



# *the* Harvester

A Harvest House Newsletter | Summer 2023



## Celebrating 50 Years of Sobriety: One Day at a Time for 18,250 Days

On June 4, the founder of Harvest House, William Main, celebrated 50 years of sobriety.

He has truly lived out the Alcoholics Anonymous principle that we "keep what we have by giving it away". During his half century of sobriety, he has committed his life to helping young men get sober and turn their lives over to Jesus.

In honour of the many lives that he has changed, we have collected quotes from a handful of Harvest House graduates and staff members, both past and present.

*Story continued on page 2...*

### **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.



[www.harvesthouse.org](http://www.harvesthouse.org)



@harvesthouseottawa



@harvesthouseottawa

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Jill Ferne

### Past Presidents

Dr. Paul Merkley

Peter Brown

### Treasurer

Andrew Robertson

### Secretary

David Haight

### Directors at Large

Joseph Plaschy

Debbie Brown

Peter Brown

Peggy Steele

## STAFF

### Founder | Managing Director

Rev. William Main

### Executive Director

Leslie Main

### Director - Program

Dr. Dan Crépault, PhD (Criminology)

### Associate Director - Client Services

Randall James, Paralegal

### Associate Director - Program Development

Dr. Charissa Weir, PhD (Criminology)

### Coordinator of Records & Counselling

Dr. Gary Wand, D.D (Hon)

### Counsellors

Cathy Easter, ICADC

Corey Clouthier, CCAC

### Administration

Rose-Anne Roy

Josée Gaudette

Jonie Wicks

## THE HARVESTER IS PUBLISHED BY:

### Harvest House Ministries

3435 Ramsayville Road

Ottawa, ON K1G 3N2

Tel: 613-521-9114

[www.harvesthouse.org](http://www.harvesthouse.org)

*"For 44 of his 50 years of sobriety, my dear friend William Main has quietly, humbly, lovingly, unassumingly, unwaveringly and with much personal sacrifice, led the ministry to which he was called. He has faithfully served drug addicts and alcoholics from across our country and around the world, feeding, housing, clothing them while leading them out of the bondage and slavery which is addiction.*

*As a proud graduate and beneficiary of the Harvest House Ministries treatment program, I will be forever grateful that you answered your call and stayed faithful to it. Congratulations Bill, on having achieved half a century of sobriety, one day at a time."*

— Mat, 27 years sober

*"Bill's inspiration and leadership directly impacted who I am today, better son, brother, husband and father. Without his commitment to the young men at Harvest House, I firmly believe I would not have achieved sobriety."*

— Randall, 17 years sober

*"Bill is an extraordinary leader with a servant attitude. He has implemented God's vision of helping people break the bonds of addiction and has inspired countless men and women to achieve lasting sobriety. His example of giving back has inspired me to do the same, and I am thankful for his reminder that, "the day you plant the seed is not the day you eat the fruit. Be patient and stay the course."*

— Jill, President of Harvest House's board

*"At a time in my life when I was at my lowest Bill Main and Harvest House Ministries were there for me. I'm now in my 42nd year of sobriety."*

— Corey, 42 years sober

*"I am one of the fortunate ones to have stayed at Harvest House over the years. I've watched Bill change confused minds with a simple statement. I've seen him kick ass when someone wanted to quit. I've seen him show kindness and consideration to those who were maliciously using him and say, sadly, 'I may be the only Jesus that person ever sees'. I've seen him grieve at the news that one of us went out and did not live to get another chance.*

*Bill often laughs at himself, acknowledges his difficulties, and pushes himself to learn, learn, and learn even more. He encouraged us to do the same, and when we succeeded, he never took the credit but praised God for all his goodness and reminded us of what God could do if sought."*

— Cathy, 34 years sober





Bill pitching at the Harvest House Recovery Cup, 2010

*"All the most life-changing lessons I've learned about life, recovery, and the gospel came from Bill. And it's because of the things that he taught me and his faith in Christ that today I have an education, sobriety, a nice house, a beautiful wife, and a wonderful son. In AA they talk about how we keep what we have by giving it away. I'm grateful that 50 years ago Bill made a decision to do that because I've benefitted from it."*

— Dan, 18 years sober

*"On July 23, 1996, I met Bill Main, and he never ever ever gave up on me even though everyone else had. My life was changed completely at Harvest House.*

*Bill saw my "mess" and helped me turn it into a "message". He treated me and the other residents like family.*

*Thank you Bill for laying down your life for me. Today, I am doing the same for others. You are an exceptional example of love and thousands have been touched by your love for us!"*

— Rico, 20 years sober

*"Bill, through the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, always sees the very best in people and pushes them to achieve remarkable goals that would be impossible to do on their own. I came to Harvest House as a homeless drug addict from Montreal who had dropped out of high school in grade 11. My life, at age 27, was an absolute failure. Bill persevered with me to overcome a 15-year drug addiction and later would invest in getting me a master's level university education crowned with an honorary doctorate. He provided me with a lifelong career at Harvest House and never once gave up on me. He became someone I could trust and rely on in the toughest times. I will always be very grateful to have Bill Main as God's minister in my life.*

— Gary, 38 years sober

*"February 3rd, 1988 was the day I met Bill in a Personal Development meeting at Harvest House. I met a man who told me everything about myself—the bad, the ugly, and the good. That was 35 years ago. Bill saw something in me that I did not and decided to be my sponsor from that point until today. No matter what the subject matter was, I never felt judged by my friend.*

*Bill has taught me to be a better man, husband, father, son, employee, and friend to others. He has taught me to "fail better". He's taught me that "this, too, shall pass". He's taught me to "measure twice and cut once". Bill's messages about recovery and God have never changed since I have known him. Recovery has certainly been a worthwhile journey with a very worthwhile friend."*

— Tim, 34 years sober





*Bill and his wife, Katherine, at Harvest House's Golf Tournament, 2016*

*Bill and I were married on September 17, 1960 in Montreal, Quebec. Bill's dependence on alcohol and painkillers became a terrible addiction during the following years. In 1970 I filed for a legal separation and in 1973 I filed for a divorce. We had 3 children who were ages 11, 10 and 9 at that point but I had a good job and could support us.*

*This step I took prompted Bill to look for help at Alcoholic's Anonymous. As well as AA he started to attend prayer meetings with some of the group from AA, which led to a spiritual awakening. At this time, I was still living in the Montreal area with our children and Bill was living in Ottawa. In the spring of 1975 Bill came back to Montreal and we started attending a local church as a family. On September 21, 1975 we were remarried in that church. In 1977, we moved to Ottawa, and on December 1, 1979 Harvest House Ministries opened its doors.*

*We believed that if our faith in Jesus Christ could mend our broken relationship then HE could do it for anyone willing to put their trust in HIM. Bill became an ordained minister in 1990 and Harvest House Christian Fellowship was established. Quite an accomplishment for an alcoholic — Executive Director of Harvest House Ministries (40 years) and still the Pastor of Harvest House Christian Fellowship.*

*An AA slogan states the "God could and would if he were sought". How very true in Bill, my husband's life. It has been an exciting journey with the Lord in control all the way.*

*Your loving wife, Katherine*