



A Little Lady With a Big Heart

In February, Philip Weatherill, former Global NMI Council member, was the missions speaker for Alabaster Sunday at the Leeds South Church, British Isles South District. During the time for the opening of the Alabaster boxes in the morning service, people were invited to walk to the front to open their boxes into a large Alabaster box. A young gentleman walked from the middle of the sanctuary to a small elderly lady sitting towards the back.

She took his arm and, with a walking stick in the other hand, slowly made her way towards the front of the church where she stood patiently in line waiting to open her box. When her turn came, she opened her box and, with a huge smile on her face, poured its contents into the large Alabaster box. She then turned and, still smiling and with the help of the young gentleman, made her way slowly back to her seat.

She was faithful in her giving to NMI, including Alabaster. She set an example to those around her of the meaning of Alabaster. A love gift given joyfully.

Beryl Clarkson, the local NMI president, takes up the story.

When Hilda Rollinson was a young woman, she contracted rheumatic fever. The doctor told her parents that Hilda would not have a long life. Two years ago upon reaching 100 years of age, she received a card of congratulations from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. On the 10th August this year she will celebrate her 102nd birthday.

South Leeds Church of the Nazarene is Hilda's home church where she has attended for many years. She is one of the friendliest people you could ever wish to meet; and should someone new sit near her in church, she likes to make them welcome and invites them to have fellowship over tea and coffee.



Beryl Clarkson (left) poses with Hilda Rollinson. Hilda holds the card from Queen Elizabeth II, sent in honor of Hilda's 100th birthday.

Throughout Hilda's long life, she has always had a love of people; and this was demonstrated by the fact that she, along with her late husband, fostered many children during their marriage together.

Recently I interviewed her about missions, asking why she gave particularly to Alabaster. She said, "When we built our church and later the extension, we were given Alabaster money to help with the cost. I want to help others have the help we had. I give so that others may know Jesus."

Hilda has an unusual way of collecting money for her Alabaster box. She still lives alone and asks visitors who use her bathroom to put a donation into the Alabaster box. She recently asked her doctor if he knew what Alabaster means. He replied, "No, but knowing you, it will have something to do with the Bible." She asks this question of most people who visit her in her home.

As well as giving to the work of missions, Hilda took an active role when the church started a compassionate ministries programme for those suffering with addictions. She was one of the first volunteers serving tea and coffee to our guests. Hilda was in her nineties at the time.

Hilda Rollinson is a tiny lady with a big heart, an impish sense of humour, and a huge love of her Lord; and it is my privilege to know her.

Beryl Clarkson and Philip Weatherill
British Isles South District



Hilda Rollinson is a little lady with a big heart for missions.