Helena Dubland

JULY 26, 2014



Helena Dubland was born in 1921 in a Mennonite settlement in Olgafeld, Russia. In 1926 she immigrated to Canada with her parents, William and Lena Dosso, along with her two sisters, Mary and Kay. They settled on a farm in Gull Lake, Saskatchewan, where further siblings were born: Anna, Edward, Harry, Hilda, and Edna. Those early years were difficult due to the Great Depression and the premature death of her beloved brother Edward at the age of twelve, yet were also filled with deep family love. Greatly influenced by her grandmother, Helen accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior at age sixteen.

Educationally, she completed grade nine at public school; Bible training at Millar Memorial Bible Institute, graduating in 1943; basic LPN nursing training; Summer School of Linguistics at Briercrest Bible College; tropical medicine courses at Toronto Missionary Medical Institute; as well as some secretarial training: all in preparation for serving overseas as a missionary.

During those training years, Helen also served a stint with CSSM, teaching VBS and being instrumental in guiding many boys and girls to Christ. In 1944 she helped establish New Brunswick Bible Institute, serving on their staff the first year of operation, along with John and Maureen Parshauer.

Joining TEAM, Helen became part of the original formation of TEAM's "Tibetan Frontier Field." In 1948 she departed for India on the ship "The Queen Mary",

arriving finally in Bombay. From there she studied Hindi from 1948 – 1950 at the Language School in Landaur, Musssoorie, U.P. Then from 1950-1952 she worked in a medical dispensary, deep in the Himalayan mountains, on the borders of Tibet and Nepal, in the village of Dharchula, alongside RN Pauline Gibbs (Hanks). She told many stories of her interesting medical experiences there.

In 1952, while on holidays in Mussoorie, she met the love of her life, Olof Dubland, who was then in language studies. A whirlwind romance followed, and on April 24, 1954, they were married at Kellogg Church in Landaur. They spent their honeymoon at the Deodars Guest House, never dreaming that later they would establish a Camp and Conference Center in the same location!

From 1954-1955, Olof and Helen helped with the ministries of Landaur Bible Institute and then travelled to two small interior mountain villages called Sanudiar and Rawlizier, where they ministered from 1955-1958. Here they established a small joint Christian congregation, a small junior high school, and a medical dispensary, which Helen ran. Their two children were born during this time period, Edward on March 26, 1955 at Landaur Community Hospital, and Sylvia on January 29, 1957 (Helen's 36th birthday present!) at Barielly Mission Hospital. They were joyous, adventuresome years, with again many interesting anecdotes.

The family went on furlough to Canada from the fall of 1958 to 1960, travelling on deputation right across the continent, two small ones in tow. Returning to India, they were given their "Magnum Opus" of establishing a Bible Camp/Retreat Center in Happy Valley, Mussoorie, U.P., "The Deodars Spiritual Life Centre." They both worked night and day modernizing the 73 room "white elephant" mansion (a British Colonel's summer home) in the Himalayan foothills at(seven and a half thousand foot elevation). They served there for eighteen years, Helen wearing many hats: hostess, nurse, food manager, teacher, counselor, chief correspondent, grand organizer, etc., etc. She handled it all with aplomb and vision. Throughout,

her heart beat to see lost souls meet her savior.

In the last seven years of their service in India, Olof and Helen moved to the hot plains and were involved in a church planting ministry in Jhansi, U.P. Olof was the senior pastor of Jhansi Bible Fellowship and Helen was the pastor's wife and jack-of-all-trades. She delighted in her women's Bible class, many of the women being orphans from Donovar Fellowhip.

After forty years of faithful service, Olof and Helen retired to Abbotsford, B.C. in 1987, where they enthusiastically involved themselves in all the family happenings at Abbotsford Evangelical Free Church. They lived in the Avonlea complex. After nineteen years, failing health on both their parts precipitated their move to Vancouver in 2006, to be near their two children for care-giving. They resided at the Salvation Army Southview Terrace Home.

Despite all the indignities of old age and poor health, Helen maintained her evangelist's heart. Even in her last week in Burnaby Hospital, before her stroke, Helen asked Ed and Sylvia to pray she would be able to share Jesus with those around her. She is now with her beloved Savior. We know many will share heaven's joys because of her witness and life of joyful obedience. We will greatly miss her, especially her sweetheart, Olof. We love you Helen!

You are invited to leave a personal message of condolence for the family.

Messages of Condolence

I fondly remember Mrs. Dublin's radiant smile and her dedication to India. May God give you the family strength and peace in the days ahead.
Ed and Sylvia, we went to Woodstock together and I remember when your mom was around, she always had something encouraging to say!
you have my email address now, so keep in touch.
Hazel

— Hazel Giesbrecht

How lovely to read about the life of Mrs, Dublin. As MK's we watched people like these move about in the orbit of our lives, but we never really knew them - as they were friends and colleagues of our parents. Really she was quite an amazing person, as I'm sure her friends and family members were well aware of long ago! Sending my condolences and prayers for God's comfort to Ed and Sylvia and all of the family members who will miss Helena. -Hilda Reed

(Side-note: We now live on the campus of Briercrest Bible College, a place that continues to send out many missions minded people!)

— Hilda (Giesbrecht) Reed

To the Family
We recall with much joy the times that we spent with Olaf and Helena in Abbotsford at the EV Free Church as well as in our home as part of a care group. Helena and her positive attitude and her prayers will be sorely missed but she is now in her Heavenly Home. Our condolences to the family. (Dr.) Rudy and Ruby Hamm

— Rudy and Ruby Hamm

To the family, your mom was such a sweet and kind lady. We loved visiting and sharing a meal once in a while. Len's mom Mary Doerksen (Manitoba) sends her prayers and love. We were very blessed to have her count us as her dear friends. We are praying for your dad during this time; they were a wonderful couple. Very caring and hospitable. Psalm 115:16 "Precious in the sight of the Lord, is the death of his faithful servants" Your mom was indeed a faithful servant of Jesus Christ and she is very precious to Him. May the Holy Spirit cover you all with His comfort and mercy. Elizabeth

— Elizabeth and Len Doerksen

Olof,Ed,Sylvia & families, at this time of sorrow, may your heart be comforted and your spirit
renewed by the Lord's loving presence. Revelations 21:4
May memories of your loved one live on in your heart forever.
It was a pleasure keeping in touch with Olof and Helena throughout the years.God Bless You!
Our condolences and prayers,
With love from your Cousin Helena & Gerry.

— Gerry & Helena Doeksen

My mom (Helen Regier, Abbotsford, BC) asked that I send her condolences to you and your family. She and my dad (and all of us) were touched by your family. best regards, Sue Bedford

— Helen Regier

My journey to the lord began with Sunday school in jbf by aunty Helen dubland…my foundation for life was laid by her.

— Raju Samuel

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https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/dubland-helena

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