



THE
HISTORY
ENDOWMENT PROJECT

Square One World Media presents this book in honour of

RUBY QUIRING

in appreciation for growing the HIStory Endowment Project,
so that “by telling her story, we can tell HIS.”

I, Ruby Quiring, believe that we were created to be in relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and that sharing the hope of the Gospel is the most meaningful work God gives us to do.

I appreciate the mission of Square One World Media to share the Gospel through creative, quality and accessible media resources.

I want to leave a lasting legacy by ensuring that Square One World Media has consistent funding to share the Gospel for years to come.

I choose to support the ministry of Square One World Media through a legacy gift to the HIStory Endowment Project.



November 2023

Square One World Media: Carrying the Legacy of the Past into the Future

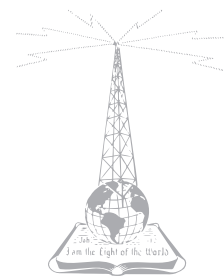
*“Your faithfulness endures to all generations,
You have established the earth, and it stands fast.”
Psalm 119:90*

Gospel Light Hour began in 1947 when a group of Bible College students in Winnipeg obeyed the call to use radio to advance the Kingdom of God. Throughout the decades, programs, and name changes—from Gospel Light Hour to Mennonite Brethren Communications to Family Life Network to Square One World Media—the goal has remained the same: to produce Christ-centred media that proclaims the light of the Gospel to all generations.

For over 75 years, God has led godly men and women to pray for, support, and work at the ministry.

And God’s faithfulness has been evident! Millions of people around the world have heard the Gospel message, and thousands have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Only God knows the full impact!

Square One continues to have a great team of men and women—board members, staff, and partners around the world—with a heart to serve God. They are committed to carrying the legacy of the past into the future: that of spreading the light of the Gospel into the world through media.



RUBY QUIRING Sparkling like a Rare and Precious Jewel

Looking back on a life characterized by faith, adventure and service, Ruby is satisfied with the choices she’s made along the way. Now, in 2023, Ruby lives in the Wintergreen Estates Retirement Residence in Regina where she continues to sparkle as she always has: like a rare and precious jewel.

Ruby Myrtle Dueck arrived in the world on October 25, 1934, in Lucky Lake, Saskatchewan. She was the second of six children born to Fred John Dueck and Aganetha (Nettie) Pauls.

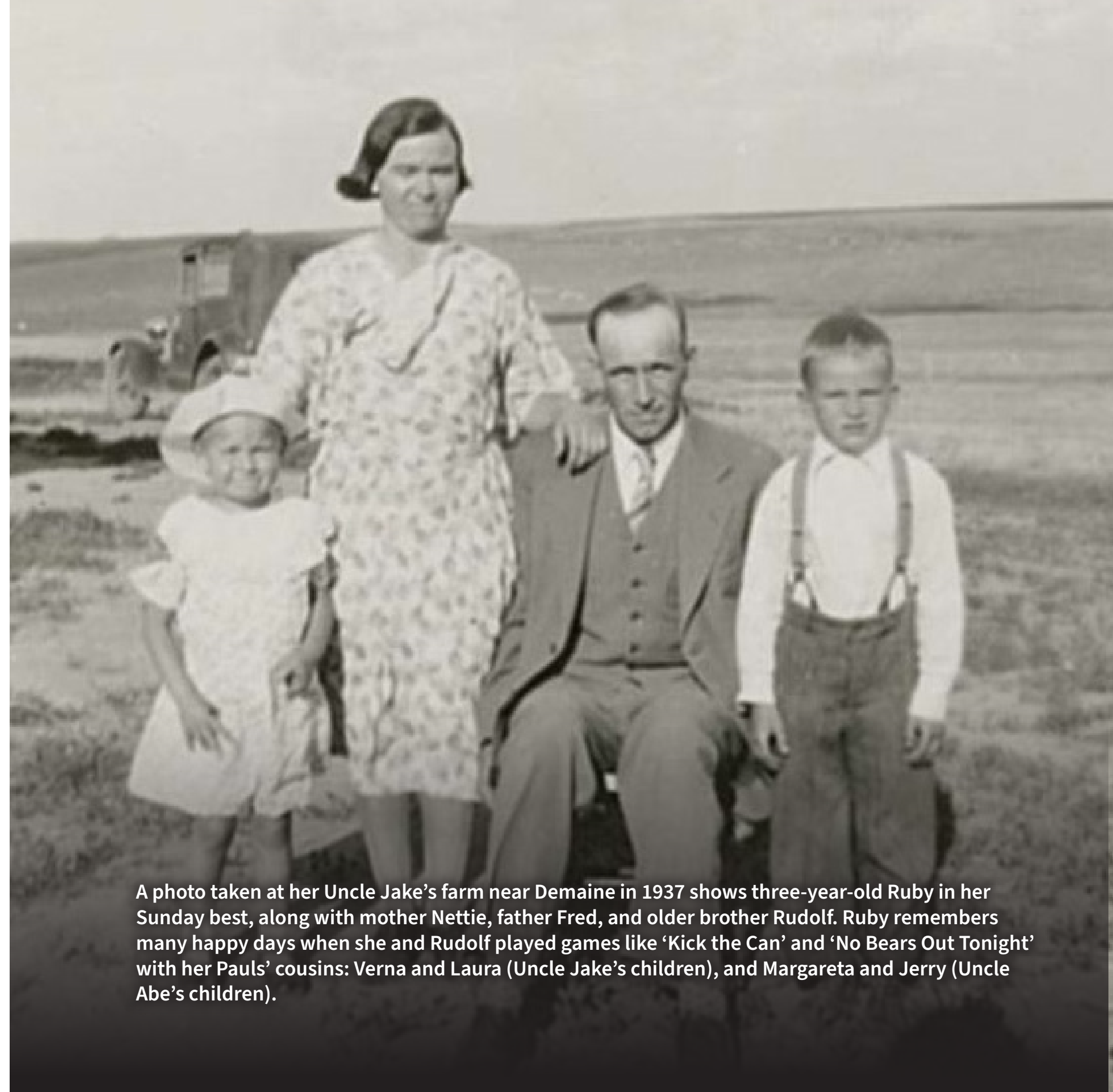
Fred's family had immigrated from Russia to Mountain Lake, Minnesota in 1886. When Fred was a child, his mother (Lena Fast) and stepfather (John W. Dueck) moved the family to Rush Lake, SK. Meanwhile, Nettie's family left Russia in 1923 and settled in Herbert, just down the prairie highway from Rush Lake. By 1931, Fred and Nettie had met and were married in Demaine, SK.

Fred and Nettie's first child, Rudolf, was followed soon after by Ruby. Sisters, Laura and Pauline, were born in due time. After Nettie thought she was beyond childbearing, the family was surprised with two late arrivals: Steve and Ray.

The Duecks settled on a farm near Lucky Lake where they grew crops, a large vegetable garden and fruit trees; and raised cattle, pigs, chickens and a few turkeys for Christmas. Ruby recalls, "Mother was an entrepreneur, selling cream, eggs, butter, and dressed chickens."

There was no local church, but Ruby listened to a children's ministry program on the radio. When she was about seven, the Main Centre M.B. Church taught Vacation Bible School in Lucky Lake. Ruby wanted her sins to be forgiven. She says, "I think I became a Christian because of the fear of hell..." Her parents also became believers. A small group began meeting in homes for Sunday School, and a preacher from Herbert, SK came once a month. The first baptism was held in 1947 at Bert Krueger's Dam near Lucky Lake.

Ruby recalls, "I was quite young, but I knew what I was doing. I dedicated my life to the Lord... and it stuck!"



A photo taken at her Uncle Jake's farm near Demaine in 1937 shows three-year-old Ruby in her Sunday best, along with mother Nettie, father Fred, and older brother Rudolf. Ruby remembers many happy days when she and Rudolf played games like 'Kick the Can' and 'No Bears Out Tonight' with her Pauls' cousins: Verna and Laura (Uncle Jake's children), and Margareta and Jerry (Uncle Abe's children).



Ruby, 1957, graduation from Bethany Bible College.

Ruby attended a one-room school for grades 1 to 8, and also took grade 9 by correspondence there. But Mother needed help at home. Ruby took two years to complete grade 10 by correspondence at home while helping care for her younger siblings.

Eager to be better prepared to serve God, she attended Bethany Bible College in Hepburn, SK for four years. The choir visited churches to sing, and also performed The Messiah. “We were not necessarily good singers,” she says. “But we sang anyway.”

Ruby moved to Lucky Lake and completed grade 11 by correspondence and then attended the Lucky Lake High School for grade 12. She was 24 years old when she graduated in 1959. She recalls, “It was a long time coming, but I finally got my senior matriculation!”

Mother and Father were pleased to support Ruby’s education with ‘egg and cream’ cheques. But with five other children, they eventually said, “We can’t do this for everyone!”

It was time for Ruby to raise her own support.

Her first summer job was at the Lucky Lake Hospital laundry. The next summer, she was asked to train as a nurses’ aid. She agreed, thinking it was only for the summer. “But,” she says, “being a nurses’ aid—caring for other people—I knew I had found my niche!” Ruby went on to complete a 3-year program at the Regina General Hospital and graduated as an R.N. in 1962.



Ruby, 1959, giving the ‘Toast to the Parents’ at her High School graduation.



Ruby, 1962, with proud parents Nettie and Fred at her Nursing graduation from Regina General Hospital.

Ruby's first nursing job was at the Union Hospital in Outlook, SK, about 100 km south of Saskatoon. Construction of the Gardiner Dam created many jobs and made the Outlook Hospital an active one. The maternity ward had been Ruby's favourite in nursing school, and here she had plenty of practice. She recalls attending the birth of twins, and also the night three babies were born on one eight-hour shift.



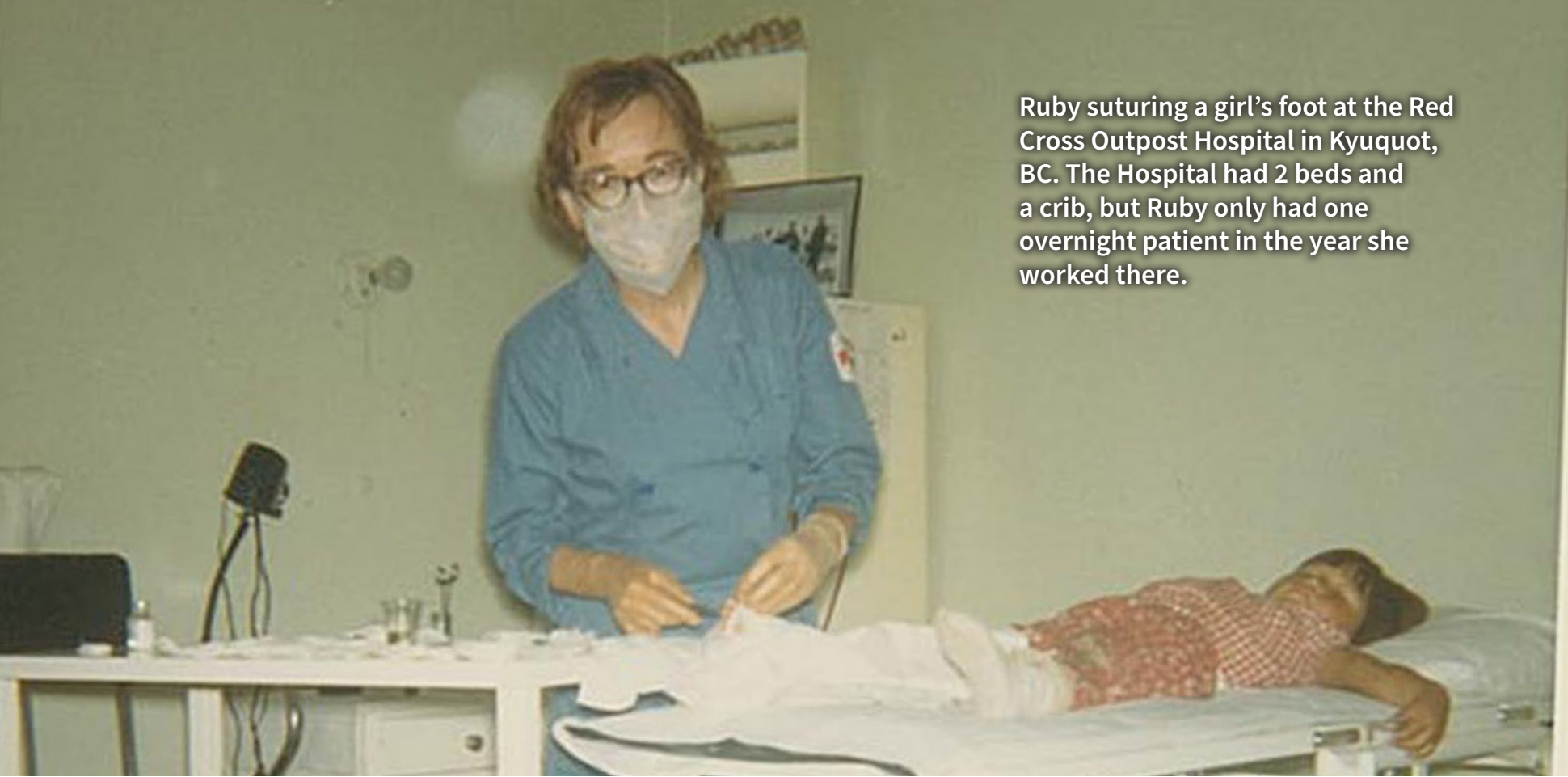
Ruby worked at the Outlook Union Hospital from 1962 to 1964. Her responsibilities included feeding and caring for the 'preemies'. She quickly grew attached to her precious little patients.



Ruby at the *Esperanza* Mission Hospital in 1964. Late one day, when it was too dark for planes to fly, a man came for help because his wife was in labour. Ruby delivered the baby in a nearby home. The next day, Ruby went back to bathe the baby. She said to the father, "You wanted your wife to deliver this baby at home. Now you have to chop wood and cook for her!"

A teacher in Outlook—Gloria Fuglerud—had taught at the school at *Esperanza*, a 10-bed mission hospital on Vancouver Island that served loggers and fishermen. Drawn by the promise of adventure, Ruby boarded a bus and then a freight boat and arrived at her new posting. She worked there for a year, assisting Dr. Herman McLean and Dr. Madelaine McPherson.

Esperanza, Spanish for "hope", was located on an isolated stretch of beach that was accessible only by plane or boat. It was said that if you could work at *Esperanza* for a year, you could work anywhere! Ruby put the saying to the test: her friend, Janice Bowdon, worked at the Red Cross Outpost Hospital at Kyuquot on Vancouver Island, a place even more remote than *Esperanza*. Ruby went to relieve Janice for a two-week break. She stayed for a year.



Ruby suturing a girl's foot at the Red Cross Outpost Hospital in Kyuquot, BC. The Hospital had 2 beds and a crib, but Ruby only had one overnight patient in the year she worked there.

As the only nurse at Kyuquot, Ruby was on call 24/7. She learned to do suturing, incisions, and drainage. She removed objects like peas and sea urchin spikes from children's orifices. The doctors from Esperanza came occasionally to see patients and sign prescriptions, and Ruby could call them anytime on the radio telephone.

One day, Ruby had an emergency with a child who drank diesel fuel. Ruby couldn't reach the doctors at Esperanza. But, standing beside the radio phone was a book about poisoning. It told her how to wash out the stomach. When she later treated an adult who overdosed on sleeping pills, she knew what to do.

It was adventuresome at the Outpost Hospital, but it was lonely, too. One day Ruby declared, "If I don't have a visitor today, I'm going to resign!" That day, a local man named Joseph showed up and they played Scrabble together.

Blackberries were plentiful on the island and Ruby's housekeeper, Anna Wickland, made the best blackberry jelly. She also made delicious brown bread and would bring a fresh loaf into the Red Cross office. "Pat yourself on the back," she'd say. "If you don't, no one else will."

When Mrs. Wickland retired, Ruby's sister Pauline came to replace her. Though Pauline was 12 years younger, she and Ruby enjoyed being together. On Sundays, they'd host co-workers and local loggers for dinner. Or they'd take a boat and explore nearby islands. Other Sundays, they'd plan nothing at all and see what happened. Once they boated to a reserve and the first "patient" Ruby treated there was a dog with an ear infection.



Ruby with her sister Pauline at the Outpost Hospital in 1966. A note on the back of the photo laments, "Where do you go in high heels in Kyuquot, BC?"

After a year at the Outpost Hospital, Ruby and Pauline moved to Regina: Pauline to take nurses' training, and Ruby to work in hospital administration. But before leaving, they canned salmon in pint jars to take with them to the prairies. Mother and Father were delighted!

Ruby was an evening and night supervisor at the Regina General Hospital, but she soon went back to bedside nursing—she preferred it, and she didn't want to work evenings and nights for the rest of her life. She began attending a Stonecroft Christian Women's Club. At the end of 1970, Ruby went to Kansas City, MO for the Stonecroft New Year's meetings. Stonecroft's founder, Mrs. Helen Baugh, asked: "Do they give valentines in Canada? I think it would be a nice valentine if you would give us your application."

Joining Stonecroft was a new way to serve God. Ruby was shy, but she was assured that the God who called her would also enable her. She emptied her suite in Regina and went on the road for three years. She and a partner travelled across Canada and the U.S.A.—wherever people had requested a Stonecroft Club—and looked for women to lead, host and coordinate the new clubs. Remembers Ruby, "Mrs. Baugh wouldn't let us leave an area until we had appointed the Bible Study coordinator."

Ruby felt stretched, but she enjoyed the travel. She fondly remembers each New Year's when "we'd all meet at Stonecroft Kansas City for 'a highly spirited meeting without the spirits'. It was a time of fun, sharing and encouragement. And we'd get direction about where to go next, and with whom."

Laura's husband was killed in a car accident at Christmas, 1973. Ruby left Stonecroft and moved to Manitoba to be with her newly widowed sister. She soon moved into the dorm at Mennonite Brethren Bible College in Winnipeg and worked at St. Boniface Hospital. Ruby had lived in many different places. "I was like a homing pigeon," she says. "I always wanted to come back to Saskatchewan!" In 1975, she moved to Regina for good.

By then, she was dating Jerry.




Ruby at a Stonecroft meeting in Brandon in 1971. Meetings were held in schools, community clubs and restaurants so that all women would feel welcome. The Stonecroft teams were in three different places each month. Ruby never liked to move, "but once we got settled in a new place, it felt like home again."

Jerry Jimmy Quiring had also grown up at Lucky Lake. One Christmas, when Ruby and Pauline were home to visit their parents, Jerry offered to pick them up for carol singing. Pauline said he was interested in Ruby, but Ruby thought he liked Pauline. It turned out that Ruby was the one Jerry had his eye on.

At the time, Jerry was working at local farms and for the City of Regina. Ruby describes their first date: “He took me to Outlook—to ‘Machinery Row’, as we called it—to look at machinery and cars.” In 1973, with the Queen coming to Regina, Jerry hauled asphalt to refurbish the streets. On the day of the parade, Ruby and Jerry were in the crowd to watch the Queen pass by.

The couple began a long-distance relationship: Ruby was travelling with Stonecroft, and then living in Manitoba. In 1975 when Ruby began nursing at the Plains Health Centre in Regina, Jerry was working at IPSCO in Regina. For the first time since childhood, they were both living in the same place. After four years of dating, Jerry suggested they could be like his cousin, Myriam and Stan, who were just going together. Ruby replied, “No way! Either we get married, or that’s it!”



Ruby and Jerry were married on April 23, 1977. The weather on the two previous weekends had been beautiful. Could there be a 3rd beautiful weekend? Yes, there could! The ceremony was at the Lucky Lake M.B. Church, with a reception and a ‘Come and Go’ following at the Legion Hall.



Ginger and Jerry in 1999. Ginger often went along with Jerry to West Bank Bible Camp. One day, Jerry was worried because Ginger didn't want to eat. The Camp Director said, "Don't worry. She ate the pork chops thawing in my office."

Ruby and Jerry travelled, camped and hosted friends and family—especially their nieces and nephews. One niece, 11-year-old Lisa, joined them for a trip to California where they attended a Quiring Family Reunion; enjoyed attractions like Disneyland and Universal Studios; and experienced a 6.5 magnitude earthquake!

Ruby had joined Parliament M.B. Church in 1959. Now Jerry faithfully attended church with her every Sunday. In 1990, they began working at West Bank Bible Camp near Swift Current: Ruby as a nurse and Jerry in maintenance. Kids at camp, nieces and nephews in their home, and teaching Kids Clubs and Sunday School were ways for Ruby and Jerry to interact with children. "I'm thankful God put us together with families," says Ruby.

In 1998, Ruby and Jerry bought their dream home at 50 McCormick Crescent. Soon after, they were joined by Ginger, a border collie who loved them unconditionally. Jerry enjoyed walking her and was pleased when people admired her. It gave him confidence to have something others appreciated.

Ruby had been working at the Plains Hospital in Regina for 23 years when she was given a cancer diagnosis that led to a lumpectomy and 25 radiation treatments. It was time for Ruby to retire. At the same time, Jerry's heart condition was also a significant medical challenge!

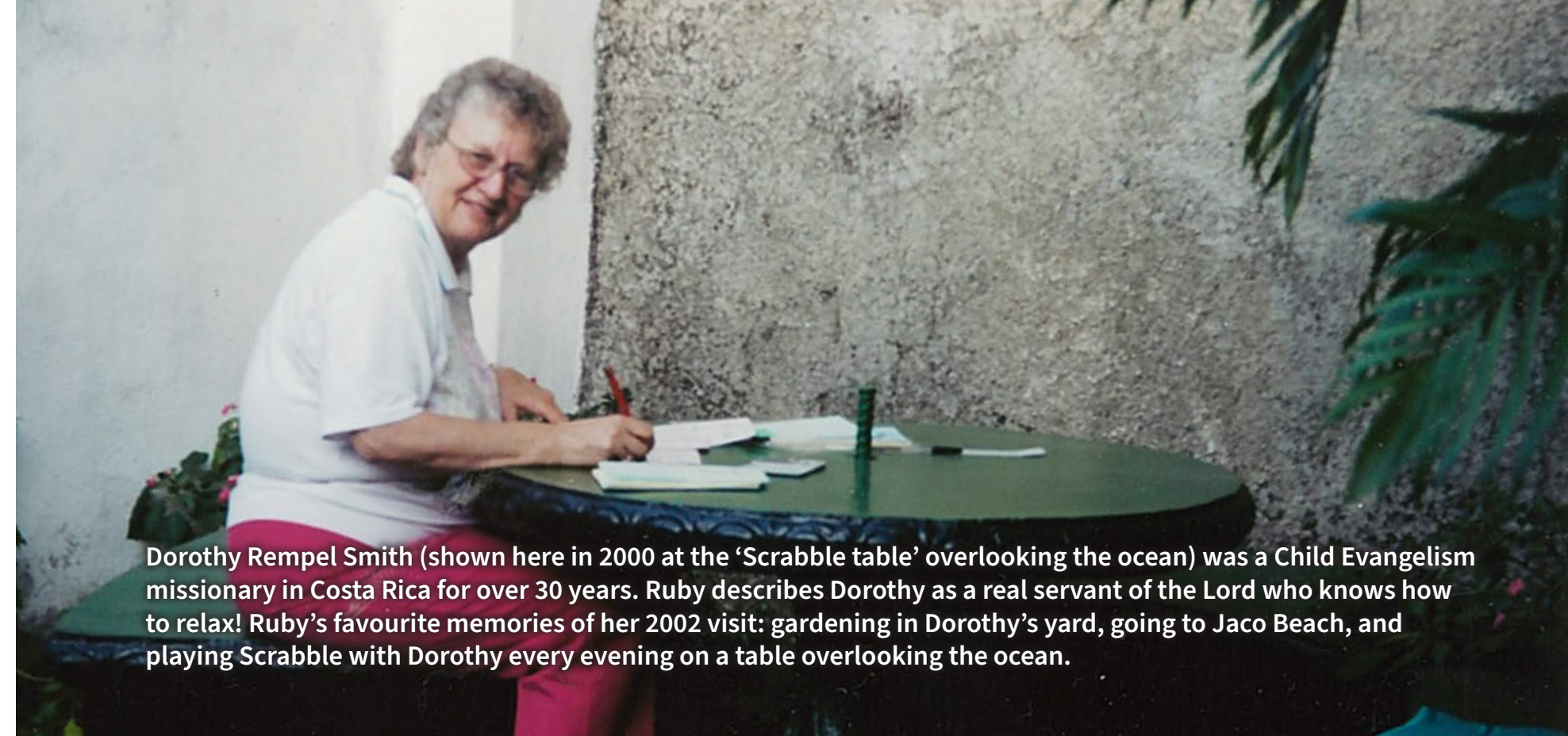
In June, 2000, Jerry and Ginger went to West Bank Bible Camp to help get ready for a summer of campers. When they came home, Jerry mentioned that Ginger had done a strange thing—she had slept with her head on his lap for the whole drive home. Ginger knew that Jerry was not doing well.

They had cabbage rolls—one of Jerry's favourite meals—and then Jerry walked Ginger as usual. Ruby didn't know anything was wrong until the paramedics brought Ginger home because Jerry had collapsed. He died at the Pasqua Hospital a short time later. It was June 10, 2000, and Jerry was just 64 years old.

Ruby and Jerry were married for 23 years, the same length of time that she has now been a widow. Of her life with Jerry, Ruby simply says, "I'm very thankful for the years we had together. They were good for him, and good for me."

After Jerry died, Ginger became a comfort to Ruby. Friends were supportive as Ruby learned to live alone again. One friend, Dorothy Rempel Smith, was working with 5-Day Clubs in Costa Rica. She invited Ruby to come visit after Jerry passed away. Though Ruby didn't go right away, she went for about 6 weeks in 2002.

In the years since Jerry's passing, Ruby has continued serving God. As always, hosting family and friends has been important, with a casserole in the oven on Sundays. Whether joining the board of the Regina MCC Thrift Store, sorting and packing books in her garage for Christian Salvage Mission, or hosting Bible Studies in her home, Ruby stays true to her commitment to serve the Lord.



Dorothy Rempel Smith (shown here in 2000 at the 'Scrabble table' overlooking the ocean) was a Child Evangelism missionary in Costa Rica for over 30 years. Ruby describes Dorothy as a real servant of the Lord who knows how to relax! Ruby's favourite memories of her 2002 visit: gardening in Dorothy's yard, going to Jaco Beach, and playing Scrabble with Dorothy every evening on a table overlooking the ocean.



In 2015, Ruby was thrilled to travel to the Holy Land with her brother Ray, Ray's wife Adele, and Steve's wife Theresa. The foursome joined Back to the Bible's Holy Land Tour, led by Bible Teacher Dr. John Neufeld and humourist Phil Callaway. Shown here: Ruby and Theresa floating in the Dead Sea.



Ruby's 'Wisdom to Live By' is threefold: To tell the truth. To love people. To be a witness for the Lord. Shown here: Ruby at home at the Wintergreen Estates Retirement Residence in 2023, still sparkling like a rare and precious jewel.

With moderate to severe osteoporosis, Ruby has had many fractures. In 2019, after a broken hip, Ruby moved into a seniors' complex. Wintergreen Estates Retirement Residence has been home ever since. Not surprisingly, Ruby hosts Bible Studies there and is part of the welcoming committee that helps new people settle in.

Ruby began supporting Square One World Media when she was a young adult. She remembers the early radio programs from the 1940s when the ministry was called Gospel Light Hour, and how the Henry Brucks' children's program influenced her decision to follow Christ. "I support and pray for Square One because they encourage people in their faith, and they tell people how to come to know the Lord. These are basic values for me," she explains.