

DEDICATION OF THE teBOKKEL WINDOW

Sunday, January 29, 1995

Calvary United Church, London

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Today it is our privilege and joy to receive and dedicate a new stained glass window at Calvary United Church. It has been installed beside the front doors, in the north vestibule on Ridout Street, and was manufactured by Edwards Glass of London.

The window is the gift of the teBokkel family, and is placed in loving memory of Mr. Gerrit Jan teBokkel. We are so very pleased to welcome the members of the teBokkel family, as well as their friends and neighbours who have gathered to share this memorial dedication.

Mr. and Mrs. teBokkel joined Calvary United Church in December 1973, and have been faithful dedicated members over the years. Gerrit was a teacher by profession. He was a teacher of carpentry and furniture-making, and also taught physics and drafting. His search for a more fulfilling career led him into industry where he practised his craft with diligence and ingenuity. He was a master craftsman, and ever so meticulous and precise in his work; a perfectionist by nature. Everything he made was done with exacting precision and careful attention to detail. He truly loved his work and found great joy and satisfaction in his accomplishments.

Gerrit teBokkel also possessed a great love for his church. At Calvary, he was an active, dedicated member of the Property Committee. He was known for his expertise in carpentry. The Benevolent Boxes and the Trowel Case at the back of the sanctuary are some examples of his work. He was a most kind and helpful member, often working quietly behind the scenes.

In keeping with his personal and professional interests, the Memorial Window portrays a scene of "The Carpenter" at work, plying his trade. The window also displays two wood carvings; carvings Gerrit made -- one portraying the Sower, and the other the Reaper. During his career, Mr. teBokkel sowed many seeds through his commitment to education, industry, community, church and family. The seeds he has sown are his legacy and will produce a fertile harvest.

Mr. teBokkel passed away on May 12, 1992. I regret that I did not have the opportunity of knowing him personally. However, in speaking with his family and friends, I have learned something of his life and faith. The one aspect of his life which they would emphasize was his love and devotion to God and to his family. It was his faith which inspired his life and work!

First and foremost, the window is given and received to the greater glory of God! It is a tribute to Gerrit's life; to his presence and work in the church. But, more importantly, it is a testament to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, whom he loved and served with faithfulness and true devotion! Today, we say "thanks be to God" for Gerrit's life and love and labour.

Calvary United Church is richly blessed with many beautiful stained glass windows. Each one portrays some aspect of the faith and life of the church, and serves as a memorial to those who have served the congregation in a most exemplary manner. The teBokkel window will enhance and enrich our community of faith at Calvary United Church.

Rev. Frank J. Van Veen, Minister