

Jaffray perspectives



...fresh ways
of looking at
God's global
mission

Dr. Arnold Cook: Friend, Mentor, Leader, Pastor, and Missionary With Distinction

I am honoured to serve The Jaffray Centre for Global Initiatives at Ambrose University as Guest Editor for this special edition of Perspectives.

On January 22, 2020, Reverend Doctor Arnold Cook transitioned from earthly to heavenly life. This special edition was put together as a tribute to his life and ministry.

The Bible is full of tributes written of leaders, kings, and servants of the Most High who emulated the glory of God. While tributes may be written about those who have passed away, they are actually written for the living to celebrate the legacy of those who have gone ahead.

Due to time constraints and limited space we selected only a few individuals to contribute to this publication. However, we encourage many to send their tributes to the Cook family via the Jaffray Centre e-mail address, jaffray@ambrose.edu. We will ensure your messages will reach Mrs. Cook and her children.

Many years ago, in the mid 1990's, I was in Cairo Egypt, attending an Anglican Church pastored by a Canadian Alliance-ordained preacher. He was known to his parishioners as "Pastor Dave." I remember the preacher introducing The Lord Jesus Christ as a gentle, loving, and tender hearted shepherd (based on Psalm 23). After the service, Pastor Dave and I spent some time together in a coffee shop talking about ministering to locals, internationals, and diaspora people in Egypt. I asked him how he became a pastor of the Maadi Community Church. He said it was a long story, but while a pastor of Unionville Alliance Church in (GTA) Ontario, Dr. Arnold Cook inspired, mentored, and ultimately challenged him to go beyond the four walls of Unionville Alliance Church. According to Rev. Dave Petrescue, "I wanted my life to have 'Maximum Impact for God'." Indeed, Pastor Dave and his wife Brenda were used mightily by God. Rev. Petrescue is now living in the City of God; there he welcomed Arnold, his mentor, coach, brother, and friend.

Please read and be inspired and encouraged. Like Arnold's, may your life have a maximum impact for God.

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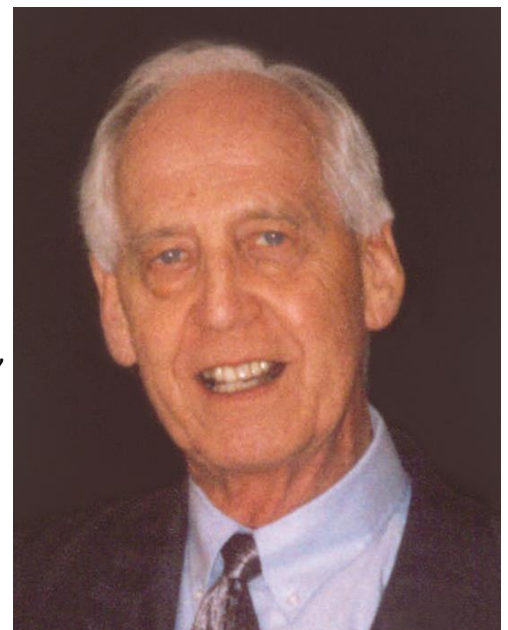
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Tributes to Dr. Arnold Cook

Over the course of our lives, responding to the call of God to pursue ministry and all of the preparations involved, there are a few people that have played monumentally significant roles. Dr. Cook has been a major Godly influence, an instrument of impact and direction guided by the Spirit of God. During our years at Canadian Bible College Dr. Cook was a presence in the classroom of missiology. He was precise and inspirational. As a college hockey coach, he was focussed and enthusiastic. As a looming presence across the disciplines of that institution, the aura and influence of his presence was massive as he urged us to trust in God with all aspects of our lives and with that posture and foundation, make our maximum impact for God! Dr. Cook became the vice president giving oversight for our specific move into a career in missions in SE Asia. Later as our President he specifically trusted us with leadership, providing further development and mentoring for God's missional cause! We are profoundly grateful.

Rev. Brem & Donna Frentz

VP of Global Ministries
C&MA Canada

Dr. Cook will always be remembered for challenging everyone to make their MIFG—Maximum Impact for God!

Dr. David Hearn

President
C&MA Canada

Every generation of leadership has the shoulders of a previous generation to stand on in order to lead effectively into the future. To me this describes the life and legacy of Dr. Arnold Cook for me. I came into the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada just a little before Dr. Cook took office. I always appreciated his singular focus of leading in such a way that the Church of Jesus Christ remain alive and vibrant for His glory. His strong stand on revival will long stand and like others before him will remain long after he is gone. In a day when the church has in fact lost its direction in many ways, Dr. Cook's shadow will stand as one of the heroes of the faith. His absence will be felt, and may God grant him rest from his labors.

Dr. Vergil G. Schmidt

Former C&MA Canada Pastor

Darlene and I first met Arnold in 1984. We were open to serving God wherever he would direct us. Arnold prayed for us and encouraged us on the path. Years later we served together in the National Ministry Centre of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada. No other man in my life gave more of his time to mentoring me than Arnold. I recall his back to back breakfasts where he would mentor two men in one morning. He is a shining example of consistency and passion for his Lord and the advancement of the Kingdom on earth.

Thank you, Arnold, for being a mentor and a very good friend.

Rev. Ken Paton

MICN Implementer
Former VP of the C&MA Canada

The Alliance in Canada has had a rich heritage of missional involvement in Latin America since the end of the 19th Century. We have gone from seeing tribes reached in the Amazon jungle, to seeing reproducing movements in capital cities throughout the continent. Even today we continue to focus on those places that are still least reached, while we work alongside the Latino national churches to help them become more and more missional as they reach the least reached globally. We have so much to be thankful for.

We are well aware, as is the case in ministries all over the world, that we all stand on the shoulders of courageous workers who went before us. Arnold & Mary Lou Cook were one of many families who decided to go to a land they didn't know, learn the language and culture, raise their families there, and expend the best years of their lives serving people in Colombia and Peru. The extent of their impact as individuals can never be measured, but we see the results of their work, and those that went with them, in both of these countries. In fact, Colombia and Peru represent the national church entities with the greatest number of churches in their respective countries compared to other national churches in the region. Both of these countries have taken to heart the concept of regions beyond, and regions around. They are churches that send workers to indigenous least reached people groups within their countries, and workers beyond their borders. Is this a direct result of the Cook's sacrifice and faithful service? Maybe not directly, but the answer is a definite yes.

We have seen the impact that Arnold had on the Canadian church after their return from their years in Latin America, serving as the head of the missions arm of CMA Canada, then as president, and then as the leader of the global Alliance movement (Alliance World Fellowship). He took what he learned in their years in Latin America and applied them to the Canadian scene, pushing us to consider the least reached within our borders, and beyond.

Michelle and I were directly impacted by Arnold's leadership as he encouraged us, still in our twenties, to move into an international missional lifestyle in the early 1990's. We remember his words, his posture, his passion, and his wise counsel. We can say that we too are fruit of the Cook's global ministry.

A General, in a famous Hollywood film years ago, called out to his men, "What we do in life echoes in eternity." How true this is of Arnold & Mary Lou – what they did in life, in Colombia, in Peru, and in Canada, continues to echo into eternity as hundreds of lives were directly impacted by their sacrifice and service. I join in with those echoes and determine to continue to lead a life worthy of the shoulders on which I stand.

Rev. Murray Derksen

Regional Developer, Latin America & the Caribbean
C&MA Canada

As a child I (Melanie) recall Arnold Cook staying in our home when he spoke at the annual missionary convention at University Drive Alliance in Saskatoon. As a small child, I was taken with how he pronounced “Colombia” in his deep voice, and his kindness in giving gifts to us children. I have treasured the fabric doll with leather hat, bead earrings, bright red wool skirt, and baby on her back. Arnold was the first person I recall meeting who opened my eyes and heart to the world.

After serving as a youth pastor I (Ken) returned to CBC/CTS and enrolled in the Master of Missiology program, largely attracted by Dr. Arnold Cook’s passion and commitment for reaching the world for Jesus. Melanie also sat under his teaching in the TEE program. Little did we know what a tough Prof Arnold would be and how this would also prepare us for what was ahead. Thanks again Arnold!

Next God led us to pastor in Portage la Prairie, MB. Arnold, then VP for Global Ministries, came to our small church challenging us to reach the world for Jesus. After the service he took us out for a meal and cared for us as a couple, loving us with pastoral compassion. When the slide tray of our South America trip accidentally dropped and scattered, Arnold sat on the floor with us and helped us identify and place the slides back into order.

Arnold’s next assignment was to be the President of CMA Canada. He felt the need to lead the CMA to focus our efforts and launched the Strategic Vision Task Force (SVTF) inviting me to be part of praying and thinking about how our whole denomination could achieve our Maximum Impact for God (MIFG). It was at one of those meetings God directed the writing of a compelling prayer that still pulls the CMA Canada forward... “Oh God with all our hearts we long to be...”

When God called me to serve the WCD as DS, Arnold, as the CMA Canada President, welcomed and shepherded me as a young man to influence and encourage our churches. His belief in, and support of, those who worked for him was strengthened by the freedom and trust he put in us. Our commitment to follow him was bolstered by his Godly character and unswerving commitment to the cause and calling of Christ.

Arnold left the CMA presidency one term early and took the leadership of another CMA body needing help. He next became the President of the Alliance World Fellowship (AWF). God used Arnold to strengthen the base, bring unity and financial support, and then effectively replaced himself with Arie Velduijn, a younger Dutch CMA worker, who led this work so well for many years.

Many of us know and thank Arnold for his long list of concise, pithy, and motivating phrases that have shaped our lives. These phrases had increased impact coming from man and a couple who continued to live and practice these truths over the long journey of life. Thank you, Arnold and Mary Lou!

Melanie and I just re-wrote our life prayer for the next decade motivated by our desire that God would enable us to continue living our MIFG. Thankyou so much, Arnold, for living your MIFG, for lifting our lives, and giving us the joy of serving alongside you in the greatest cause.

Love,

Dr. Ken and Melanie Driedger

MICN Canada Chair, Former C&MA District Superintendent

I met Dr. Arnold Cook in 1975, when he arrived in Lima (Peru) to set up TEE for the first churches resulting from the Lima to the Encounter with God (LED) movement that had begun in 1973. Don Arnoldo (that's what we called him) quickly blended with the team of pastors and missionaries, and formed several "peñas" (a gathering, club) where brand new Christians studied TEE. In 1976 the Lima Bible Institute was founded with 42 students, all of whom converted during the evangelistic campaigns in the church of Lince during 1973-74—Don Arnoldo was one of the founding professors. His quizzes in each class and his throwing pieces of chalk at those who were not very attentive soon became legendary among his students. Don Arnoldo was seriously engaged in the formation of disciples and workers for the kingdom. Today, in a WhatsApp group that we of that generation keep, we have remembered anecdotes from the times Don Arnoldo and Mary Lou encouraged us to give the best of us to the Lord. Undoubtedly, his life and ministry impacted that first generation of LED workers that are now scattered around the world. Thank you, Lord, for the privilege and blessing of having known Arnold Cook.

Dr. Miguel A. Palomino

Rector of FATELA

Dr. Arnold Cook was man on a mission. Whether teaching, preaching or playing golf with a friend - each task was part of a personal vision, "to bring back the King." Dr. Cook has been a mentor, a friend and a counsellor to me. I will deeply miss him. His example and passion for world missions will continue on in us.

Dr. John Healey

Former C&MA District Superintendent

I had the privilege of growing up in the same church that influenced Arnold toward Christ and toward reaching the lost of the world. I can remember clearly when we, as a church, commissioned Arnold and Mary-Lou to serve as missionaries. My family regularly prayed for them. This exposure was one piece of the puzzle that God used to call me into full time vocational ministry with the C&MA in Canada.

Arnold entrusted me to fast-track more mature couples who felt God's call to missions. He was influential in my wife Betty and my life in exposing us to many countries of the world where God's servants were reaching unreached people groups for the Kingdom. His influence on my life has resulted in 50 years of service through our denomination in various parts of Canada and helping equip His called ones to effective service. This has also resulted in us developing a ministry to our retired veterans (pastors & IWs) called POWER Team, honoring those who have given of their lives in service locally and globally.

Rev. Wayne Kerr

C&MA Pastor

Arnold and I both accepted Christ at age eleven. After graduating from CBC he said, "I know God has called me to ministry."

He spent 14 years as a C&MA missionary in South America, including 3 years in "The Lima's Encounter with God" which grew to 68 churches. Arnold was always open to the Holy Spirit leading and submitting to Constitutional Authority which I observed as I visited him in Lima. As a 42 year old missionary he learned from Bill Bright, "You can learn to love unlovely people by faith".

This transformed his relationship with his father. Let me quote some of his noteworthy statements:

"Christ our sanctifier is all about the ministry of the Holy Spirit."

"Christ died for our sanctification - the experience of becoming holy people."

"The Holy Spirit empowered me to live a victorious Christian life not a perfect life."

"The Spiritual condition must take priority over other things."

On leadership and the Church:

"The responsibility of Leadership "to see sooner" and "to see further."

"Decisions determine destinies."

"We need a tenacious commitment to Scripture - Inerrancy of Scripture and Authority of Scripture."

"Churches tend to lose core values and drift over time."

"Emerging church philosophy - potential to leave Evangelicalism in splinters."

"Let's steer right to go straight."

Arnold, a faithful servant of our Lord and gifted Leader of Leaders, has preceded us to Heaven. Thank you for your model.

Sincerely,

Jack Klemke

Founding member of the Board of Directors, C&MA Canada

We remember all the ways our lives were influenced and impacted by the life of Arnold Cook. First encounters were of a missions professor pushing us to excellence as we prepared our Area Study to head to Peru to make our Maximum Impact for God. As the process of preparation continued our lives intersected once again at our pre-departure interviews when Arnold had moved to National Office as the head of Missions. During the years that Arnold was the president of the Alliance in Canada, the trips to the office when we were on Home Assignment from the missionfield were a family reunion and a walk down memory lane. Praising God for a life well lived.

Dr. Ernie and Marilyn Klassen

International Workers in Residence,
Ambrose University

Few people have influenced me like AC, affectionately known as "Cookey". Friend, mentor, father-figure, and way-maker, my own career path took similar turns: Regina College and CBC studies, Fuller doctoral studies, Alliance International Worker, MIR at CBC/CTS, TEE advocate, seminary professor, and stint as VP/GM in the Toronto office. Always an encourager, he spoke with a prophetic voice. A listener, he was all there when you had a one-on-one with him. Another example was his ready acceptance of friend and colleague Neill Foster's suggestion to add a G to his MIFG challenge - Maximum Impact for God's Glory (MIFGG).

Author of many articles, I treasure my signed copy of his 2000 book, *Historical Drift - Must the Church Die?* He had some amusing idiosyncrasies, like his habit of turning right rather than stopping at a red light. Always on the move! He had me worried once when he was driving me to catch a flight at Pearson International Airport. Thankfully, I made my flight! And so has Arnold Cook. Deeply missed, his legacy lives on!

Dr. Raymur Downey

Former VP for Global Ministries, and Dean of CTS

Dr. Cook was a beloved Alliance leader with a deep hunger for revival and a great passion for missions. Rev. Arie Verduijn, former president of AWF from 2004 to 2016, recalls in his memories: "He was gentle, wise and passionate about the Lord Jesus. He would always call for revival of our relationship with Him. Among the things I learned from Dr. Arnold Cook was one that deeply impressed me: when celebrating the Lord's Supper, he would urge all present to remember those for whom the table had not yet been set. To share God's love with the nations was his zeal. He passed on that passion to the international Alliance family and to me personally."

Dr. Cook was also a prophetic voice and a deep thinker. He had a clear vision about the present and the future of the Christian and Missionary Alliance movement. Through his book "Historical Drift, Must My Church Die?" and numerous articles and academic papers, he laid out the foundational path for the Alliance, a 19th century missionary movement, to be faithful to its calling in the 21st century.

Dr. Jura Yanagihara

AWF President

I have known Arnold, Mary-Lou and their children since my arrival in Canada in 1971. We shared classes at Canadian Theological College in Regina for our Masters degree. On campus he was often competing with others in table tennis, chess or ice hockey!

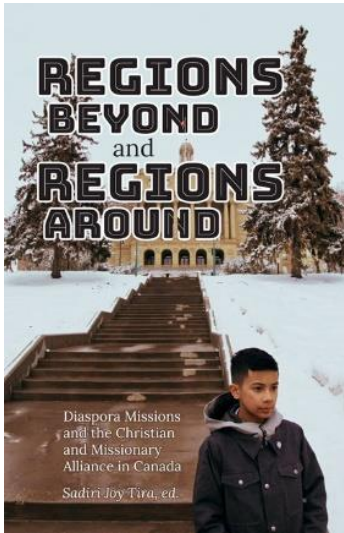
He unabashedly demonstrated his passion for the God of the Bible and His mission. In his preaching, teaching, counseling and writing he consistently challenged believers to make their MAXIMUM IMPACT FOR GOD (MIFG). Dr Cook would be fondly remembered for his love for his family and his love for the C&MA. His local, national and global Christian leadership was marked with credibility and humility. Mary joins me to convey our deepest condolences to the whole family. Grieve well and with pride for God's glory!

Dr. T. V. Thomas

Director,

Centre for Evangelism & World Mission

Regions Beyond and Regions Around



The dedication to the 2018 book *Regions Beyond and Regions Around: Diaspora Missions and the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada* reads:

This book is dedicated to the pioneering missions leaders of the C&MA in Canada –

Rev. Dr. Arnold & Mrs. Mary-Lou Cook

Rev. Dr. Cook served as Vice President for Personnel and Missions (1980-1992), President (1992-2000), and as President, Alliance World Fellowship (2001-2005).

Rev. Dr. Wallace & Mrs. Bev Albrecht

Rev. Dr. Albrecht served as Vice President for Global Ministries (1992-2001).

These Leaders are godly, courageous, and innovative champions of missions. Their missions insight led the Canadian C&MA both “in time,” and “ahead of time.”

In his review of the book, Tim Tjosvold comments, “As one who was strongly influence by Dr. Arnold Cook and was blessed through the leadership of Dr. Wally Albrecht, I find it very appropriate that the book has been dedicated to them. They created in many of us a heart that sought to hear God and to live out His heart for the nations in accordance with His plan. They were doing it and it was a joy and privilege for us all to follow.”

As Dr. Arnold Cook was passionate about helping people prepare for global ministry, the “Arnold Cook MIFG Educational Scholarship” was created in his name by the Onesimus Global Foundation (OGF). The Onesimus Global Foundation is a Canadian organization that Dr. A. Cook helped establish 15 years ago in his retirement, and the “AC MIFG Educational Scholarship” is a bursary for qualified international students preparing for global mission ministry.

If interested in supporting this ministry in honor of Arnold Cook, donations can be made payable to the Onesimus Global Foundation, and designated for the “Arnold Cook MIFG Educational Scholarship.”

Send to:

Onesimus Global Foundation
26 Peaceful Place
Brampton, ON L6S 4E6

For additional information, please feel free to contact the Cook family at ogfadmin@cdnglobalsoul.org