



Jennie Marguerite Gaglardi (nee Sandin)

1909-2003

J.M. Gaglardi was born January 6, 1909, to John and Emma Sandin. Jennie was the third of nine children. In 1908, her parents migrated from Sweden to Canada close to the harsh, undeveloped countryside of Parkside, Saskatchewan, where they carved out a living. When Jennie was just twelve years old, she faced amputation because her foot and leg became infected from swimming in a nearby local water hole. A neighbour brought a Pentecostal Minister by to pray for her, and it was then that the Lord healed her. She was so moved by this miracle, that she converted to Christianity.

While Jennie was working in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, at the young age of 14, she was called to the ministry. Three years later, she joined other ministers and began opening up churches in Nelson, Kimberley, Penticton, Kelowna, Merritt, and then Kamloops. Jennie then made the decision to attend Bible School in San Francisco where she graduated with the honour of class Valedictorian. To go to San Francisco as a single lady on her own and with little in the way of money showed an unbending determination to fulfill the calling placed on her life by the Lord. Upon graduation in 1933, when Jennie was just 24, she returned to Vancouver where at the request of the congregation in Mission, she came to serve as their pastor. It was in Mission where she met her future husband, Phil Gaglardi, whose family were members of her congregation.

Jennie served tirelessly as Mission's pastor for four years before she felt a calling to open a church in Langley. While she was ministering in Langley, she married Phil but only on the condition that he became an ordained minister as well. Together they pastored and served the community of Langley for six years.

In 1944, at the request of the Pentecostal Assembly Superintendent, they accepted the challenge to re-open and spread the word in Kamloops. They inherited a deserted Presbyterian Church and after spending many months repairing it, opened the church and pastored there for the next 50 years. They expanded it four times and developed the largest Pentecostal Sunday School in Canada. Additionally, in conjunction with Phil, Jennie broadcasted a popular children's radio program called "Aunt Jennie's". Jennie also served as the Church's Sunday School Superintendent and had approximately 1,100 people in attendance on any given Sunday, which represented about 10% of the population of Kamloops. She also conducted a two-week long Vacation Bible School where approximately six hundred boys and girls attended to hear her preach the word of the Lord.

Jennie's first and greatest love has always been for children. She poured her life into teaching them the joy of serving our Lord, so it comes as no surprise that her favourite passage in the Bible was Jesus saying "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these." We, her family, are proud to honour her and her life's work of sharing the word of the Lord with children, by dedicating and naming this tower in her memory.

