

"The Christianity of Pastor Brown was transparently real. Like Moses of old, he "Wist not that the skin of his face shone" with the light of one who had seen the face of God". During the years of sunshine and shadow, he moved in the performance of his duties with a character that was universally acknowledged to be genuine and gracious and good. He had an enviable reputation for integrity and reality. But he spoke of himself as a sinner saved by grace.

He was freely acknowledged by those who heard him, an able and earnest preacher of the Gospel. As it was said of Rowland Hill, so of him, "his ideas came hot from the heart." He never preached as a dying man to dying men." He was not cold, calculating theologian, not the imperturbable controversialist. He was supremely a preacher pleading the cause and pressing the claims of his Lord. He was a teacher, too, and those who sat under his preaching enjoyed a rich teaching ministry; but his teaching was simply a means to an end, namely, to stir his people to greater zeal for souls. It was a sermon in itself to hear Mr. Brown give out such a hymn as "Rescue the Perishing, care for the dying." One immediately felt that here was a man who really cared for the lost, a man who was dead in earnest about this great business of winning men to Christ.

His preaching, though intensely sincere, was seldom, if ever harsh. There was a prevailing winsomeness about his delivery that never failed to touch his hearers. His sermons were truly messages from God's Word. He never doubted the inspiration of the Word of God, and freely quoted Scripture as the final proof of the truths that he preached. He was apt in the use of illustrations. At times his Sunday evening sermons saw him dramatizing some Bible character or event much to the enjoyment and profit of his congregation. One was not disposed to sleep when Pastor Brown was preaching. His sermons had a prevailing happy note in them. Touches of wholesome humour were not infrequent. Even when preaching from notes, his style seldom lacked spontaneity and simplicity.

Pastor Brown's message was Christo-centric. Many recall the familiar words for years inscribed over the baptistry of the Abbette Street Church: "We preach Christ crucified", Those who remember are witnesses to the fact that he was true to this great message of redemption. He loved to preach about heaven and about the coming of the Lord Jesus. He believed profoundly in the preaching of the Gospel. He looked for immediate results in conversions. His own fruitful ministry stands as a monument to his faith in the power of the Gospel to save souls.

As a personal worker, Pastor Brown was probably unexcelled among his fellow ministers in Toronto. He was a master of the art of individual soul-winning. His tactful, human approach seldom, if ever, offended, and often resulted in the soul yielding to Christ on the spot.

He was essentially a man of prayer. And God did answer his prayers. The Annette Street Church became conspicuous for its evangelistic zeal and missionary vision.

Mr. Brown was ever a pastor. He thoroughly believed that a minister should be both a preacher and a pastor, and that a house-going minister makes a church-going people. This proved to be so in his own ministry, as the large Sunday evening congregation who came to hear him attested. It was in these happy personal contacts with that his people learned to know him best. What cheer he brought, what comfort in sorrow, what hope in sickness, what patience in difficulties, what kindly council in perplexity! His nature was warm and sympathetic. Children were glad when he spoke to them, as he often did. He was God's man ready to do God's work willingly, cheerfully and heartily, for Christ's sake.

Pastor Brown was very human. Humility sat close to his heart. He had a warm Christian affection for his fellow-ministers and other Christian workers. He was the friend every cause that truly exalted the Lord Jesus. He rejoiced at the sound of every voice that proclaimed the name of Jesus. He disdained anything that looked like ministerial affection. He was conscious of his imperfections, quick to forgive an injury, and as quick to make amends where he felt he had offended. He truly exhibited in his life the Spirit of Christ. One could not always agree with the Pastor's judgment in some matters, but one never could doubt his sincerity. When convinced of a mistake, there was no hesitation in his frank and humble acknowledgment. It was this humility and frankness that made one so ready to overlook misunderstandings. Those who knew him best will recognize the truth of these words, and will bear witness to the fact that he loved with warm Christian affection all the members of the flock to which he had ministered through the years.

The fortitude and hope that filled his soul during the long weary weeks of suffering speak for themselves. To the very last he rejoiced in his Saviour. The end came quietly on Monday morning, October 28, 1935. As it was said of another, so of Pastor Brown, greatly beloved "He passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side."

*Dr. W. Gordon Brown, veteran Fellowship pastor and educator passed away July 16, 1979, while on a visit to England, Born in Brownsville, 1904*