



Phillip Arthur Gaglardi
1913-1995

P.A. Gaglardi was born on January 13, 1913, to John and Domenica Gaglardi. He was the 5th of 10 children and the first born in Silverdale, BC, Fraser Valley, where his parents settled after they left Calabria, Italy, seven years prior, looking to escape the impoverished farm life.

Phil was only 10 years old when he got his first summer job as a water boy at the local cedar mill. At the age of 14, Phil left school to seek full-time work.

Phil had a very special relationship and bond with his mother, and it was she who developed and instilled in him a lifelong passionate commitment to the cause of helping others. It was also his mother who encouraged him to accept Christianity although Phil was slow to accept such a calling. When Phil was only 22 years old, his mother was stricken with cancer and before she passed away, she had a premonition and made a request that he one day enter the ministry and preach the Gospel.

When the Gaglardis, without Phil, converted to Christianity, they began attending services at a new church in Mission that was pastored by a young woman by the name of Jennie Sandin. Phil liked Jennie and although he didn't attend church at that time, he found out she had a car that was in need of repairs and he fixed her car. Soon Phil was converted, and following his mother's wishes he became a pastor with his new wife Jennie. He joined her in Langley, where they ministered together for six years. In 1944, after his two sons were born, they moved to Kamloops, BC to re-open a ministry.

It was in Kamloops that Phil and Jennie built the largest congregation in the city, as well as the largest Sunday School amongst the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Phil was a very popular man and a dynamic speaker. In 1952, he was asked to run for political office. He was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Constituency of Kamloops and became a Cabinet Minister with a portfolio of the Department of Highways and served for 20 years.

With the new responsibility of serving the Province as well as his ministry, Phil would spend five days a week in Victoria, then travel by Blackball Ferry and the C.P.R. to Kamloops and spend Saturday and Sunday ministering to the Church. On the weekends, he would tape five "Chapel in the Sky" broadcasts, one TV show, broadcast a live radio show, and minister three times before getting on the train at 12 pm to travel back to Victoria.

Although Phil accomplished much in his life since his conversion from a secular life to Christianity, and then into the ministry, those that knew him best marveled at his desire to be of service to others - whether it was his family, members of his congregation or the citizens he served as an MLA. He was a selfless man and his sole motivation was to be of service to the people in need without regard for his own enrichment. We hope to continue his legacy of helping others and his desire of serving and sharing the word of the Lord by dedicating this tower in his honour.

