

## BCBC Legacy Honourees: Ted and Margaret Cooper

When Ted and Margaret Cooper, coming out of a church that was abandoning the Gospel, discovered Westview Baptist Church in 1978, they recognized the peace that prevails in the body of Christ that is firmly founded on the Gospel of Truth and knew they were home; they had found the church to which they could commit wholeheartedly and in which they could serve. They brought with them their humble love of the Lord, rock solid faith in Him and a love of Truth as revealed in scripture. Confident in Christ alone, these pillars of the church have served faithfully, persistently and consistently, helping the church grow steadily in number, breadth of programs and depth of faith and understanding.

Certain of God's plan of salvation through Jesus as our reason for being and thus the singular, overarching goal in life, Ted and Margaret have always seen needs and found or made ways to meet those needs whether in the church or the community; they see potential in people and encourage it, gently and patiently drawing people out and into relationship often ultimately with God. They were instrumental in establishing Alpha as a main outreach program, and encouraging others to develop follow-up discipleship programs. They developed and established a Christmas Day dinner for folks in the community who would otherwise be alone and lonely. They've faithfully led Bible Studies, served on committees and the board, preached, taught, counselled and encouraged, all for the furtherance of God's kingdom.

It is really as a couple that the Coopers have been most effective. They've perfectly complemented one another, and the respect they've had for and support they've been to each other make the whole much greater than two halves could have been. Doubled confidence in God alone creates the calm atmosphere of reliability and safety that draws others and eases discussion of difficult issues that churches face. Their years of Biblical study and Ted's exceptional scholarship made it possible to distinguish between the essentials of the Christian faith and secondary, nonessential traditions that can become stumbling blocks to Truth reigning in the church. Ted and Margaret courageously challenged traditions that oppressed women and made way to fully involve women in ministry and leadership. They established the gender balanced "Worship and Watchcare" Committee (Elders), and Ted, working with others, painstakingly wrote the Constitution, By-laws and Commitment of Westview Baptist Church that was adopted in January 2000.

Ted passed into the glory of the presence of the Lord in 2022; Margaret calmly carries on, prepared, giving, serving, salt of the earth and light of the world living for the glory of God alone.