

Early medical pioneers

Dr. Carl Ewert was one of the early pioneers in the medical profession in Prince George.

He was born in Kansas, but moved at a young age with his family to Winnipeg. After his graduation from McGill University, he moved to Nanaimo and in 1913 came to Prince George. Dr. Ewert held the office of City Medical Health Officer from 1926 until his retirement in 1946.

Dr. Ewert's favourite recollection was of his arrival to Central Fort George. In the early days the ferry docked west of the present Nechako Bridge. There was a long set of steps up to the townsite. As he got to the top, he could see flags and bunting decorating the street. He wondered, "How did they know I was coming?" In reality it was the King's birthday.

Dr. Edward Lyon, also from Winnipeg, came to Giscome originally and later moved his family to Prince George in 1919. Patients remember him as an excellent doctor. He was also known as "Fast Eddie" due to his penchant for large, fast cars, which suffered the occasional collisions with the "Silent Policeman," a traffic signal on one of the corners. Lyon Street in the Moffat Subdivision was named after Dr. Lyon.

Both doctors volunteered



Dr. E.J. Lyon, center, nurse Miss Ken and Steve Stevenson in 1926.

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From the ARCHIVES

time to test the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides in first aid.

In her book, *In The Shadow of The Cutbanks*, Jessie Bond Sudden, recounted how one such test went somewhat awry. One over-enthusiastic girl was to bandage Dr. Lyon for a broken jaw, while the other two girls were busy doing a broken arm. This poor girl was

nervous to begin with, and she tied the knotted bandage so tight that the doctor's face became "beet" red and he was unable to speak. He was trying desperately to undo the bandage when the first-aider thought he was testing the knot and gave it another mighty pull.

Dr. Lyon was purple with rage, and likely the lack of circulation, when the three girls concluded the bandage was too tight. They all took turns, amid shrieks of laughter, and the offending bandage was removed. After

yelling a swear word or two, he yelled "You have all failed."

A week later Dr. Lyon consented to retesting the girls, with them bandaging themselves, and gave them all a passing mark. After that, Dr. Ewert conducted all the exams.

Ewert Street and Ewert Crescent are both named after Dr. Ewert.

Good Call!

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St. John wrote in His Gospel that the most wonderful thing that could ever happen...happened... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Around the year AD 30 a message spread like wildfire throughout the Land of Israel. The message rang out across the land that God's Word had finally come and was now dwelling among men and women. This was the biggest news of the day; the major mealtime topic, the buzz of the market places...that He who was promised through the prophets had finally arrived...the seed of Abraham was here...ready to occupy David's throne.

It was said that his long promised Word brought rest to the weary healing to the sick, comfort to the afflicted, hope to the distressed. It was a Word full of grace and truth singing of a new tomorrow. It was a Word of righteousness and holiness, bringing to the light the open and hidden sins of those who were confronted by it. It was a saving Word...for if received and believed...peace was made between a Holy and Just God and a sinful people...It was an eternal Word for those who accepted it and followed it were given the gift of eternal life and it was also a powerful Word for through it lives were changed completely.

But most important it was a Word of Love, for by it we are called to love God and our neighbor as ourselves. This Word is still very much in the world today for sin and death could not conquer it. People are touched by it every day and many find themselves doing the impossible...loving Jesus Christ and each other. We are not called to love the person right next to us.

As you read this article, whether it be at home, at work, or in any public place...look at the person next to you on either side. Look at the person across from you.

Who is the person next to you? The person next to you is the greatest miracle you will ever meet at

this moment. The person next to you is worth more than all the world's wealth, for the Word became flesh for that person, and died quivering on a cross for that person, is even now interceding to the Father for that person, and will come again and receive that person

unto Himself.

The person next to you is an inexhaustible reservoir of possibility, with possibilities that have never been touched.

The person next to you is surging to become something in particular, to arrive at some destination, to have a story and a song, to be known and to know.

The person next to you believes in something precious, stands for something, counts for something, lives for something, labors for something, waits for something, runs from something and runs towards something.

The person next to you can live with you, not just alongside you. He or she can live not only for themselves but also for you. That person can comfort, assure, encounter and understand you...and in turn...he or she is to be understood by you also.

The person next to you is mystery...and the Word made flesh is a mystery. And how do people know that the Word has become flesh...not by our words but by our love.

Jesus Christ spoke these words 2000 years ago and still speaks them to-day:

"A new commandment I give unto you; that you love one another as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples."

By this the Lord does not mean you should admire the concept of love. He means you should love the person next to you. As St. John wrote in one of his letters:

"The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

So God's Word about Himself is a Word of love. The most important Word ever uttered is a loving Word. If you can love the person next to you with the love of Christ, then all that God possesses will be given unto you. Love the person next to you and yours is the Kingdom of Heaven...Love and all your sins are forgiven you. Love and your cup of joy shall be overflowing. Love and the sting shall be taken from death. Love and the Word shall come and dwell in you and be yours forever.

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