. With the coming of the war and the closing of the school he returned with the Tallmans to their family farm at Smithville, and shortly left for college in Nashville, Tenn. He was the first foreign student to graduate from what is now David Lipscomb College in 1917. He returned to Canada, preaching first in Carman, Man., and then at Meaford. Following several years serving congregations in Waco and Denison, Tex., going there in 1924, he returned to Ontario where he labored diligently up to the present time, preaching his last sermon this past Sunday.

His struggles were heroic as he worked with small churches, division, limited finances, and few colleagues. But he remained true to his field, and his faith, and found fruit for his labor. He has seen congregations of churches of Christ in Ontario increase from some six in the early days of the century to over 60 today. He preached in Meaford and Beamsville twice each, in Hamilton, Toronto, St. Catharines, Jordan, Rosedene, and Smithville and in many gospel meetings.

Charles Gordon McPhee was known

and respected for his consistent and uncompromising stand for truth. He had seen the ravages of digression as a lad in his own Nova Scotia. Committing himself to New Testament Christianity in that period he staunchly promoted Biblical faith and practice during a preaching career that has stretched over nearly seven decades. A number of younger preachers now carry the mantle that he has thrown to them.

Always hopeful and forward looking, brother McPhee invested much of himself in the young people that came on wave by wave. He is remembered affectionately by many Omagh Bible School students as a firm, but warm-hearted camp director. Then in 1950, he accepted one of the major challenges of his life when he became the first president of Great Lakes Christian College. To see this institution safely launched in 1952 and on its way to the current 30-year-old endeavor it is, was a significant accomplishment especially in view of those draining, demanding, difficult first four years of the school successfully promoted under his leadership.

Gordon married Grace Tallman in 1922. Three children were born to this union, one son Ralph who died at age seven in 1931, and two daughters, Ruth, Mrs. Jim Wilson of St. Catharines, and Rosalie, Mrs. William Kosick of Longmont, Colorado. Six grand-children carry the memory of a beloved grandfather. Scores of couples united in marriage by brother McPhee, countless friends, brethren, and acquaintances mark the passing of a great man, and join in thanking God for his faith and work and life. --Geoffrey H. Ellis
Gospel Herald, January 1980, p. 5

C. G. McPhee

First GLCC President Twice Preacher Here

A forceful preacher known to a great many people in Ontario, Charles Gordon McPhee died suddenly at his home in St.

Catharines on Tuesday.

Mr. McPhee served as the first president of Great Lakes Christian College from 1952-1954.

He was 87.

Born at Nine Mile River, Nova Scotia, Mr. McPhee came to Ontario as a youth in 1912, with O. E. Tallman and Dr. O. H. Tallman whom he had met in Nova Scotia. The Tallmans conducted a Bible School there and they moved to this province when the school closed.

Mr. McPhee – he was known to some as Charles and others as Gordon – attended Nashville Bible School and when he returned to Canada after completing his studies, he went first to Carman, Manitoba, to begin his lifelong preaching.

In 1920 he came to Ontario and was at Meaford for three years. Then followed a period in Texas after which he returned here and was in St. Catharines between 1930 and 1936. Mr. McPhee was preacher at the Beamsville Church of Christ 1936-45, and then accepted an appointment to the Church in Meaford. In 1952 he returned to Beamsville where he was a leading figure in the organizing of Great Lakes, and he served as president for the first two years. In 1954 he returned to his first love, preaching, and became pastor of the Church of Christ, St. Catharines. He was in the radio ministry over CKTB for many years and was a frequent visitor in St. Catharines hospitals.

Mrs. McPhee, the former Grace Tallman, died in 1972. Mr. McPhee is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Jim (Ruth) Wilson in St. Catharines, and Mrs. William (Rosalie) Kosick, in Longmont, California, also six grandchildren.

The funeral was held Friday afternoon at the Church of Christ, Beamsville. Roy Merritt, assisted by Geoffrey Ellis, conducted the service. Casket bearers were Don MacKenzie, Art Garner, Louis Pauls, Joe Molnar, O. F. Ellis

and Gerald Ellis. Burial was in Mount Osborne Cemetery.

The Post Express, Dec. 5, 1979, p. 2

McPHEE

Sister Grace Tallman McPhee passed away on Lord's Day evening, July 23rd at the Maplehurst Hospital, Thorold, Ontario, at the age of 78. She was the wife of Charles Gordon McPhee and mother of sister Ruth Wilson of St. Catharines and sister Rosalie Kosick of Huntington Beach, California. She is survived by a sister, Cora, Mrs. Russell Beckham of Port Credit. There are also six grandchildren.

The work of any gospel preacher is strengthened and enhanced by the assistance of a good wife. Sister McPhee was a faithful co-labourer with her husband in a number of churches. Among the churches served by this dedicated couple were: Waco and Dennison, Texas; Carman, Manitoba; Meaford, Ontario for two periods; Beamsville, Ontario for two periods; Bayview in Toronto, Ontario; Jordan, Ontario, and St. Catharines, Ontario for two periods. Brother and sister McPhee were very active in the formative years of Great Lakes Christian College where he was the first President.

Sister McPhee was a source of great encouragement to young men as they made their decisions to preach the gospel. Both editors of the Gospel Herald are of that number.

--Roy D.

Merritt

Gospel Herald, Sept. 1972, p. 17

Mrs. C. Gordon McPhee

Grace McPhee, 78, wife of C. Gordon McPhee of St. Catharines, died Sunday at Maplehurst Hospital in Thorold after a long illness.

Born in Lincoln, Mrs. McPhee lived all her life in Ontario except for four years spent in Texas.

She was a member of the Church of

Christ.

Her husband, a well-known minister in the area, preached throughout Ontario, including Toronto, Meaford, Jordan, Lincoln and St. Catharines.

She is survived by her husband, two daughters, Mrs. James (Ruth) Wilson in St. Catharines, Mrs. William (Rosalie) Cosick in Huntington Beach, Calif.; a sister, Mrs. Russell Peckham in Port Credit; and six grandchildren.

The funeral service is being held this afternoon at the Church of Christ, St. Catharines, with burial in Mount Osborne Cemetery.

The Post Express, July 26, 1972, p. 2