



Alberta



# Child Evangelism Fellowship



Saskatchewan

"It is not the will of your Father...that one of these little ones should perish." - Matthew 18:14

## He Shall be Like a Tree!

Dear Friends,

November 25, 2020

When I wrote my last letter I would have never believed that I would be writing this letter at this time. My father Vaughan Durston passed away on November 2, 2020 rather suddenly after a fall at the David & Jonathan headquarters in Sedley, SK. He had falls before, but this time he seemed to be hurt.

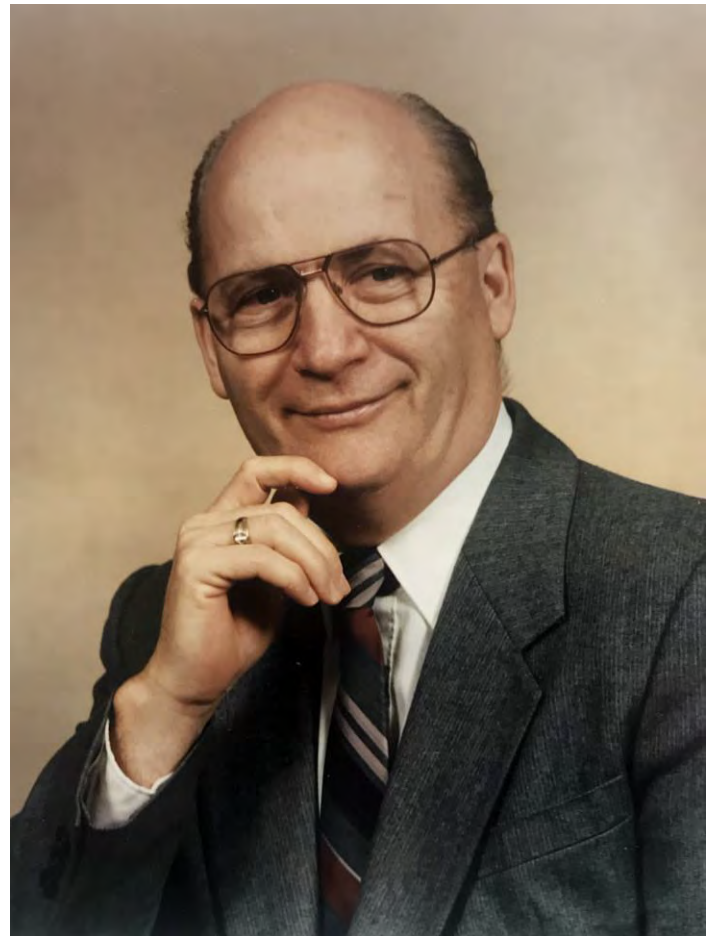


On October 28<sup>th</sup> he went by ambulance to Regina and they discovered he had a broken pelvic bone but the CT scan on his head came out clear. I stayed with Dad till about 10:30 that night. The doctor said his break would not require surgery but it would take about 6 to 8 weeks to heal but, "He should be dancing by Christmas!" The following morning I took my mom to go see Dad who was now admitted to the hospital and would be cared for until he was ready to go home, probably a couple of weeks. That night I went in for the evening and Dad seemed to be doing fine and was in very little pain with hardly any pain killers. When I left we prayed together and I said I would see him tomorrow.

The next morning I received a phone call from my sister Charlene who had received a call saying that Dad had a bad night and they were taking him for another CT scan. During the night he had a brain bleed or a stroke and the CT scan showed that it was deep in his brain and inoperable.

When I got to the hospital the young man in the bed next to him said, **"After you left last night your dad started talking to somebody. I am not a religious man but it seemed like he was quoting Bible verses! It was like he was talking to God for two or three hours. Then things went bad and he started throwing up and it wasn't good but he never complained."**

**Don't get me wrong I believe in God. There is no doubt in my mind where he is going. As sure as the sun is coming up tomorrow morning your dad is going up!" As he pointed upwards to heaven!**



Vaughan Durston – 1934 - 2020

I spent the next night with Dad in his room while he slept. I did not know if I would ever have another conversation with him and I spent the night reading some of Dad's books, as I reflected on the impact Dad had on my life. In my time alone with him I wondered, "What would I say if I had another opportunity to talk to him?"

Dad and Mom dedicated their life to reaching boys and girls for Jesus. They were married on May 16, 1957 at Briercrest Bible Institute after graduation and then headed off to Muskegon, MI where they attended the Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) Institute for three months.



In the early years mom and dad would use every tool they could to reach boys and girls for Jesus. Things like flannelgraph, gospel magic, and the cowbells as you see in the picture. They began hosting Bible clubs for children, in the summer they were 5-Day Clubs in backyards and in the winter they were Good News Clubs in peoples homes.



They were offered positions in New Zealand, Colorado, or Saskatchewan and chose Saskatchewan where they began the work of CEF of Saskatchewan. Since Dad's passing we have received so many calls, emails, cards, and letters from those impacted by Dad's life. Jerry Robinson a long time friend and co-worker wrote, **"There is likely no one that has had the spiritual impact on kids and families in Saskatchewan as Vaughan and Melba!"**

As a boy I had the opportunity to often travel with my mom and dad to missions conferences, camps, and clubs where my parents would share the gospel with boys and girls. It seems like my whole life I have been surrounded with one focus - to reach boys and girls for Jesus.

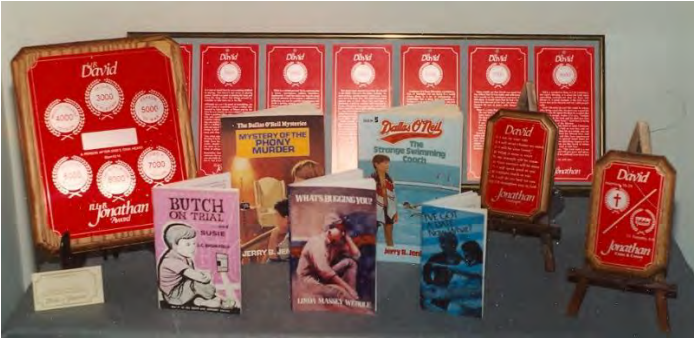


They were not only wanting to reach the children with the gospel but disciple them as well to help them grow in their faith. In 1958, CEF began to disciple the children reached in the clubs through the mail with Bible lessons such as Treasure Trails & The Mailbox Club, later adding free Christian books and a free Bible.

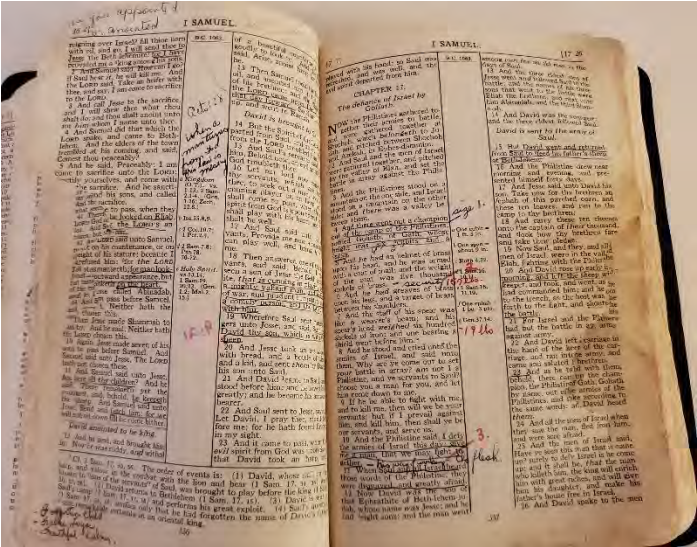




Dad’s vision to disciple boys and girls and young people developed into a whole new ministry which he founded called **U. B. David & I’LL B. Jonathan Inc** and developed oak plaques and awards to encourage the children to continue learning about God through the lessons and free Christian books.



Dad loved to tell Bible stories and as a boy I heard my dad tell about David & Goliath, Daniel and the lions den, Joseph and his brothers, and Moses and the Red Sea. One could often here him share about the covenant between David & Jonathan. His Bible is worn and tattered and the pages in 1 Samuel 16 & 17 are worn out to the point part of the pages are missing!



In 1961 the CEF office moved from their home at 1043 Gladmer Park to 2732 Dewdney Ave.



Dad would constantly look for new ways to reach boys and girls and ways to provide the funds to do it. In 1963 they began selling Sunday school supplies to churches. For over forty years they operated as Sunday School & Church Supplies with all profits going to CEF to help reach the children of this province with the gospel.



One of Dad’s favorite passages from God’s Word was Psalm 1:3, “**He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**”

# The Family Tree





Over the years the ministry of CEF continued to grow and so did mom and dad's family along with their desire that each member of their family would receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour!

As I close this letter I think the life that was impacted the most by my father was mine. He had many people he had poured his life into and would often refer to them as his 'Davids'. He told me I was one of his 'Davids' and he was 'Jonathan'. He would often ask, "Why did Jonathan have to die?" to which he would answer his own question, "So that 'David' could become 'Jonathan'!"

Dad loved reading the letters and could often be found almost anywhere reading it. To say I am going to miss him would be a huge understatement. But one thing is for sure I am so thankful for his final words to me!



**"Keep telling children about Jesus! Its a wonderful thing to see children coming to Christ!"**

Thank you again to all of you who have had a part in Dad's life and encouraged him along the way. We will be forever grateful!

Love you Dad, and thanks again for being such a great example to me and so many others!

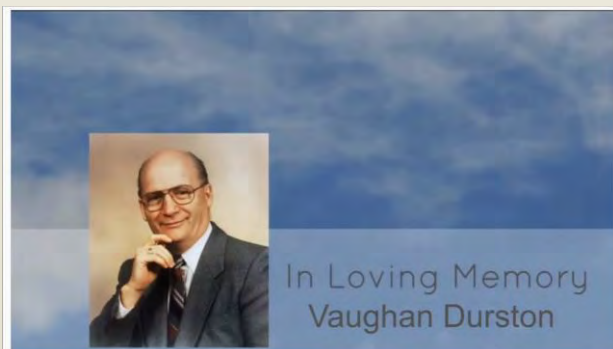
For the sake of the children,

Jerry Durston  
Provincial Director



**Donations may be made online at any of our websites!**

## *Upcoming Events*



***Watch the Memorial Service***

***and Tribute Video at***

***[www.cefsask.org](http://www.cefsask.org)***

***Gifts in memory of***

***Vaughan Durston***

***Can be made by mail or on our website***

***[www.cefsask.org](http://www.cefsask.org)***

***God bless you for your part in  
this ministry!***



# CEF SASK

*Reaching children in Saskatchewan*

**Address:**

PO Box 236  
Sedley, SK  
S0G 4K0

**Phone:**

1-800-561-5315

**Website:**

[www.cefsask.org](http://www.cefsask.org)

**E-Mail:**

[info@cefsask.org](mailto:info@cefsask.org)



# CEF ALBERTA

*Reaching children in Alberta*

**Address:**

PO Box 159  
Tilley, AB  
T0J 3K0

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1-800-561-5315

**Website:**

[www.cefalberta.org](http://www.cefalberta.org)

**E-Mail:**

[info@cefalberta.org](mailto:info@cefalberta.org)



*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;  
his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. ~ Psalm 1:3*



**CEF SASK**

*Reaching children in Saskatchewan*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to give \$\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of Vaughan Durston.

*Cheques payable to: CEF Saskatchewan*

**Mail to:** PO Box 236, Sedley, Saskatchewan, S0G 4K0





1957 A happy couple!

# A Life of Ministry

1957 ~ 2020



Ministry in El Paso, Tx 1997



Ice Cream Break! 2020



Vaughan & Melba's Store 2008