

My Pastor
A Tribute to
Dr. Howard Sugden
by Dan Mouw

Although it has been years since I sat under the godly leadership of Dr. Howard F. Sugden, the memories are still fresh in my mind and heart. There are not many loving shepherds like him today. Pastor Sugden was a scholarly man who studied countless hours in his 10,000-volume library, preparing to feed the flock God entrusted to him.

I was not saved under Dr. Sugden's ministry but joined his church shortly after. Several times throughout the week he would give me a hug for encouragement. He always had time for his sheep! While I was in college, one of the highlights for me was to go to the Sugden's house for food and fellowship.

Dr. Sugden would not settle arguments in the pulpit, verbally attack sinners or those who disagreed with him, or brag on his accomplishments. He faithfully fed the flock of God. I learned new truths every time he expounded on a passage from God's Word. Some of his friends included Billy Sunday, H.A. Ironside, Bob Kregel, M.R. De Haan, Wilbert Welch, and Richard Holliday.

If you met Pastor Sugden on the streets of Lansing, you would not have known that he was a man with a tremendous responsibility. In fact, he was honored as Lansing's (the capital city of Michigan) "Citizen of the Year."

While ministering in a humble manner, Dr. Sugden gently led his flock and cared for the individuals who crossed his path. I wept upon his home going in October 1993. I still miss my dear pastor and mentor. Dr. Sugden's sermons will be featured in the magazine. Enjoy them; you will receive a blessing.