

## SHORT HISTORY OF

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WESTBOURNE BAPTIST CHURCH. CALGARY.  
 BY RAYMOND HALL - SECOND SON OF MORLEY HALL  
 AS I CAN RECALL MY FATHER SHARING  
 THE BEGININGS OF THE CHURCH TO US AS  
 A FAMILY IN THE EARLY DAYS OF OUR  
 CHILDHOOD.

WESTBOURNE WAS BORN OUT OF A DESIRE  
 OF THE FOLKS AT WESTBOURNE PARK IN  
 SCOTLAND IN OR ABOUT I WOULD GUESS  
 THE LATER PART OF <sup>THE FIRST</sup> ~~1914~~ WORLD WAR.  
 THE CHRISTIANS OF WESTBOURNE PARK FELT  
 THE GREAT COMMISSION OF OUR LORD DID  
 INCLUDE ESTABLISHING A MISSIONARY WORK  
 SOMEWHERE ACROSS THE SEA, IN CANADA.

UPON LOOKING EVER SO CLOSELY AT A MAP  
 OF CANADA THEY CAME ACROSS THE  
 NAME CALGARY, WAY OUT IN CANADA'S  
 WILD WEST, THEY WERE ESPECIALLY TAKEN  
 WITH THE NAME OF CALGARY BECAUSE IT  
 IS A GAELIC WORD FOR CLEAR RUNNING WATER  
 BEING AS THEY WERE BAPTISTS THEY FIGURED  
 THAT IF THERE WERE A BAPTIST CHURCH  
 IN CALGARY, THAT IT WOULD BE CALLED  
 "FIRST BAPTIST. SO THEY SET ABOUT TO  
 WRITE TO A FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN  
 CALGARY

OVER →

THEIR CORRESPONDENCE WENT WELL AND IN DUE TIME THEY SENT THE <sup>NECESSARY</sup> ~~NECESSARY~~ FUNDS TO START A MISSIONARY WORK IN CALGARY - ~~THIS~~ <sup>THUS</sup> WESTBOURNE BAPTIST CHURCH WAS BORN.

THROUGH THE 1920's & 30's THE LOCATION OF THE CHURCH AT 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET & 13 AVE SE WAS A VERY LOVELY MIDDLE CLASS NEIGHBOURHOOD, WITH TREE LINED STREETS & BOULEVARDS.

IT WAS AN AREA WHERE MOST RESIDENTS WORKED FOR C.P.R (OGDEN SHOPS - OR ROUND HOUSE AT ALYTH YARDS) BURNS MEATS - ROYAL CROWN SOAP CO ETC. SOME OF WESTBOURNE FOLKS CAME FROM ELBOW PARK - ~~BRADDA~~ RIDERDA PARK AND CRESCENT HEIGHTS.

IN THE EARLY 1920's MR. WILLIAM ABERHART WAS INVITED TO COME OVER TO WESTBOURNE & TEACH A SUNDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE CLASS. HE WAS A MEMBER OF GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (A LARGE SANDSTONE BUILDING AT 15 AVE & 9 ST S.W. AS TIME WOULD HAVE IT, MR. ABERHART TOOK OVER WESTBOURNE CHURCH & BECAME ITS PASTOR.

→  
over

IN THE LATTER PART OF THE 1920'S  
MR ABERHART DECIDED TO BUILD  
THE PROPHETIC BIBLE INSTITUTE NEAR  
THE T. EATON STORE ON BAYE WEST.

THUS LEAVING THE WESTBOURNE  
BUILDING EMPTY. UPON FINDING THE  
CHILDREN OF WESTBOURNE SUNDAY SCHOOL  
DIDN'T WALK UP TO BAYE FROM 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
TO THE NEW INSTITUTE, A GROUP OF  
MISTER ABERHART'S PEOPLE ASKED TO  
GO BACK TO THE WESTBOURNE BUILDING  
TO SAVE THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS & ASKED  
& RECEIVED PERMISSION TO PURCHASE  
THE WESTBOURNE CHURCH & CALL A  
NEW PASTOR TO CARRY ON THE MINISTRY.  
THE FOLKS WROTE TO THE BAPTIST  
HOME MISSION BOARD IN TORONTO & THEY  
SENT OUT A YOUNG MAN TO CANDIDATE.  
THE WESTBOURNE PEOPLE WERE TAKEN WITH  
THE YOUNG MAN & CALLED HIM TO COME.  
I DON'T RECALL ALL THE DETAILS, BUT  
IT SEEMS THERE CAME UP A VERY PRESSING  
FAMILY NEED & HE COULDN'T COME.  
THE WESTBOURNE PEOPLE WERE DISAPPOINTED BUT  
ASKED THE HOME MISSION BOARD IF THEY →

MIGHT RECOMMEND ANOTHER CANDIDATE,  
THEY RECOMMENDED MY FATHER  
MORLEY HALL WHO WAS PASTORING THE  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE GOLD  
MINING TOWN OF TIMMINIS ONTARIO

DAD PRAYED MUCH & SOUGHT THE LORDS  
WILL IN THE MATTER & I GUESS TO  
USE THE LINGO OF TODAY THE REST  
WAS HISTORY. ON TO THE WILD  
WEST & CALGARY & WESTBOURNE  
BAPTIST CHURCH. IT WAS FEBRUARY 1  
1930. (Till June 1944)

P.S. ALONG WITH STARTING A BIBLE COLLEGE IN THE  
BASEMENT - DAD HAD AN EXTENSIVE RADIO MINISTRY  
IN THE 30'S. IT WAS CALLED THE BACK HOME GOSPEL HOUR  
9:00 TO 10:00 PM SUNDAY EVENINGS (AFTER THE EVENING  
SERVICE) C.FCN 10,000 WATS AT THE TIME, WOULD NOT  
ALLOW THE EVENING CONGREGATION TO STAY FOR THE BROADCAST  
AS IN THOSE DAYS, PEOPLE COUGHING OR BABIES CRYING  
IN THE BACKGROUND WAS A NO NO ON RADIO. IT WAS  
ALSO NOT LEGAL TO MENTION MONEY OF ANY KIND FOR ANY  
REASON. C.FCN. CHARGED WESTBOURNE \$20<sup>00</sup> FOR  
ONE HOUR. I REMEMBER IT WAS ALL DAD COULD DO  
IN THOSE HARD TIMES TO RAISE 20<sup>00</sup> - (REMEMBER IT WAS  
THE DIRTY THIRTIES (DEPRESSION YEARS)  
GOD HONORED HIS WORD & MANY FOUND THE LORD AS SAVIOUR  
DAD GOT MAIL FROM THE TEXAS PANHANDLE TO HAWAII.