

## Arthur Graham Maxwell

Today I will be reading the life sketch of my Grandpa:

Arthur Graham Crowder Maxwell was born in Watford, England on July 18, 1921. His father was Arthur S. Maxwell, known as "Uncle Arthur", the author of *The Bible Story* and *Bedtime Story* books, among others. His Mother was the former Rachel Elizabeth Joyce, daughter of Pastor Samuel Joyce from Ireland, who had several of her own stories published in the *Present Truth*. His Uncle, Spencer Maxwell, was a missionary to Africa. Grandpa grew up on the grounds of Stanborough Park, along with older sister Maureen, twin brothers Mervyn and Lawrence, and baby brother Malcolm.

The children attended our Adventist school in their earliest years, and later attended the Watford Grammar Schools. Grandpa was an excellent student, but particularly loved sports and music. He excelled at cricket and was even invited to join the city team, which he could not because of Sabbath issues. He was an excellent pianist, passing his piano exams at the highest levels, and could have been considered for the Royal Academy of Music.

At an early age, he accompanied his father on his many speaking appointments around Britain. At the age of 2, his first assignment on the platform was to stand on a box and recite a poem. Over the years, he performed in one way or another, reciting poems, reading scripture or saying the prayer. Grandpa loved to sing, and had a lovely boy soprano voice. He was invited to sing in churches all over England. The *British Advent Messenger* reported that in 1936, at the age of 15, "Master Graham Maxwell, the boy singer of the Stanborough Park church, pleasingly rendered the solo, 'How Lovely are Thy Dwellings'". It was his favorite of the songs that he sang, and he hummed the tune and recited some of the words now and then throughout his life.

One of his dearest life-long friends from the Stanborough Park days is Annetta Nelson McElmurry, who just turned 90 years old here in Redlands this November. I am sure she could tell us some interesting stories about the young and sometimes mischievous Graham.

The family came to America in 1936 on the *Queen Mary* (during a hurricane), and settled in Los Altos, CA where Grandpa's father became editor for the *Signs of the Times*. Little sister Deirdre joined the family in 1941. He graduated from PUC with a Bachelors degree in 1943, with a double major in Ministerial and Biblical Languages, and received his Masters in Biblical Languages from PUC in 1944. He received his Ph.D. in New Testament in 1959 from the University of Chicago Divinity School, and wrote his thesis on *Elements of Interpretation in the Translation of the New Testament* (specifically in the book of Romans).

He met the beautiful Rosalyn Helen Gildersleeve while they were students at PUC, and they married in 1943. They had three girls, Lorna, Audrey and Alice, who went on to give them 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Grandpa began teaching Greek at PUC in 1942, while still a student, and then taught full time there from 1944-1961. He became Chairman of the Division of Religion at PUC in 1959 after receiving his doctorate degree, replacing his dear friend Elder Lewis Hartin, who was retiring. He kept that position until Loma Linda University President G. T. Anderson convinced him to move to Loma Linda in 1961.

The family lived on Hillcrest Drive for most of those years at PUC, with such esteemed neighbors as the Hartins, the Mathisens, the Stauffers, Neilsens, Utts and Hemphills. Many of these people would remain dear and close friends for the remainder of their lives. One of those dear friends is on the program today. Dr. Paul Stauffer has greatly honored our family by coming down from Angwin to reminisce about Grandpa's years at PUC.

Grandpa taught at Loma Linda University for the next 27 years, and for 15 of those years he was Director of the Division of Religion. In 1983, at a ministerial retreat in Michigan, he was honored for forty years of service to the Seventh Day Adventist church. In 1988 he retired from Loma Linda University as an Emeritus Professor of New Testament.

Grandpa is known worldwide for his picture of God. During his doctoral studies at the University of Chicago he spent a great deal of time reading with increasing admiration the writings of Ellen G. White and followed her advice to read the entire Bible as a whole in the setting of the Great Controversy over the character of God. He found that the Bible contains a simple and a complete system of theology and philosophy. Upon his return to PUC, he set to work immediately to make courses available such as Biblical Philosophy and Biblical Theology, looking at the picture of God in all 66 books of the Bible. He took these courses with him to Loma Linda University, where he not only taught these subjects to the medical and dental students, but to the many churches around Southern California.

By the time of his retirement in 1988, he had conducted the year-long courses over 139 times with groups varying in size from a dozen to over 700!.

In the early 1970's, he met a young couple, Cherie and Garry Kirk, who had just returned as missionaries and were attending his classes. They so loved his message that, with his blessing, they began recording these classes, as well as his talks at churches, meetings, camp meetings and weeks of prayer so they could share them with their friends. These recordings are still being requested and sent out all over the world by the Kirks through Pine Knoll.

Grandpa also began teaching a Sabbath School class in 1943, starting with the Young Marrieds class at PUC, with more than 300 attending every Sabbath. In Loma Linda he began teaching a Sabbath School class in Burden Hall in 1961 which was quickly out grown and moved to Prince Hall with over 500 people attending. He continued to teach his popular Sabbath School class for more than 60 years, and they have been recorded

and shared with believers around the world since 1972. Many can be ordered or downloaded at [pineknoll.org](http://pineknoll.org).

In 1977, at the request of then Loma Linda University Church pastor and dear friend Elder Louis Venden, Grandpa Maxwell wrote a statement of beliefs entitled "Seventh-day Adventists Believe". This statement was frequently on the back of the church bulletin. Over the years, this statement was refined and improved, and is now titled just "What We Believe....". This statement is printed on an insert in your program and I would like to read that for you today:

"I believe that the most important of all Christian beliefs is the one that brings joy and assurance to God's friends everywhere -- the truth about our Heavenly Father that was confirmed at such cost by the life and death of His Son."

"God is not the kind of person His enemies have made Him out to be – arbitrary, unforgiving and severe. Jesus said, 'If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.' God is just as loving and trustworthy as His Son, just as willing to forgive and heal. Though infinite in majesty and power, our Creator is an equally gracious Person who values nothing higher than the freedom, dignity, and individuality of His intelligent creatures – that their love, their faith, their willingness to listen and obey may be freely given. He even prefers to regard us not as servants but as friends.

"This is the truth revealed through all the books of Scripture. This is the everlasting Good News that wins the trust and admiration of God's loyal children throughout the universe. "Like Abraham and Moses – the ones God spoke of as His trusted friends – God's friends today want to speak well and truly of our Heavenly Father. We covet as the highest of all commendations the words of God about Job: 'He has said of Me what is right.'"

Graham is survived by Rosalyn, his beloved wife of 67 years, daughters Audrey Zinke and Alice Lucas, sons-in-law George Andersson, David Zinke and Don Lucas, grandchildren Brandon Zinke and his wife Lora, Myself - Heidi Zinke Kohltfarber and my husband Bobby Kohltfarber, Benjamin Zinke, Devin, Adam and Ashley Lucas, Rob Andersson, great grandchildren Madison and Haley Kohltfarber, and Andrew and Abigail Zinke, and sister Deirdre Maxwell Smith, as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews.

We are fortunate today to have with us a boy soprano, Noah Epstein ("Epstine") from the Southern California Children's Chorus, who will sing the song my grandfather loved to sing, "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings". Maybe you can imagine Graham singing this song himself as a young boy. Noah will be accompanied by his father, Benjamin Epstein ("Epstine") on the piano, and Donna Samson on the organ.

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