



the Harvester

A Harvest House Newsletter | Winter 2023

Remembering Dr. Paul Merkley

It is difficult to put into words the lasting positive impact that Dr. Paul Merkley had on Harvest House. The many lives he blessed at Harvest House are a living testimony to his legacy.

For 32 years, he was a faithful member of the Harvest House board of directors. He also volunteered his time to teach an evening Bible study that had a great impact on the men in recovery at Harvest House.



*"I met Dr. Paul Merkley in the early 1990s when we both served on the Chaplaincy Council at Carleton University. He immediately became interested in our work at Harvest House Ministries when he realized that I was the founder's wife. His support for the ministry led to his serving on our Board of Directors and eventually accepting the position of President of the Board. **Always a teacher at heart and a committed Christian, he subsequently offered his services teaching Bible Studies to the residents once a week for many years.** He was faithful, a man of integrity, but also never failed to kindly remark when one missed an opportunity to let others know of your love for the Lord. He was a special person and one that I was blessed to know."*

- Katherine Main, wife of Harvest House's founder

Dr. Merkley had a way of making people feel loved and important. He had great success as a university professor and scholar, but this never kept him from relating to the men at Harvest House.

*"Dr. Merkley was a humble man who made others feel important, interesting and of worth. **A handshake from Dr. Merkley was always with both hands.**"*

- Cathy, Harvest House graduate and staff member

HARVEST HOUSE MINISTRIES OF OTTAWA-CARLETON MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Harvest House Ministries is to rehabilitate young men who are chemically dependent, to instill in them self-discipline, and to reintegrate them into society by an inner change brought about by faith in Jesus Christ.



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Harvest House Ministries

3435 Ramsayville Road

Ottawa, ON K1G 3N2

Tel: 613-521-9114

www.harvesthouse.org

*"When I met Dr. Merkley, I appreciated his willingness to come in every week and teach us about the Bible. During my stay at Harvest House, **he took a genuine interest in me** and made a point of always seeing how I was doing every week. He would take time to explain Scriptures to me and help me understand the stories in the Bible. My relationship with Christ would not be what it is today without the help of Dr. Merkley and the staff at Harvest House."*

- Chris, Harvest House graduate

"Paul always made me feel valuable to him, especially when I was earlier in my recovery. There was never a conversation with Paul that I did not walk away feeling better about things."

- Tim, Harvest House graduate

Dr. Merkley was full of encouragement and support, reminding people that they were much more capable than they thought.

*"In 1993, when I came to work at Harvest House and had no experience in accounting, Dr. Merkley was the president of the board and he **literally changed the course of my life by giving me a chance** to work in the accounting and put everything in order. Because of that, I ended up becoming the executive director. We worked closely for 25 years, which was a real blessing for me."*

- Nicole, Former Executive Director (2008-2019)

Years and even decades later, Dr. Merkley's words of wisdom have stuck in people's minds.

*"**'A son of God', is what Dr. Merkley said I was when I asked him who we are.** I struggled with my identify for years and after going to Harvest House and meeting Dr. Merkley, he taught me a different perspective on who God is and who I am. I'll never forget those words."*

- Blake, Harvest House graduate

*"Paul was a very humble man with a dry sense of humour. But he was also very wise. When I was preparing to move on from Harvest House, I sought his counsel. The one thing that really ministered to me was him assuring me, and I quote, 'The kingdom of God extends beyond the borders of Harvest House'. While I knew it was my time to leave the nest, **his simple word of encouragement ignited a real sense of peace at a very big transitional time in my life.**"*

- Corey, Harvest House graduate

As a history professor, Dr. Merkley valued education and learning. He was a huge supporter of Harvest House's continuing education program. Whether someone was writing their high school equivalency exam, starting out in university, or beginning graduate school, Dr. Merkley was there to offer enthusiastic encouragement.

*"Dr. Merkley had a tremendous impact on my recovery. When I was in the program, he taught me about the Bible and how to read it. **He continued to support me when I went to university,** providing advice on navigating the academic world. I am grateful for the time he always took to speak with me."*

- Dan, Harvest House graduate and program director



Dr. Merkley at Harvest House's 2010 GED graduation

*"Paul was a history professor, and his love of history came through in almost everything he did. **He knew how important it was for men in recovery to understand their own personal history.** Paul would often say 'knowledge is power' and he encouraged the men at Harvest House to use their increasing knowledge in their recovery. In his Bible study classes, he taught that spiritual power comes from reading and understanding the Bible. He was thrilled when men participated in the GED program."*

- Jill, President of the Harvest House Board

Story continued on back...

YES! I am interested in supporting Harvest House through easy Monthly Giving!
Your participation in our Monthly Giving Program will have a substantial impact on our program.

I wish to pledge \$ _____ per month beginning in the month of _____ (all debits occur on the 15th of the month).

Mailing Address for Tax Receipt:

*If any of your information has changed please update that information here.

Name: _____

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☐ Bank Account (enclose void cheque)

☐ Visa

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Credit Card No.: _____

Expiry: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please make your cheque payable to Harvest House Ministries and enclose this card to ensure delivery of your tax receipt for donations of \$10 or more. One tax receipt will be issued for the full amount of your monthly donations at the end of the year.

Charitable Registration No. 132517269RR0001



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Harvest House Ministries 3435 Ramsayville Road, Ottawa, ON K1G 3N2 Phone: 613-521-9114 www.harvesthouse.org

"Dr. Merkley, Professor Emeritus from Carleton University, was a long-term volunteer at Harvest House Ministries. He brought his spiritual strength and knowledge to the young men in recovery, but was also a great help to the young men doing their GED and to those graduates who were continuing their education in a post-secondary environment. His love, patience and knowledge will live on in the lives of so many. He will be missed."

- Leslie, Executive Director

Dr. Merkley helped to make Harvest House what it is today and his legacy continues in the lives of the many people he blessed over the years.



Dr. Merkley and Bill Main at the 2010 Harvest House Recovery Cup

"Dr. Paul came to Harvest House during a time of stress to the board and management and he brought to this group a spirit of peace and equanimity. What Paul promised would be a short time ended up being nearly 40 years, not only serving on the board but serving as a regular teacher to the young men in the program about our life in Christ. He will be sorely missed."

- Bill Main, Founder

**Dr. Merkley was a shining example of compassion and God's love.
In honour of his memory and commitment to learning, Harvest House has established a bursary in his name that will be used to help fund the continuing education of Harvest House graduates.**

YES!

I want to make a difference in my community!

Your investment goes a long way towards saving lives!

☐ \$30 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250

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Please make your cheque payable to Harvest House Ministries and enclose this card to ensure delivery of your tax receipt for donations of \$10 or more.

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