AIMEE SEMPLE MCPHERSON, MONTREAL 1920

17-year-old farm girl Aimee Kennedy experienced the "baptism of the Holy Spirit" and spoke in tongues. Within three years she had married evangelist Robert Semple, engaged in itinerant preaching, gone to China as a missionary and been widowed there. In 1912 she married Harold McPherson, who later divorced her because he did not share her call to evangelistic ministry. Her itinerant preaching, begun again in 1915 in Ontario, led her to Los Angeles in 1918, where she built the 5,300-seat Angeles Temple and became one of the most famous women in North America in the 1920s.

Her conversion came in Pentecostalism's formative years in Canada. She became the movement's most famous Canadian. Most of her ministry took place outside of Canada, but she did conduct successful Canadian tours. Her 1920 Montreal meetings are credited with establishing Pentecostalism on a significant footing in Quebec.

McPherson illustrates the role that women played in the Pentecostal movement, which stressed the gifts and callings of the Spirit, and was informal and fluid in structure. Her background in the Holiness movement was common among early Pentecostals. Their expectation that the Holy Spirit would work subsequent to conversion helped prepare them to receive the Pentecostal "baptism in the Spirit." *(Photo: Canadian Press)*

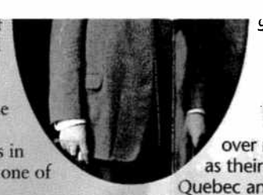
L. E. MAXWELL (R) IN EARLY GROUP
Photo (PBI Archives)

FOUNDING OF PRAIRIE BIBLE INSTITUTE, 1922

In October of 1922 classes began at what became one the world's most influential Bible schools. Begun by the initiative of farmers near Three Hills, Alta., Prairie Bible Institute (PBI) was led for 55 years by Leslie E. Maxwell, a dynamic Bible school graduate from Kansas. The school's enrolment became one of the largest in the world, by 1948-49 standing at more than 900 students.

PBI was not the first Bible institute in Canada, nor did it remain the largest. Yet for many Canadians PBI came to symbolize the Bible school movement, which played a large role in shaping Canadian evangelicalism. Its emphasis on a Bible-centred curriculum, its role in training thousands of foreign and home missionaries, its requirement of a highly disciplined lifestyle for students, and its reliance on "faith" rather than bank financing, to greater or lesser degrees came to typify most Canadian Bible schools.

Several other Canadian schools surpassed PBI in size by the late 1980s, perhaps due to changes in leadership, or perhaps because it did not join with other Bible colleges in moving to degree-granting status until the 1980s. Nevertheless PBI remains a significant institution and has left its mark, particularly in training missionaries. In 1989 the school reported that more than 2,100 of its graduates were serving or had served as foreign missionaries.


government-controlled alcohol sales, symbolically sounded

BAPTIST SPLIT, 1927

Canadian evangelicals did not suffer disruptive splits over modernist/fundamentalist battles to the same degree as their U.S. counterparts. Nonetheless, Baptists in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia did divide over the issues in the 1920s. The Ontario-Quebec schism of 1927, led by the gifted and contentious T.T. Shields, is the most famous, but the split in British Columbia occurred slightly earlier. Several churches in Alberta and the Maritimes left the Convention in the 1930s.

The focus was on Baptist institutions of higher education: McMaster University, then in Toronto, and Brandon College in Manitoba. Some conservatives raised concerns that these institutions harbored professors who no longer held to evangelical views of the inspiration and authority of the Bible and who also questioned other doctrines.

It seems clear that the majority remaining in the "old *action. (Photos: The Museum for Textiles)*

Conventions" held moderately conservative theological views. However, other conservatives, who eventually separated, were irate because the denominational colleges were not willing to expel modernists. Some analysts argue that strong personalities, especially Shields, were really at the heart of the divisions. Or that social changes causing the universities' middle-class supporters to desire more "modern" universities were the real cause. Both arguments contain much truth, yet it seems evident that very differing views of what constituted the essentials of the Christian faith were at stake.

The more conservative denomination known as Regular or "Fellowship" has become a significant group that equals or surpasses the old "Convention" in numbers in some provinces. In addition, some of the churches leaving the old convention eventually became important parts of other Baptist groups in Canada, including the Baptist General Conference and the Southern Baptists.
(Photo: Toronto Baptist Seminary)

NOEL PALMER (L) AND HOWARD GUINESS
(Photo: IVCF Canada)

FOUNDING OF INTER-VARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, 1929

Representatives from three universities – Manitoba, Western Ontario and Toronto – meeting in Kingston, Ont., in September 1929, founded Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada (IVCF), inspired by the Inter-Varsity Fellowship of Evangelical Unions in Britain. Howard Guinness, a graduating medical student from London, England, was sent to Canada by British students. He visited evangelical groups at universities across the nation in 1928-29.

Soon a national organization of evangelical university students developed. Denominationally very inclusive but doctrinally conservative, IVCF's purpose was to encourage evangelism, personal spiritual growth and, later, foreign missionary work. Noel Palmer became the first general secretary.

Until the 1960s, IVCF provided the only transdenominational network for evangelicals. Its network of students, staff and supporters was instrumental in the establishment of Regent College in Vancouver. It also played a significant role in encouraging students to serve as overseas missionaries.

A CENTURY IN CANADA

1899-1902 – SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR
1903 – ALASKA-YUKON BOUNDARY DISPUTE SETTLED
1905 – ALBERTA & SASKATCHEWAN BECOME PROVINCES
1909 – GREY CUP DONATED BY GOVERNOR GENERAL EARL GREY FOR CANADIAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
1911 – ELECTION OF CONSERVATIVES AND A NEW PRIME MINISTER ROBERT BORDEN SPELLS DEFEAT OF RECIPROCITY POLICY WITH U.S.
1914-18 – WORLD WAR I
1917 – INCOME TAX IMPOSED AS 'TEMPORARY' WAR-TIME MEASURE
1918 – WOMEN (EXCEPT FOR STATUS INDIANS) OVER AGE 21 GAIN RIGHT TO VOTE IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS
1919 – WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE
1919 – CANADA JOINS LEAGUE OF NATIONS
1921 – AGNES CAMPBELL MACPHAIL, FIRST WOMAN ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT
1923 – HALIBUT TREATY WITH U.S.; FIRST TREATY SIGNED BY CANADA WITHOUT BRITISH SIGNATURE
1926 – BALFOUR DECLARATION ACKNOWLEDGES AUTONOMY OF CANADA
1926 – DEFEAT OF PROHIBITION IN ONTARIO
1929 – STOCK MARKET CRASH & BEGINNING OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION
1931 – STATUTE OF WESTMINSTER FORMALLY RECOGNIZES CANADA'S INDEPENDENCE FROM BRITAIN
1932 – FOUNDING OF CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH FEDERATION (CCF – FORERUNNER OF NDP)
1935 – ELECTION OF FIRST SOCIAL CREDIT GOVERNMENT AND WILLIAM ABERHART AS PREMIER IN ALBERTA
1936 – FOUNDING OF CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION (CBC)
1939-45 – WORLD WAR II
1944 – CCF ELECTED IN SASKATCHEWAN, FORMS FIRST SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IN NORTH AMERICA
1945 – CANADA JOINS UNITED NATIONS
1946 – CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP BECOMES DISTINCT FROM BRITISH CITIZENSHIP
1948 – WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE KING RESIGNS AS PRIME MINISTER AFTER TOTAL OF 22 YEARS IN OFFICE
1949 – NEWFOUNDLAND JOINS CONFEDERATION
1950-53 – KOREAN WAR
1952 – BEGINNING OF TELEVISION BROADCASTING IN CANADA; FIRST STATION IN MONTREAL
1957 – ELECTION OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES UNDER JOHN DIEFENBAKER
1959 – COMPLETION OF ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY
1960 – STATUS INDIANS GAIN VOTE IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS
1960 – "QUIET REVOLUTION" BEGINS IN QUEBEC UNDER NEW LIBERAL GOVERNMENT
1961 – FORMATION OF NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP), LED BY TOMMY DOUGLAS
1962 – MEDICARE INTRODUCED IN SASKATCHEWAN
1962 – END OF OFFICIAL DISCRIMINATION ON RACIAL GROUNDS IN CANADA'S IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS
1963 – FEDERAL LIBERALS FORM MINORITY GOVERNMENT UNDER LESTER B. PEARSON
1964 – NEW CANADIAN "MAPLE LEAF" FLAG ADOPTED
1965 – FREE TRADE IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY ESTABLISHED BY AUTO PACT WITH U.S.
1967 – CANADA'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION; EXPO '67 DRAWS 50 MILLION VISITORS
1968 – PIERRE ELLIOT TRUDEAU LEADS FEDERAL LIBERALS TO VICTORY
1969 – INTRODUCTION OF WHITE PAPER ON INDIAN AFFAIRS CONTRIBUTES TO INCREASING NATIVE ACTIVISM
1969 – ACCESS TO ABORTION UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS LEGALIZED BY PARLIAMENT
1970 – OCTOBER CRISIS IN QUEBEC; TRUDEAU INVOKES WAR MEASURES ACT

A CENTURY AMONG EVANGELICALS

1906 – BEGINNINGS OF PENTECOSTALISM IN CANADA
1906 – APPOINTMENT OF JOHN MCNICOL AS PRINCIPAL OF CANADA'S OLDEST BIBLE SCHOOL, TORONTO BIBLE COLLEGE (NOW TYNDALE)
1907 – CONVERSION TO PENTECOSTALISM OF AIMEE KENNEDY (LATER, AIMEE SEMPLE MCPHERSON)
1907 – BEGINNINGS OF CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE IN NOVA SCOTIA
1909 – HOLINESS BIBLE COLLEGE, WESTERN CANADA'S FIRST BIBLE SCHOOL, ESTABLISHED IN CRYSTAL CITY, MB
1910 – FOUNDING OF WINNIPEG'S ELIM CHAPEL
1913 – HERBERT BIBLE SCHOOL, FIRST MENNONITE BIBLE SCHOOL IN WESTERN CANADA, ESTABLISHED IN HERBERT, SASK.
1916 – SPLIT IN HOLINESS MOVEMENT CHURCH AND FOUNDING OF STANDARD CHURCH OF AMERICA BY RALPH HORNER
1920 – MONTREAL MEETINGS OF AIMEE SEMPLE MCPHERSON
1922 – FIRST CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE CHURCH FOUNDED IN WESTERN CANADA
1922 – FOUNDING OF PRAIRIE BIBLE INSTITUTE, THREE HILLS, AB.
1923 – CHARLES S. PRICE EVANGELISTIC AND HEALING MEETINGS SHAKE VICTORIA AND VANCOUVER
1925 – BEGINNINGS OF NEW WAVE OF RUSSIAN MENNONITE IMMIGRATION TO CANADA
1925 – WM. ABERHART BEGINS RADIO SUNDAY SCHOOL BROADCASTS IN CALGARY
1927 – FORMATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
1929 – SPLIT AMONG BAPTISTS IN BC, ONTARIO AND QUEBEC OVER ALLEGATIONS OF MODERNISM
1929 – FOUNDING OF CANADIAN PENTECOSTAL BIBLE COLLEGE FOUNDED IN WINNIPEG
1933 – PENTECOSTAL SCHOOL SYSTEM BEGINS IN NEWFOUNDLAND
1935 – FOUNDING OF INTER-VARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
1938 – SECULARIZATION OF BRIERCREST BIBLE INSTITUTE (NOW COLLEGE), NEAR CARONPORT, SASK.
1938 – OSCAR LOWRY, EVANGELISTIC BROADCASTS FROM CALGARY HELP SPARK REVIVAL IN WESTERN CANADA
1939 – CONTINUING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA
1941 – FOUNDING OF MISSIONARY ALLIANCE IN REGINA, SASK.
1944 – THOMAS CLEMENT (TOMMY) DOUGLAS, EX-BAPTIST MINISTER, LEADS COOPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH FEDERATION (CCF) TO VICTORY IN SASKATCHEWAN
1948 – WINNIPEG BIBLE INSTITUTE AND CANADA BIBLE INSTITUTE (NOW COLLEGE) BY THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE WIN RIGHT FROM PARLIAMENT TO USE THE NAME "PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE"
1949 – NEWFOUNDLAND'S ENTRY INTO CANADA STRENGTHENS THE SALVATION ARMY AND PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES
1954 – PENTECOSTAL SCHOOL SYSTEM GAINS FUNDING IN NEWFOUNDLAND
1957 – SECULARIZATION OF MCMASTER UNIVERSITY, FORMERLY BAPTIST
1959 – HOLINESS MOVEMENT CHURCH JOINS WITH THE FREE METHODISTS
1960 – THE NAVIGATORS ENTER CANADA
1960 – MARITIME CHRISTIAN COLLEGE FOUNDED IN CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI, BY CHURCHES OF CHRIST
1962 – TRINITY JUNIOR COLLEGE (NOW TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY), LANGLEY, BC, ESTABLISHED
1963 – PIERRE BERTON'S *THE COMFORTABLE PEW* CRITICIZES THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
1964 – THE UNITED CHURCH LAUNCHES "NEW CURRICULUM"
1964 – FOUNDING OF THE EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA
1966 – SECULARIZATION OF ACADIA UNIVERSITY, FORMERLY BAPTIST
1966 – REORGANIZATION OF ACADIA DIVINITY COLLEGE AS AN AGENCY OF THE UNITED BAPTIST CONVENTION
1967 – SERMONS FROM SCIENCE PAVILION AT EXPO '67, MONTREAL
1968 – REGENT COLLEGE, VANCOUVER, ESTABLISHED BUT CONTINUES RADIO MINISTRY
1968 – ERNEST C. MANNING RETIRES AS PREMIER OF ALBERTA AFTER 25 YEARS IN OFFICE

(cont'd over)