

# *Testimony*

*Albert Warkentin Tells His Story*

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***“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go:  
I will guide thee with mine eye.” (Psalm 32:8)***

I really learned the meaning of this verse in later years.

I was born in Waldheim, SK. Tragedy struck our home when, a few days after my birth, my mother passed away. My dad's older sister raised me the first year. Dad then re-married a wonderful lady!

Living on the farm, I thought I was a Christian. At age 17, Mr. George Thiessen had Revival Meetings at our Waldheim Church. He spoke to my heart when he told us how a Christian ought to live. I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that this wasn't the way I was living. That evening I accepted Christ into my heart. The verse that Christ gave me was John 5:24; “Verily, verily I say unto you. He that heareth my Word and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life.” I was baptized that summer. I enjoyed singing in Choirs and in Male Quartets. In 1949 I was given the opportunity to attend a year at the Hepburn Bible School. We enjoyed the singing there and the Word was made so clear to us. What a year we had!

In 1952 I was married to a lovely lady by the name of Elsie Hintz from Abbotsford. We farmed in Waldheim until 1957. We loved serving in the Church. After working a year in Grassy Lake, we moved to Abbotsford. Here I learned the construction trade. We attended the South Abbotsford Church for a few years. Then John Enns was building a church at Otter Road at the time. I went there to help for a week or so, and got to know Jake Neufeld who was the first pastor. He asked me if I wanted to help out in the Church work. I said, “No, I don't think so. It is just too far to go.” He said to think about it. Then wonder of wonders, George Brunk had a tent meeting just west of Clearbrook. The message that evening was, “If God calls you to serve, who are you to say no?” Well, Elsie and I decided we would go and obey God's leading. That “for the time being” lasted for 41 years. If God calls, who are we to say, “No.”

I had the privilege to teach the Junior Sunday School class for about 30 years. My dear wife taught Sunday School as well. We taught Boys Brigade and Pioneer girls, and conducted the choir for many years. This reminds me of Moses, when he said, “Lord, I can't speak”. I quit my grade 10 because I was supposed to make a speech. There was no way the teacher could convince me to stay even though I enjoyed it otherwise!! God does give speech where we think it is lacking, if we give our life over to Him!

In the fall of 2001, we joined the Bakerview Church. I had the same opportunity I had at Otter Road to be a choir conductor there the first year we attended. We enjoyed many wonderful years at Otter Road.

My dear wife Elsie suffered with cancer for a number of years. On February 1, 2008 Jesus took her home to be with Him forever and ever. As for me, I thought the world had come to an end. But, the Lord didn't forget me. Just over a year later, He gave me another wonderful wife, Mertia Hamm. We said, “If God would give us 10 years, that would be wonderful. We are now celebrating our 14th. How Great God is. We sang in the choir, took trips every spring. We travelled all the way to Caronport, Vancouver Island, Peace River Bible Institute, and a number of other places.

If we can't serve any more, we will be there with our prayers and via internet. We are both looking for His soon return in the clouds of heaven.

Jesus gave me a verse for my life which is Proverbs 3:5-6. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path.”

..... *Gleaned from The Bridge - May 2023*