

MARY ISABELLE WELLER HAUPT
“ISABELLE”

Isabelle left Hagerstown, MD in 1937, not quite 18 years old, to travel to Texas to attend Shield of Faith Bible Institute with the intent of being a missionary to Africa. What a long trip that must have been! During the entirety of her time at the School, Isabelle returned home only once. Holidays were particularly lonely as the campus would be quite empty.

Isabelle quickly became busy at Shield of Faith. She worked in the Bookstore; was Assistant Bookkeeper in the Main Office, being in charge of all student accounts & billing; taught Business classes, including Shorthand; coached Girls' Basketball two or three times per week; and filled in as “acting nurse on duty” when needed by an ailing student. Other responsibilities included: Class Editor, Secretary-Treasurer of the Missions Africa Group, Literary Club President, Class Vice President, and Student Teacher. Soon Graduation Day came - May 24, 1940.

Isabelle received her “Exhorters” credentials in 1940; her “License” credentials in 1945; and, her “Ordination” at the Potomac District Council on July 11, 1978.

During her 45 years of marriage, Isabelle was a totally committed Pastor's wife and partner in Ministry. She unreservedly exercised her God-given gifts in conducting VBS, organizing youth activities & Christmas dramas, teaching Workers' Training Courses, playing the piano and organ, teaching Bible classes, and Pulpit ministry whenever needed. All of this on top of being a mother to four children as well as entertaining guest ministers and missionaries in the parsonage – and that means lots of extra cooking & cleaning!

Isabelle continued her involvement in the Potomac Park Camp Grounds throughout her adult life which had begun as a teenager. In the early years, she was involved in the Children's Church Ministry, as well as working in the Camp Office. In the adult years, she continued her work in the Camp Office, utilizing her excellent bookkeeping & accounting skills; she also was the Cafeteria Cashier. During the weeks of Family Camp, Sunday mornings found Isabelle teaching the adult women's Sunday School Bible Class. It is known that numerous men listened from their Sunday School class across the tabernacle to hear her teaching! Isabelle also supported the Potomac District Council as the Recording Secretary for the annual meetings throughout the years.

Isabelle assisted with the Potomac District “Women's Missionary Council” before being elected to that position, District Women's Ministries Director, in 1965. She was still in that role when the Lord called her home. While District WM Director, Isabelle served on the national level as the Secretary-Treasurer for the National WM Director Fellowship. Isabelle was in prayerful preparation for further ministry after her leadership in Women's Ministries would conclude. She sensed that God was directing her into travel and teaching nation-wide. However, she joined her husband, Ed, mid-1988, in the presence of God, whom they had loved completely and served tirelessly together!

NORMAN EDWARD HAUPT, SR
“ED”

Having had huge family responsibilities thrust upon him as a boy, Ed was a loyal and nurturing man. Commitments to the well-being of his mother and siblings kept him close to home. However, upon turning his life over to the Lord, his hunger in spiritual matters grew rapidly. God had a Pastor, Ralph Jeffries, who was willing to nurture the lives of young people in the truth of the Word. Bro. Jeffries took Ed “under his wing” and encouraged his “hunger and thirst” for the things of the Lord. As Ed matured spiritually, he knew that God was calling him to fulltime ministry. He enrolled in and completed the Berean Bible Correspondence Course as well as continuing his tutelage under Pastor Jeffries.

Ed’s “Ordination” took place at the North Carolina District Council on March 6, 1947.

Throughout his years of pastoral ministry, Ed served churches in North Carolina, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. There were also seasons of time when he was on the evangelistic field. In addition to his pastorates, Ed took on the responsibilities of being a Sectional Presbyter in the Potomac District for many years. In mid-1986, he was elected an Honorary Presbyter.

Children and Youth loved Ed! He expressed a keen interest in them and their spiritual development; they sensed his genuine concern. They knew he was “the real deal” because he not only preached the Word, but he also lived the Word! Ed had a fervent passion for lost souls which no one could deny. He was an inspiration – totally committed to enlarging the Kingdom! His walk with the Lord was punctuated by the depth of his prayer life. Intercessory prayer was a characteristic that was never forgotten by anyone who came to know Ed Haupt!

There are many people in the Ministry today who were mentored and encouraged by Ed Haupt to follow the Lord’s direction into fulltime service. They too were inspired by his commitment; it was contagious!

Ed was called “Home” in mid-1986, his last exposition having been 2nd Timothy 4:6-8, concluding with the hymn “It is Well with My Soul”. How appropriate!!

“ED and ISABELLE”

Their relationship developed and matured as a result of their mutual involvement in the Assemblies of God church in Hagerstown, MD pastored by Ralph Jeffries. While Isabelle was away at Shield of Faith Bible Institute in Texas, they kept their connection alive via letter writing.

Several days before Christmas 1939, a Special Delivery parcel arrived at Shield of Faith for Isabelle; it was an engagement ring! After opening the package, she took the ring to Bro. Shields, President of the School. Bro. Shields was both surprised and disappointed, as he was planning to offer Isabelle a staff position. He so appreciated her contributions while at Shield of Faith that he was hoping she would remain for at least three to four years. However, in his fatherly manner, he laid his hands on her head and prayed over both Isabelle and Ed, invoking God’s blessing upon them and their lives of ministry together.

Wedding bells rang on April 15, 1941. From then on, Ed and Isabelle were totally submitted to following God’s direction in ministry. They were both committed to intercessory prayer, which was evident to all who knew them. Throughout the years, Ed and Isabelle spent many hours counseling, mentoring youth, encouraging military personnel and families, and supporting Home Missions pastors and wives. The passion for the lost that they shared kept the “missionary vision” at the forefront of their ministry.

Ed’s sensitivity to the direction of the Holy Spirit brought about the transition from fulltime pastoral service in 1985. However, Ed was still committed to ministry, believing that “the Call” is never withdrawn. He was in absolute agreement with the leading of the Holy Spirit in Isabelle’s life for a nation-wide teaching ministry.

Their individual spiritual gifts complimented one another; never competing, but flowing gracefully together by the direction of the Holy Spirit. God created a great Team: Ed and Isabelle Haupt. Eternity will reveal the accomplishments achieved by our Heavenly Father through them, for His honor and glory!