

The Kingsway Academy Story

The Early Years

1959 – 1973



Grace Kemp

gracekemp@aol.com

www.scriptureseries.com

<http://scriptureseries.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/scriptureseries>

The Kingsway Academy Story

The Early Years

1959 – 1973



Grace Kemp

gracekemp@aol.com

www.scriptureseries.com

<http://scriptureseries.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/scriptureseries>

Content

Chapter	Title	Page
	In Loving Memory.....	1
	Preface	2
	Milestones	2
	Dedication	3
	Acknowledgements	3
1	The Vision.....	4
2	Dad's Diaries.....	5
3	Charles Tatham Memorial School.....	6
4	First Teacher – Shirley Redpath.....	6
5	The Call	8
6	Kingsway Academy.....	8
7	Dowdeswell Days.....	9
8	Dowdeswell Nights.....	10
9	Uniforms.....	11
10	“Please Come in; I Will be Happy to Show You Around’.....	16
11	Dog Daze on Dowdeswell Street.....	17
12	“Come Quick!”.....	18
13	Kingsway Academy, Non Profit Company.....	19
14	Primitive Pans and Purple Prints.....	20
15	Routine Robberies and Fancy Fencing.....	21
16	Double Work – Same Pay.....	22
17	Mr. Bowles of Bernard Rood.....	23
18	“Where There is no Vision, the People Perish”	24
19	Chic Anderson Comes Calling.....	26
20	A Visit with Sir Roland.....	28
21	A Special September.....	29
22	Burying the Bible.....	30
23	“Labourers Together With Him..”.....	31
24	Life in the Lounge.....	32
25	The Battle with the Bottle.....	33
26	“Help Yourself to Anything You See in the Frig”.....	34
27	Hardships at “Home”.....	35
28	Yellow Paint.....	36
29	Parent Problem.....	37
30	Apartments Appear.....	38
31	“Who Holds the Mortgage?”	39
32	Irreplaceable Records	40
33	“Mind if I Paint the School Car?”.....	41
34	Sir Brian Marwick and Grant-in-Aid.....	42
35	“Ye Have Not Because Ye Ask Not..”	43
36	“The Attack of the Killer Bees”.....	44
37	A Shocking Incident	45
38	The Infamous, “Throw Away Supper”	46
39	God Bless the PTA!.....	47
40	Kingsway Players	51
41	Treasured Teachers	53
42	Carol Harrison	55
43	The Night I Went Home	56
44	To God Be All the Glory	57
45	Dear Reader.....	58

*In loving memory
of
Mrs. Madelin Greene
who went home to be with the Lord
on
October 27, 2008*



Mrs. Greene worked in our home for many years before we moved to Canada.

Thereafter, she worked for Kingsway Academy until her retirement in 1993.

Over the years, we have remained close with letters, visits, and phone calls.

We will meet again, dear friend.



Preface

This narrative spans my 14 year involvement with Kingsway Academy in Nassau, Bahamas. The remaining 36 years of the school's history will be left for others to tell.

It is not possible for me to tell the story without it being a very personal one. For years I lived in the old, frame school building on Dowdeswell Street. Even after I married and had children, we all lived in the Bernard Road Elementary School for months while our new house was under construction. Consequently, my story includes family photos and anecdotes.

May God use this account to strengthen your faith in our unfailing God.

Grace Kemp,

Nov. 7, 2008



Milestones

Charles Tatham Memorial School opens.....	September, 1959
Name changed to Kingsway Academy.....	September, 1961
School relocates to rented house on Dowdeswell St. at Hall's Lane.....	September, 1961
First meeting of the future Committee of Management.....	February 17, 1966
10 acre Bernard Road property purchased from Mr.T. T. Bowles	June 21, 1966
Kingsway Academy is incorporated as a non-profit company.....	November 3, 1966
Back 5 acres sold to Mr. Peter Christie	January 8, 1967
First Annual General Meeting.....	September 27, 1967
Chic Anderson builds the elementary school.....	1967 - 1968
Kingsway Academy opens in new building on Bernard Road.....	September, 1968
Addition to south end of the elementary school.....	Summer, 1969
Lot on southeast corner of property sold to Michael Kemp.....	November, 1969
Activity Centre classrooms built.....	Spring, 1970
Activity Centre auditorium completed	1971
Kingsway purchases 4 unit apartment building from Michael Kemp.....	Spring, 1973
Kemp family moves to Canada.....	June, 1973

Dedication

For my children,
Kimberley, Kelly, Kristopher and Kevin,
 all of whom were born in Nassau.

Although you were too young to remember much of what follows,
 you were involved in many of the events recorded here.



Acknowledgements

There are numerous people who deserve credit for supporting the school during its early years. A few of them are:

Angela Wells Roberts	– friend and helper
Barbara Russell Sweeting	– friend and helper
Carol Harrison	– friend and administrator of Kingsway for many years
Chic Anderson	– inspiring servant of God; builder of school
Clayson, Charlie, Sammy	– hard working Haitian helpers
Dave Tatham	– brother; tireless worker and PR person
David Cartwright	-- friend and helper
Dewitt Thompson	– Chairman of the Board for many years
Dorothea Nunez	– friend, counselor, teacher
Ned Wallace	– supporter and encourager
Michael Kemp	– longsuffering husband
Paul Bethel	– friend and lawyer
Paul Cartwright	- friend and helper
Paul and Susie Tatham	– brother and sister-in-law; helpers
Priscilla Beverly Cartwright	– friend, helper, teacher
Madelin Greene	– friend and helper
Roy and Ruth Beverly	– helpers and encouragers
Ruth Nottage	– sister; supporter

Chapter 1

The Vision

In 1957, my father, **C. Ernest Tatham**, was “exercised about a Christian school” in Nassau, Bahamas. In September, 1958, at his direction, **Algie Higgs** built a one room school house and the Charles Tatham Memorial School was launched in September, 1959, with 7 students.

Clearly, he did not envision the whole of God’s plan. He simply did his part. Countless others have contributed their dedicated efforts and carried the vision forward. No individual can claim the credit. All glory belongs exclusively to God, the divine Master Builder. We have the privilege of being “workers together with Him.”



Satellite View of Kingsway Academy, Bernard Road, Nassau, Bahamas - 2008

Chapter 2

Dad's Diaries

C. Ernest Tatham kept a daily diary from January 1, 1924, when he was 18, until July 30, 1997, 46 days before his home going. I scanned his diaries recently, looking for tidbits regarding the beginnings of Kingsway Academy.



C. Ernest Tatham



Ruth Tatham Nottage

Following are a sampling of my findings:

1957

- 2/11 – Exercised about a Christian school here
- 4/17 – **Clarence Lowe** and I looked at land for Day School.

1958

- 8/13 – **Ruth** is anxious to start Nursery School in Nassau
- 9/2 – Today, **Ruth** bought the 2 unit apt. building on Dowdeswell St. She will operate Jack and Jill Nursery School, opening Sept. 29, D.V.
- 11/17 – **Ruth** began her school in Nassau today with one student!
- 11/26 – **Ruth** now has 4-6 kids in her Nursery School.

1959

- 5/10 – Gave **Algie Higgs** “go ahead” on school building.
- 5/11 – **Marion Albury** gave me \$76 and promised some lumber for new school.
- 6/04 – Interviewed **Mr. Prendergast** at Board of Education; he was very encouraging.
- 6/06 - **Marion Albury** will give me materials for new school building.
- 7/31 – I wrote **Lem Sawyer** re uniforms for Nassau School.
- 8/03 – **Shirley Redpath** will go to Nassau to teach from Sept., to Dec., 1959. PTL.
- 8/13 – Our new building is completed.
- 8/26 – **Shirley Redpath** flew to Nassau today.
- 8/29 – Shipped furniture for Nassau school - 10 desks, 20 chairs, old teacher's desk.
- 9/01 – **Mr. Hutchison** of Board of Education gave the OK to proceed with the school.
- 9/04 – I wrote to **Mr. Hutchison** guaranteeing our new school standards in Nassau.
- 9/08 - 7 children enrolled at The Charles Tatham Memorial School. **Ruth** has 18.
- 9/23 – **Grace** writes from England. She will return in December and may teach at our Nassau school! PTL. **Shirley** will stay until Jan. **Grace** will teach thereafter.
- 11/16 – School has 5 children.

1960

- 1/06 – School has 9 students.
- 1/27 – **Grace** flew to Nassau yesterday.
- 2/13 – **Grace** has 12 pupils.
- 11/17 - **Grace** has decided to stay on teaching after NY's for Spring term. Praise God!

Chapter 3

Charles Tatham Memorial School

Founded by **C. Ernest Tatham** who spent 74 years of his life preaching the Gospel and teaching God's Word, he named the school after his father, a devout believer and Bible teacher, **Charles Goodeve Tatham**. It was called the Charles Tatham Memorial School and opened in September, 1959. It was the first, interdenominational, Christian school in Nassau and was located behind Jack and Jill Nursery School on Dowdeswell Street which was opened by my sister, **Ruth Tatham Nottage**, in 1958.

Charles Ernest Tatham
1905 – 1997



Charles Goodeve Tatham
1854 – 1918



Chapter 4

First Teacher ~ Shirley Redpath September, 1959

One day, while teaching her 7 students about the resurrection of Lazarus, **Shirley** asked, "What did Jesus say to Lazarus?" One bright student, fresh from learning mathematical ordinals, blurted out, "Lazarus! Come fifth!"

A salt-of-the-earth kind of Christian, **Shirley Redpath**, Kingsway's first teacher taught from September, 1959, through January, 1960. She inspired her students as well as her friends at Central Gospel Chapel and elsewhere.

Returning to her native Canada at the end of January, 1960, she resumed her nursing career and later, opened a nursing home where she ministered to the elderly, both physically and spiritually.

Following the death of my sister, **Lois Tatham Clark**, in 1991, **Shirley** married my brother-in-law, **Ron Clark**, who went to be with the Lord in 2001.

Charles Tatham Memorial School



Shirley Redpath
First teacher



Ruth Tatham Nottage,
Dot Wells Symonette
Shirley Redpath Clark

1960

Grace Tatham Kemp with student body

1961



Chapter 5

The Call

I was getting desperate! Having arrived in Nassau in January, 1960, to serve as a temporary teacher, by November, I had no idea where I was going next. The school now had 16 students in Grades 1 through 3 and I was excited by its possibilities. Yet, within a matter of weeks, I was expected to launch my career as a missionary nurse, a goal I had held dear since childhood and for which I had recently completed 5 years of training. Yet, at this late hour, I had no idea where I was going, no sponsoring mission board, and no “call.”

Suddenly, one day while asking the Lord for direction, I “heard” a clear response in my mind – “What makes you think you are not in my will right now?”

I was shocked! Although I was averaging 12 hours a day at the school, it was pure joy. Surely God’s will could not be this much fun!

I asked the Lord for 3 signs of confirmation. The first came the following day when **Mrs. Allan Walker** told me she and her husband were returning to Canada and asked if I would assume her weekly ministry at the women’s prison in Foxhill. I knew immediately I was to say yes. Subsequently, **Velma Allen** and I carried on this ministry for the next three years. Another 2 confirmations quickly followed.

Standing on the back steps of Jack and Jill Nursery School on Dowdeswell Street, I committed myself to staying with the school as long as it took to see it solidly established. I anticipated about 8 years. In fact, it took 14. I was aware of the seriousness of the commitment I was making because God warned me that many challenges lay ahead.

Chapter 6

Kingsway Academy

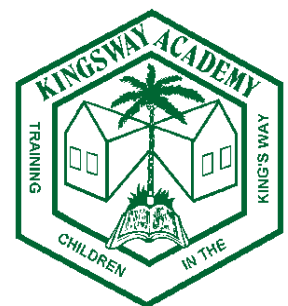
My parents turned the school over to me to run as I saw fit, for the glory of God. Early in 1961, I changed the name which the children could neither remember nor pronounce. My sister, **Ruth**, came up with not only the new name, Kingsway Academy, but the school song. My mother, **Beulah Tatham**, supplied the motto, “Training Children in the King’s Way.” Later, **Paul Thompson**, son of Dewitt Thompson, combined both the name and motto into the school logo.



Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Tatham



Ruth Tatham Nottage



Chapter 7

Dowdeswell Days

In September, 1961, the school's growth necessitated the rental of a 4-room, frame house on Dowdeswell St. at Hall's Lane. Thanks to the efforts of **David and Paul Cartwright, Freddie Roberts, Angela Wells Roberts, Barbara Russell Sweeting,** and others, walls were painted, blackboards hung, shelves built, floors scrubbed, windows cleaned, and lessons prepared. We opened with 24 students and 3 teachers. Before we moved out, 7 years later, we utilized every square inch of this adaptable building.



This old house next to Bay Street Garage on Dowdeswell Street was home to Kingsway Academy from September, 1961, until June, 1968.

Among the first to join our small teaching staff was 13 year old, **Priscilla Beverly**, daughter of **Roy and Ruth Beverly**, American missionaries to Cat Island. They allowed **Priscilla** to come to Nassau and share a room with me at the school while completing high school courses by correspondence. Priscilla taught Grade 1.

Little did I anticipate the scope and duration of Priscilla's dedicated service to the Lord and His little school, Kingsway Academy. She proved to be a Godly and gifted teacher, organizer, hard worker, and loyal friend. Her contribution to Kingsway over the ensuing years has been invaluable.

Priscilla Beverly Cartwright teaches a flannelgraph story - 1962



Chapter 8

Dowdeswell Nights

Our door was open from dawn till dusk. Filled with children by day, evenings at the school were a gathering place for young people preparing for Christian outreaches. The school was somewhat of a drop-in centre for passersby. Late one night, after we were sleeping, there was a knock on the door. I opened it to find a strange woman and small child asking if they could spend the night. The only bed available was the cot on which our dogs usually slept but they accepted it, gratefully.

When **Roy Beverly** visited, usually with his son, **Tim**, they sometimes slept on top of school desks which they pulled together.

Charlie, our happy, Haitian handyman took up residence under our house which stood on 6 foot, stone pillars. One day, after asking me for a glass of water, I saw him kneel on the floor, remove his cap, and thank God for the water. Undoubtedly, our great God and King took note.



Barbara Russell Sweeting and Mary Lowe Cartwright prepare for Vacation Bible School programs in the Out Islands (now, Family Islands).



Patrick Albury prepares to serve with the "Island Messengers" - 1963

Returning to the property years later, I discovered that the building had been completely demolished. Walking around the barren lot, I looked for some small memento of its existence but found nothing. Then, God reminded me that our legacy was not in the building into which so much hard work had been invested, but in the lives of those He had enabled us to influence. Our humble little house had been used by God and that is all we needed to know.

Chapter 9

Uniforms

Our school uniform consisted of a navy blue skirt or pants, a white shirt, and black shoes. Since our small yard was a grassless dustbowl, the shirts didn't stay white for long. Nonetheless, we began to look like a proper, Bahamian school.

Teachers - 1967
Betty Robbins,
Grace Kemp,
Sharon Ford,
Ruth Saunders,
Dorothea Nunez



Student of Kingsway Academy on Eastern Parade - 1967



Teacher – Ruth Eckstrom Saunders – Gr. 1 - 1967



Teacher – Betty Robbins Standifer - Grade 2 - 1967



Teacher – Dorothea Nunez – Gr. 3 and 4 - 1967



Teacher - Grace Kemp – Grades 5 and 6 – 1967



Teacher – Ruth Pyfrom - Grade 1 – 1968



Teacher – John Beverly - Grade 2 - 1968



Teacher – Sharon Ford - Grades 5 and 6 - 1968

**First uniforms
at
Bernard Road
location
1972**



**Kimberley
and
Kelly Kemp**

Chapter 10

“Please Come In. I Will be Happy to Show You Around”

For years, our students sat on benches without backs and many worked at homemade tables. Textbooks were cast offs from other schools.

One day, while showing a visitor around, I opened a classroom door at the precise moment that a homemade bench holding 7 students, slowly collapsed to the floor!

Money was tight. Occasionally, in colder weather, mats from the floor became blankets by night. I frequently requested “dog scraps” from our local butcher which the dogs, of course, never saw. I remember saving for a year to accumulate the eleven shillings needed for a can of Hot Shot.

Nonetheless, we were supporting a full complement of mice. It was a losing battle. One morning, finding a baby mouse still alive in our trap, I carefully extracted it and nursed it back to health.

Memorable students of those days included **Mickey and Debbie Williams, Allyson Maynard, Greg and Bryan Bethel, Michael Thompson**, and many others. One day, not having had time to prepare a new flannelgraph lesson, I embellished and repeated the lesson I had taught the previous day. When I finished, I heard **Mickey Williams** grumble, “You didn’t teach us ANYTHING today. We had that story yesterday!” Another day, I shared a mathematical shortcut with 6 year old **Mickey**. He looked at me with disgust and said, “Well, why didn’t you teach me that before?” Very little got past Mickey.

Thank God for our supportive parents who saw beyond the dusty yard and hot, overcrowded, undersupplied classrooms to the quality of Christian education we provided – parents such as **Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Williams, Pearl Donovan, Clement Maynard, Doreen Sweeting, Hesketh and Dawn Johnson, the Melnechuks**, to mention just a few. Their encouragement kept us going.



Sketch by Paul Thompson

Chapter 11

Dog Daze on Dowdeswell Street

We liked our new school name so well, we named our 2 potcake dogs “King” and “Sway” and Priscilla Beverly Cartwright named our cat, “Emy” as in “A-cat-emy.”

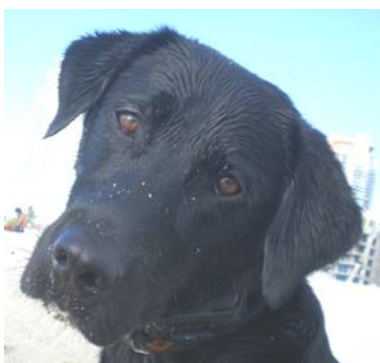
One day, however, “Sway,” was missing. Although students and teachers remained on high alert for days, there was no sign of him. It seemed the whole school was in mourning. At the same time, excitement was high since it was Friday which meant a jitney ride and field trip.

Staring out the window as we drove along Bay Street enroute to Ft. Charlotte, I was startled to see a group of tourists, closely followed by a friendly and too familiar looking black dog.

Responding to my shout to, “Stop!” the driver abruptly did so in the middle of traffic. Dashing to the curb, I yelled, “Sway!”

Sway was suddenly alert! He ran and leaped directly into my arms! The startled tourists remarked that he had followed them every day since their arrival.

Well, our busload of kids went wild. And Sway thoroughly enjoyed his tour of Ft. Charlotte.



Chapter 12

“Come Quick!”

I had just arrived home from school when the phone rang. It was a frantic teacher. “Come quick! The **Melnechuks** are here to pick up their child and his friend and we can’t find either of them!”

Being unable to locate your child is the ultimate nightmare for a parent. Michael and I jumped back into the car and raced for the school where I was met with two sets of frantic parents and the lone teacher still at school. It was quickly evident that, through miscommunication, no one had been left in charge of supervising the student pick up that day. A quick search of the premises failed to find the children.

At that time, the Melnechuk’s operated a downtown store near Rawson Square. On a hunch, Michael and I drove in that direction; he, maneuvering around traffic; me, searching the streets for two, little, lost boys. My prayers were never more fervent.

By the grace of God, within sight of the store, I spied the pair, happily heading for their familiar place. Stopping abruptly, I ran to scoop them up in my arms and we hurried them back to their frantic parents.

After their initial expressions of joy and relief, I received a well deserved scolding for my carelessness. I never forgot the lesson I learned that day. God was merciful and protected those precious, little explorers in spite of my serious oversight.



Rawson Square, Nassau

Chapter 13

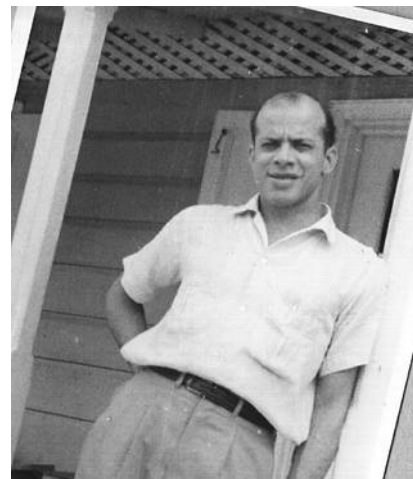
Kingsway Academy, Non-Profit Company

In 1966, Lawyer Paul Bethel of McKinney, Bancroft and Hughes undertook the legal work to incorporate Kingsway Academy as a non-profit company.

Paul was a true friend of the school and for years thereafter, took care of our legal matters. He never once charged us for any of his legal services.

On Sept. 27, 1967, the first Annual General Meeting was held and the following officers appointed:

Grace Kemp, President
Jasiel Thompson, Vice President
Dorothea Nunez, Secretary
Elisha Pyfrom, Treasurer



Paul Bethel

The elected Committee of Management, in addition to the President and Vice President of the Association, consisted of **Elisha Pyfrom, Dewitt Thompson, Lemuel Sawyer, Whitney Pinder, and Dorothea Nunez.**

In 1970, they were joined by

Roddie Pinder,
Herb Treco,
Paul Tatham,
Ned Wallace,
Russell Bethel,
Patrick Albury,
Dansbury Hudson.



S. Dewitt Thompson

served on the Association from 1967 to 1998 and on the Committee of Management from 1967 to 1989

Chapter 14

Primitive Pans and Purple Prints

Before there were copiers, there were primitive pans that produced purple prints and, in 1962, we thought that was “just swell.”

The Heyer Hektograph process, invented in 1876, was obsolete by the time we discovered it. But to us, it was a marvel.

Filling shallow cookie pans with a liquid, gelatin substance, we placed them in the refrigerator over night to set. After using a special purple pencil to outline the master, we pressed it upside down on the hardened and moistened gelatin, transferring the impression to the gelatin.

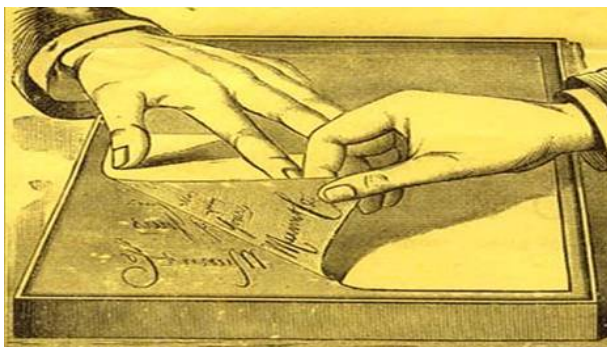
The next step involved pressing blank pages on the dampened gelatin and sliding a bar back and forth to transfer the image to the paper. On a good day, it could produce 20, damp copies, each more faded than the previous one. We then spread the copies out to dry.

Of course, there were problems:

- It took the agility of a ballerina to transfer the very shallow, liquid-filled pans to the refrigerator without most of it sloshing out on the floor.
- The frig was already full and our “copier” required a perfectly flat shelf all to itself.
- When you removed a newly minted copy from the pan, you could expect chunks of jelly to come with it.
- Unrefrigerated jelly soon reverted to its natural state of swamp scum.

The day came, however, when we upgraded to a hand crank duplicator. Except for the fact that it sprayed indelible, black ink in all directions, it was a modern marvel.

Today when we zip off dozens of crisp, clear, and colorful copies in a matter of minutes, we pause to pay homage to the lowly Hektograph. May she, “Rest in Peace.”



Heyer Hektograph – 1876 to 1960

Chapter 15

Routine Robberies and Fancy Fencing

After enrollment had expanded to the point where the teachers could no longer live in the school, break ins and vandalism became part of the regular routine. We would arrive in the morning to drawers rifled and supplies missing. The fact that the candy jar appeared to be their ultimate prize gave us a clue as to the age of the culprits.

One afternoon, shortly after school had dismissed, I was standing in the kitchen when I saw three boys dash through our open front door, snatch my purse, and flee the scene. I tore after them, running full blast down Hall's Lane toward Shirley Street. They hopped over a wall and into the tall grass of an empty lot. I was hot on their heels but being 9 months pregnant complicated my plan to capture all three and have them promptly executed at Foxhill Prison!

On another similar occasion, I chased 3 young villains out of the school but not before grabbing the keys to teacher, **Patty Thompson's** Triumph Sports Coupe. Again, they headed south down Hall's Lane. With them clearly in site, I floored it! As I approached busy Shirley Street at high speed, I pressed the brakes to the floor. Alas! No brakes! Frantically pumping to no avail, I entered busy Shirley Street at full throttle, making a hard, screeching left and narrowly missing a lamp pole. By the time the car rolled to a shaky stop, my original mission was lost.

Our hopes that scallywags and scoundrels would leave us alone at the Bernard Road property were quickly dashed. We devised all sorts of tricks to outsmart the vandals, one of which was to lock inside doors from the inside so that the intruders would be unable to go far from their point of entry.

Arriving early one morning, I did the usual inspection, smug that we had finally outsmarted them. Since one of their favorite entry ports was through a bathroom window, I had bolted the bathroom door on the outside. The thieves would find themselves having to climb back out through the window by which they entered.

I gave the door a solid jerk. While the lock held firm, the door itself fell backwards into the bathroom. The resourceful thieves had simply removed the hinges which were on the inside, pried the door open, and vandalized the office.

If you have ever wondered why the inside of the office windows in the Elementary school are covered with chain link fencing, wonder no more.



**Chain link fencing
covers office windows**

Chapter 16

Double Work ~ Same Pay

By 1966, with 138 students in Grades 1 through 6, we could barely squeeze the students into our overcrowded classrooms. I came up with the idea of split shifts with half attending from 8 AM to 12 noon and half from 1 to 5 PM.

The same teachers taught both shifts but their salaries remained the same at \$35 a week. I am surprised they didn't go on strike.

Some of our teachers in those days were **Priscilla Beverly Cartwright, Dorothea Nunez, Ruth Pyfrom, Sharon Ford, Betty Robbins Standifer,, Ruth and Paul Saunders, John Beverly, Diane Yankocy Major**, and others, all of whom helped lay a strong academic and Christian foundation.

Clearly, the two shift system was not one of my better ideas. Lots of working parents had children in both sessions which complicated pick up and delivery arrangements. Teachers and students were frazzled. The experiment quickly fizzled and we all happily returned to our hot and overcrowded classrooms to await a better day. It was not long in coming.



Kingsway Academy, Dowdeswell Street - 1965

Sketch by Paul Thompson

Chapter 17

Mr. Bowles of Bernard Road

It quickly became evident that we needed our own land and additional buildings. When **Dewitt Thompson** mentioned that **Mr. T. T. Bowles** was selling his 10 acre property on Bernard Road, I paid him a visit on Sunday, May 22, 1966. Walking up the long walk to his front door, the Lord gave me the verse, "Behold, I have set the land before you. Go in and possess the land.." (Deut. 1:8).

Standing on his front porch, we chatted about his property and he talked about potential buyers who were unable to act as, "they only have \$1,200 pounds." I explained that God had saved his property for Kingsway Academy.

Without even exploring the property, I quickly agreed to a price of twenty thousand pounds and a meeting with his lawyer within a month, at which time I would give him the down payment of two thousand pounds.

Little did he know that the only asset I had for the purchase of property was a 4 shilling note (48 cents) given to me by Dorothea Nunez with the words, "I believe God is in this project. Here is my seed money."

I visited the Royal Bank of Canada in Palmdale and met with the manager. He said, "I don't know why I am doing this. I am breaking all the rules. But we will give you an unsecured loan for 700 pounds."

We received a loan of 1000 pounds from a Christian business man and, prior to the deadline, I discovered that we had finished the school year with an unprecedented balance of 480 pounds.

Consequently, on June 21, 1966, the 2000 pounds was paid, the papers signed, and the Bernard Road property belonged to Kingsway Academy.

But God had an even greater blessing in store. On May 3, 1967, while visiting Mr. and Mrs. Bowles, now both in their eighties, I had the great privilege of leading both of them to Christ. They humbly prayed the sinners' prayer, accepting Christ into their lives as their Lord and Savior.

To God be all the Glory!

Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Bowles



Chapter 18

“..Where There is no Vision, the People Perish”

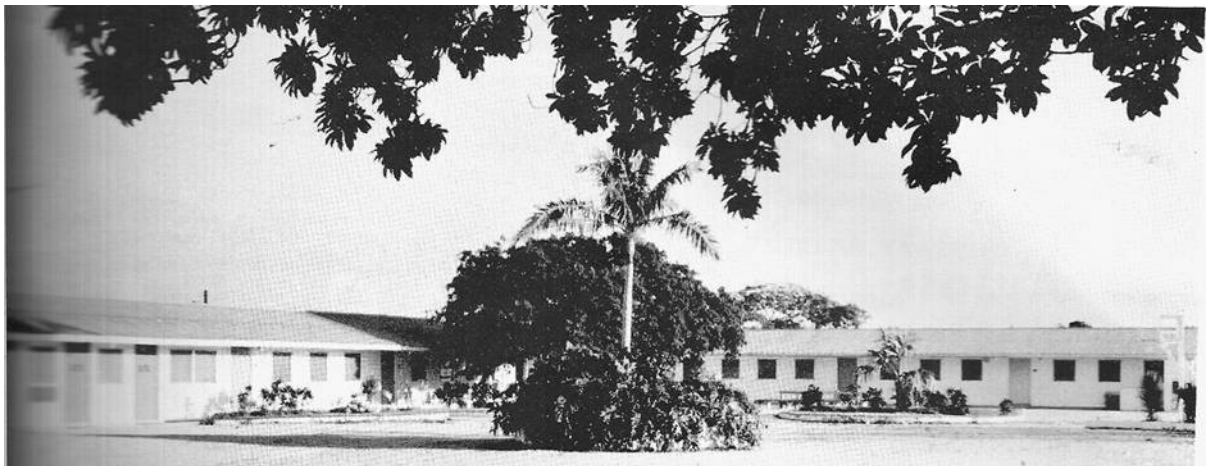
A week or so later, I walked around the property for the first time. Beyond the decaying garage, tall weeds, and many fruit trees, I found a large rock. Standing on it, I surveyed the land in all directions. Looking northwest, I envisioned the L shaped school with the classroom doors painted in different, primary colors.

It was a vision that remains clear to this day.

Returning for the dedication of the High School 15 years later, I stood on the same rock near the northwest corner of the Activity Center and again, looked northwest. By this time, of course, the elementary school had been a reality for 12 years. Swarms of children passed me, some, no doubt, wondering what that crazy lady was doing standing on a rock and staring at the school. But to me, it was a sacred moment well worth savoring.

Heb.11:1 – Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen..

Kingsway Academy – The Vision that Became Reality



Aerial view of Kingsway Academy circa 1982



Chapter 19

Chic Anderson Comes Calling

For the school year, 1966 – 1967, we moved a few classes into the house located on the new property while continuing the main school on Dowdeswell Street.

In the spring of 1967, in one of our daily teachers' prayer meetings, we asked the Lord to send us someone to build the school. Ten minutes later, Roy Beverly phoned from Cat Island with the question, "Grace, do you need someone to build the school?"

The following day, Roy flew to Nassau with Chic Anderson, a Christian building contractor from Texas who had recently completed work on Windermere High School in Eleuthera. His life was devoted to serving Christian ministries with his considerable building skills. He surveyed our wooded property and agreed to build the school free of charge. Building himself a shack out of discards found on the property, he settled in, picked up a shovel, and went to work.

For the next 18 months, sleeping only about 4 hours a night while living primarily on stale, black coffee and peanut butter sandwiches, he almost single handedly built our L-shaped, elementary school, including the foundation, carpentry, wiring, and plumbing. When time permitted, **Roy Beverly** came in from Cat Island to lend a hand. Occasionally, they were joined by others who contributed their time and energy.

One night I awakened around 3 AM with an ominous feeling that something had happened to Chic. I was so concerned that I hurriedly dressed, told my husband where I was going, and headed to the school. On arriving, I saw a light shining out from under the bathroom door. Approaching cautiously, I slowly opened the door to find Chic lying flat on his back next to one of the toilets. Fearing the worst, I called loudly, "CHIC!"

Chic leaped to his feet, shocked to have a visitor at this time of night. When I explained my mission, he said, "I am fine but you almost killed me with a heart attack!" He was installing toilets, trying to keep pace with the looming deadline of the opening day of school.

So much for feminine intuition!

18 months later, with the building basically completed, Chic left and we have never seen him since. I look forward to hearing the Lord say to him, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." I hope I get to hand him his crown.



Mr. Chic Anderson – Builder of the Elementary School - 1968

Chic's Shack, built in 1967, was still standing in 1999



Kelly Hamilton, Carol Harrison, Grace Kemp, Cora Cooper



Chapter 20

A Visit with Sir Roland

Much time was spent attempting to have Bernard Road rezoned since, at that time, I was hoping to sell some front lots for commercial development to produce needed income. With this in mind I visited the Town Planning Board on a few occasions, even visiting the director in his home where he was nursing a broken leg.

One Sunday afternoon found me knocking on the door of **Sir Roland Symonette's** lovely, east Bay St. home, uninvited and unannounced.

He opened the door wearing his bathrobe and slippers, and, in spite of the fact that I was a total stranger, invited me into his palatial living room, offered me tea, and listened attentively to my requests.

As I left, a half hour later, he assured me that he would do everything he could to move things along in our favor. Then he laughed and said, "Now, maybe you should go and see what **Sir Lyndon Pindling** has to say!"

One of the special privileges of island living is the accessibility of Government officials. On more than one occasion, I called **Prime Minister Pindling's** residence and spoke with **Mrs. Pindling** who was kind, encouraging, and happy to help in any way she could.

Incidentally, we never succeeded in rezoning Bernard Road nor did we sell off any front lots. At the time, I wondered why God was not answering our prayers. But, in hindsight, He clearly had a better plan. He met our needs in other ways and we were able to retain all our valuable frontage.

When God appears not to answer, TRUST.



Bahamian \$50 bill features former Prime Minister, Sir Roland Symonette

Chapter 21

A Special September

To the glory of God and to the credit of those who shared the vision, in September, 1968, we swung wide our doors for our first students at the Bernard Road property.

Well, the doors were not exactly swung open, inasmuch as the doors were not hung for another week. Alas! We also had no furniture. Local churches rose to the occasion by loaning us tables and chairs.

In the summer of 1969, a 70 foot addition was added, mostly built by our dear Haitian brother, "Clayson," whom I had the joy of leading to Christ, one day as he sat at our kitchen table.



Clayson built a tree fort for the boys

Clayson was the major builder of the Activity Centre and the southern extension to the elementary school



Chapter 22

Burying the Bible

It was in the Fall of 1968. I glanced out the office window to see Clayson and his helpers nearing the completion of their job of pouring the cement patio. An idea suddenly struck me.

I had never forgotten the impact of learning, as a child, that my father had buried a Bible in his outdoor, rock and cement pulpit on the edge of Lake Katchewanooka in Canada. Here, he had founded Kawartha Christian Camp which, every summer attracted vacationing Christians. The hillside leading down to the lake made a natural amphitheatre and campers sat on benches among the trees while Dad preached God's Word from his homemade pulpit.

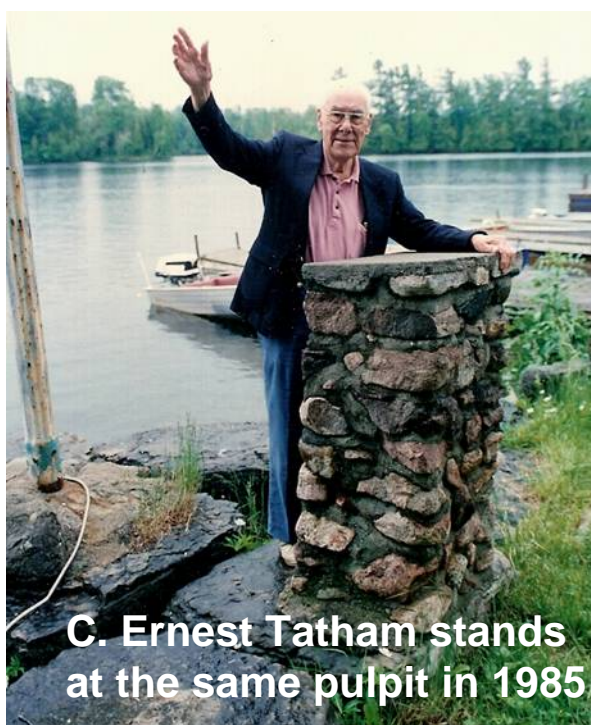
Quickly grabbing a Bible, I wrote and inserted within it a quick pledge indicating that God's Word would always be the solid foundation on which Kingsway Academy was established.

Calling out to others who were nearby, we quickly gathered around the workers and told them of our intention. Everything stopped as we reverently placed the precious Word of God in a north east area of the patio, soon to be covered with wet cement. Someone led us in prayer to verbalize the commitment we were all making on behalf of ourselves and those who would follow us.

Now, 40 years later, we praise the Lord that Kingsway Academy continues to uphold and preach the eternal truths of God's inspired Word.



The old stone pulpit in which C. Ernest Tatham buried a Bible in 1935. Note that in the 1985 picture, while the huge rock has split, the pulpit looks better than ever!



C. Ernest Tatham stands at the same pulpit in 1985

Chapter 23

“Labourers Together with Him”

In the 1960's, Bahamian teachers were in short supply. Those returning after being educated abroad were quickly snatched up by Government schools. There was little chance that our \$35 a week salary with no benefits and primitive working conditions could compete. Consequently, most of our teachers were recruited from Canada or the USA and required work permits, the securing of which was often a time consuming process.

One day, I made an appointment with the Deputy Prime Minister, explaining that our goal was to hire Bahamian teachers but that none were available. He advised me that we should not advertise for “born again Christian teachers” but should welcome any and all. Of course, I explained that our mission was spiritual as well as secular, hence our requirement that all teachers be born again believers in Jesus Christ.

As the school grew, our annual teacher search became more frenzied.

I was in labour with my third child at Princess Margaret Hospital when a nurse approached to ask if I could take a long distance phone call. It was an American teacher asking, “Do you still have openings at Kingsway Academy?”

“You bet we do!” I replied.

She came.

And so did Michael Kristopher Kemp.



**Michael
Kristopher
Kemp
Jan. 3, 1969**



Chapter 24

Life in the Lounge

In 1969, with the school construction almost completed and our Nelson Street, Blair home newly sold, our family, consisting of Michael and myself, Kimberley, three, Kelly one and a half, and Kristopher, one month, moved into the teachers' lounge while our home In Little Blair was being constructed.

Our children were stashed in what was later to become the Health Office and Michael and Grace constructed a bed on the floor with six, thin cushions from the couch as their mattress.

There was no air conditioning and cooking occurred on a table top, two burner gas stove. The only shower was a hose dangling from the large tree near the patio.

When my brother, Dave, arrived to help with the myriad of unfinished tasks, he and Paul shared a "bedroom," the small space that was later to become the Vice Principal's office.



**Michael, Grace, Kimberley,
Kelly, Kristopher Kemp**



Dave and Paul Tatham

Chapter 25

The Battle With The Bottle

In 1969, my brother, Paul, arrived at Kingsway with his Master's degree in Christian School Administration, having recently graduated from Bob Jones University. He was to replace me as Principal

Out of respect, I offered him my chair which I had hauled out of a land fill, and my well worn desk, purchased second hand, 10 years earlier.

During the transition, however, I wanted to complete a few, unfinished projects. With a glance at my never-ending to-do list, I asked him to remove the hundreds of old soda bottles we had found on the property. They lay a foot deep in a muddy bog behind the school. My goal was to return them for their one cent refund value.

Most were covered with green mold and dried mud. Nonetheless, he prevailed. It took him about a week but we made a tidy profit of about \$2.63 since the bottling company refused the majority of them.

We didn't want that Master's degree going to waste....



Chapter 26

“Help Yourself to Anything You See in the Frig”

Paul’s next project was to clean out the monstrous, turquoise refrigerator in the Teachers’ Residence. It had previously been purchased from **Noel and Elsie Pinder** and hauled from their house in Blair.

We had allowed visiting students to use the residence during the summer. When they left, they unplugged the frig, according to instructions. We didn’t anticipate, however, that they would leave lots of leftovers inside.

About 2 weeks later, in the heat of August, we discovered that the frig / freezer was alive with maggots and pungent odors of rotting food. Since we needed the frig for incoming teachers, someone had to clean out the critters.

“Oh, Paul...”

Apparently, there is no chemical known to man that can kill maggots and dislodge them from the cracks and crevices. There were thousands of them. The clean up job involved a full week of manually scraping them from every conceivable corner. Between the smell and the heat....well, let’s just say we were thinking some very dark thoughts about the students who had thoughtlessly created this mess.

Phil 4:12 - I know both how to be abased and I know how to abound...



**Paul Tatham on
the residence porch**

Chapter 27

Hardships at “Home”

The teachers’ lounge was our home for about 3 months in 1969. Occasionally, when our dear Mrs. Madelin Greene wasn’t available, I hired a babysitter.

One day, I arrived “home” from grocery shopping to find myself completely locked out. The sitter had bolted all the doors from the inside so my key was useless. I banged and shouted for an overly long time without results. Peering through the window, I could see my three, young children, completely unattended.

Beginning to panic, I ran around to the back of the school and stood on a box so I could look into the back room window.

There, fast asleep in the children’s bed with the covers up around her neck, was the sitter. It took an extraordinary amount of noise to finally rouse her.

Needless to say, she was dismissed on the spot and I wondered how I could properly mother my precious brood of babies yet fulfill the obligations of the work to which God had called me. But God, as promised, “giveth more grace.”

When our house was completed in “Little Blair,” I was able to exit the school via the back door and walk home across an empty field of weeds. Home never felt so good.



Grace walks to new home in “Little Blair” carrying Kelly and Kristopher. Chic’s shack, now relocated in our backyard, is barely visible.



Kimberley and Kelly Kemp on residence steps

Chapter 28

Yellow Paint

While living in the school's teachers' lounge, the Kemp children's office / bedroom doubled as the school storage depot. Shipments of books and supplies arrived on a daily basis. Tools and cans of paint lined the walls.

One evening, **Jack and Audrey Adams**, founders of Joy Bible Camp on Carmichael Road, were coming for dinner. I was in the final steps of preparing the meal on the 2 burner hot plate when I decided to check on the children. Too quiet.

I walked into their "bedroom" to find all three of them happily splashing in one full gallon of yellow, oil based paint which they had managed to overturn on the forest green carpet.

No sooner was the discovery made than I heard a knock on the door with **Audrey's** cheery voice calling, "We're here!"

I've had a thing about oil based paint ever since.



Kemp Kids – Kimberley, Kelly, Kevin, Kristopher

Chapter 29

Parent Problem

Beyond the outside commotion of an extension being added to the school, inside in the lone, functioning office, potential parents were being interviewed, applications processed, and children tested for admission. The fact that our family of 5 was living like squatters in the lounge only added to the confusion.

Nonetheless, classes quickly filled and the waiting list grew daily.

Early one morning, I heard loud voices coming from the nearby office where Principal, Paul Tatham, was meeting with prospective parents. Clearly, the conversation was heated and I was shocked to hear a man yelling, "It is because we are Jews! That is the reason you won't enroll our son!"

In spite of Paul's repeated explanation that it was because the class was already full and that we would be happy to place their son on our waiting list, the rant continued.

The noise awakened Dave who had been sleeping in his office / bedroom inches from the action. He slunk out of his bedroom wearing nothing but his underwear and attempted to slip unseen into the adjacent bathroom. Not before the startled parents, however, caught a glimpse and mercifully fled the scene.

Since they never returned, they will never know that God's chosen people, the Jews, are the people I cherish most.

You win some; you lose some!



Carol Harrison, Dewitt Thompson, Grace Kemp

Chapter 30

Apartment Appears

In 1970, a parcel of land on the southeast corner of the property was sold to my husband, Michael Kemp, and he built a 4 unit apartment building. In 1973, the school re-purchased the property for teachers' residences. It has since been converted into classrooms.

In all, the school now consisted of 8 classrooms, a conference room, teachers' lounge, Health Office, "Snack Shack," and administration offices. 252 students were enrolled and there were 130 on the waiting list. Finances continued to be very tight but every payment was met on time.



Chapter 31

“Who Holds the Mortgage?”

**Herbert Treco, friend of Kingsway,
served on the Committee of
Management for about 25 years**



Shortly after Herb Treco joined the Committee of Management in 1970, he asked me, “Who holds the mortgage?” which caused me to ask, “What is a mortgage?”

Prior to construction, I had called various supply companies and asked if I could run up a bill and pay later as money became available. All of them consented. By far our largest charge was to Bahamian Lumber, owned by David Albury.

One day, Clive Curry, their business manager, called me to come in for a little chat. With flashbacks of being called into the Principal’s office, I went, unpaid bills in hand. Very nicely, Clive reminded me of our large debt and asked how and when I planned to pay it.

I presented my plan for liquidating our debt and he slowly reviewed my notes, then informed me that David Albury was out of town. “But he instructed me, before he left,” explained Clive, “that I was to call you in and remind you of your obligation.”

He then added, “David said that whatever plan I presented to him, that was what Clive was to accept.”

So, to answer Herb’s question, I guess you could say that Bahamian Lumber was our mortgage company.

By the way, we were never charged a dime of interest on our delinquent accounts by any of our suppliers.

What a surprise to learn that **Mrs. Ronald Albury**, (Marion), mother of **David Albury** had donated materials for the one room school house on Dowdeswell St., the first home of Kingsway Academy. Nine years later, the extended credit offered by her son, **David**, helped make possible the building on Bernard Road.

Chapter 32

Irreplaceable Records

Our one requirement for helpers in those days was that they were breathing. If they were, we put them to work. Such was the case with one of our new secretaries. She was to process applications and do the filing.

One day in late August, I asked her to retrieve my handwritten, student records for the previous 10 years of the school's history.

Calculators were unheard of in those days as were computers and copiers. Consequently, I had individually added up every score for every subject for every student and hand copied the totals to master pages, lined by hand. These home made records were the one and only copy of the students' records over a 10 year period.

She looked at me, puzzled, so I described them and told her where to find them. Then recognition dawned. She brightened and exclaimed, "Oh, I threw them out!"

I gasped. Surely, she didn't understand. I explained again. "Nope," she responded. "I threw them out!"

"When did you do that?" I exclaimed.

"Oh, that was right after I started here, a couple of weeks ago. You asked me to sort some papers and discard the extras."

There are no words for moments like that. I broke into a sweat. I searched the files myself. But, she was right. They were gone.

Parents depended on me to supply them with their children's records. Future schools required transcripts.

How could I ever explain this to them?
How could I explain it to the Board?
I dreaded the very thought.

The Board was aghast when I sheepishly reported what happened. But clearly, we all lived through it.

Even the secretary.



**School Office – 1971
Paul Tatham, Candy Cooper,
Grace Kemp**

Chapter 33

“Mind if I Paint the School Car?”

Kingsway owned the worst car in Nassau. It was an ancient, VW bug with faded blue paint and a driver's seat that would slide all the way into the back seat were it not for a permanently positioned cement block behind it.

The only thing between your feet and the road was a damp carpet that sagged into a hole in the floor. Water splashed in as we passed through puddles which was possibly a good thing since it watered the grass and wild flowers growing out of the moldy carpet in the back seat.

Arriving American teachers must have considered catching the next plane home when they were picked up in the official “school car.”

One day, one of these new teachers asked if she could paint it. Having nothing to lose, I said, “Have at it!”

I had second thoughts, when, a few hours later, I glanced out the window to see her painting it with a broom. It didn't much matter how it turned out, however, as the paint quickly faded back to its familiar dull blue.

The melancholy day when it was finally towed off to the town dump was similar to the day we had to put our old dog down.

“To everything there's a season.....”



Sherry Andersen and Grace Marshall Lane run an errand

Chapter 34

Sir Brian Marwick and Grant-in-Aid

One Monday, I realized it would be impossible to meet the Friday payroll. Since it had been rumored that we were eligible to receive Grant-in-Aid from the Government, I visited Sir Brian Marwick at the Ministry of Education office with hopes of speeding up the process.

On arriving, the secretary told me that he was seeing nobody and that I should leave. I replied that I would wait to see him, regardless of how long.

After a few hours, she informed me that they were closing and I must leave. I answered that I would not leave until I saw Sir Brian.

Reluctantly, she ushered me into his office. He listened attentively to my story and plea for help. When I finished, he shook my hand and said, "Good for you. Don't worry. I will take care of everything."

Miraculously, by Friday, we had our first, annual Grant-in-Aid cheque for \$22,000 and the teachers were paid on schedule.

What I didn't know was that Sir Brian had throat cancer and no longer took appointments. I never saw this dear man again as he died shortly thereafter.



“..God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory..” Phil. 4:19

Chapter 35

“Ye Have Not Because Ye Ask Not..”

One morning, I received a call from the Royal Bank saying that if I didn't deposit \$2,000 by noon, cheques would be bounced. Of course, I did not have 20 cents available but assured the caller that I would be there by 12 and alerted the teachers to start praying.

The verse popped into my head, “Ye have not because ye ask not.” The next thing that came into my mind was that I was to drive to the Nassau Shop and ask the owner, Mr. Harold Saunders, whom I had never met, to help us out.

I had never done anything like that in my life and the idea was totally repugnant. Yet, I had a strong inclination that that was exactly what God was telling me to do.

Slowly, I drove downtown, hoping against hope that there would be no parking anywhere near the Nassau Shop. But, of course, there was the perfect empty space, directly in front of the door.

I was ushered into Mr. Saunders office, where I apologetically made my request. Before I even finished and without saying a word, he took out his cheque book and began writing.

Handing me a cheque for \$2,000, he said, “Do not send me a receipt or a thank you note. Come back anytime you need help.”

I hurried to the bank arriving at 11:40 AM. I asked the clerk if she had returned any cheques yet. She replied, “Oh no. We knew you would come in.”

That was first and last time I ever saw dear Mr. Saunders.



Bay Street, Nassau

Chapter 36

“The Attack of the Killer Bees”



1968 - The Bowles former home became the Teachers' Residence

The Teachers' Residence was, originally, the home of the Bowles family. It proved to be a Godsend as there was no money for renting other accommodations for incoming teachers.

One morning, the teachers noticed numerous bees buzzing around a back window. They thought little of it until they returned in the evening. Now, there were tens of thousands of bees covering every window and door. It was like the whole house was one giant beehive.

The resourceful teachers plugged every crack and crevice and were able to dispatch any bees that managed to gain entrance. This situation continued for several days. Then the bees vanished suddenly, just as they had arrived.

This phenomena occurred for at least 3 years in a row. No one was ever stung and we have yet to hear a plausible explanation for “the attack of the killer bees.”

1999 - Later, the Residence became the Administration Building



Chapter 37

A Shocking Incident

In those frenzied early days on Bernard Road, the maintenance of the residence was a low priority. One problem was the wiring. Teachers reported getting electric shocks off some of the appliances and lights often refused to work.

It was not until I visited the residence myself that I grasped the seriousness of the problem. The ground around the residence was electrified! To walk across the damp grass was probably akin to wearing a bad pacemaker.

That did it. We broke down and hired an electrician. The teachers were shocked!

Teachers'
Residence



Teachers
June Calhoun,
Linda Clower,
Susan Tolson,
Grace Marshall Lane

Teachers
Judy Brace,
Grace Marshall Lane,
Diane Jackson,
Sherry Andersen



Chapter 38

The Infamous “Throw Away Supper”

There is one memory that still makes my palms sweat.

Under the leadership of Jim Redmon, the PTA had scheduled one of their ever popular Take Away Suppers. Having participated in them over the years, I knew that they required careful planning and timing. Consequently, when a new parent volunteered to take charge of it, I was a little wary. Of course, others offered to help and contribute food. I should have been suspicious when I observed that the woman in charge was not taking notes.

Enthusiasm was high and about 250 dinner tickets were sold. I offered to contribute a large, stuffed turkey but was turned down. “We have plenty of food,” she assured me.

The big day arrived and **Shirley Kemp**, an absolute necessity at any successful Take Away Supper, arrived early. The classroom had been cleared and set up for the onslaught. I arrived a half hour ahead to offer assistance and was surprised to see only one, large turkey, a few bowls of sides, and a basket of rolls. I felt the first wave of fear. There was no sign of the woman in charge. I was assured, however, that she would arrive momentarily with more food. Just then, I saw her walking slowly towards me, carrying one, small can of unopened beans.

When the first of scores of cars began rolling in, the rising panic among the few volunteers was palpable. Where was the food?! The woman in charge appeared not to have a worry in the world. Even when the food was completely gone after 25 servings, she remained unperturbed.

I hid in my office. Jim Redmon, the PTA President, was conferring with my brothers, Paul and Dave, in the Teachers’ Residence. What to do? Our parking lot was fast filling with honking cars and impatient parents.

Dave was dispatched to Kentucky Fried Chicken to buy their complete stock of Cole Slaw. He returned, however, to learn that Jim Redmon had bravely announced to the arriving patrons that the Take Away Supper was canceled and that their money would be refunded.

In his follow up letter, Jim offered profuse apologies. The woman who had embarrassed us, however, never said a word. Indicative of the kindness and generosity of the Kingsway parents, most refused their refund and the PTA made an undeserved \$1,400 profit on the Throw Away Supper.

Lesson: Only trust volunteers with a proven record.



Chapter 39

God Bless the PTA!

Who can forget the tireless efforts of our hardworking PTA officers - **Carl Godfrey, Herb Treco, James Redmon, Sandra Miller, Diane Knowles, Donnie Johnson, Yvonne Isaacs, Geraldine Sands, Molly Taylor, Liz Hodge, Doris Clarke, Janet Underwood**, and countless others, who, together with parents and teachers sponsored fundraisers such as car washes, bake sales, a school fair, fashion shows, and the Kingsway Players presenting Bible plays. The PTA could be counted on to go the extra mile to provide whatever was needed for the smooth functioning of the school.

Most of these efforts were dedicated to raising money to build the Activity Centre which consisted of an auditorium and two, kindergarten classrooms. It was built mainly by **Clayson** who was ably assisted by my brother, **Dave Tatham**, who worked for Kingsway for 2 years without pay.

Herb Treco of Island Builders donated a large amount of materials for the Activity Centre and work commenced on phase one in the Spring of 1970. When completed, this much needed building brought the school's capacity to 280 students.

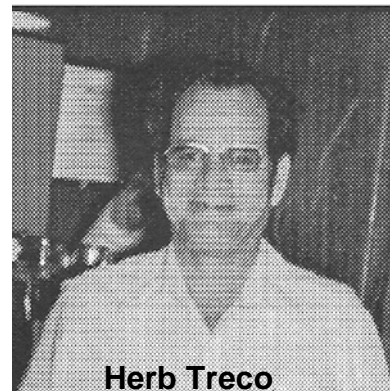
Special mention is given to the late **Cathy Benjamin** for her tireless support and encouragement over a 25 year period.



Activity Centre – 1971



Cathy Benjamin



Herb Treco

Activity Centre 1970 - 1971



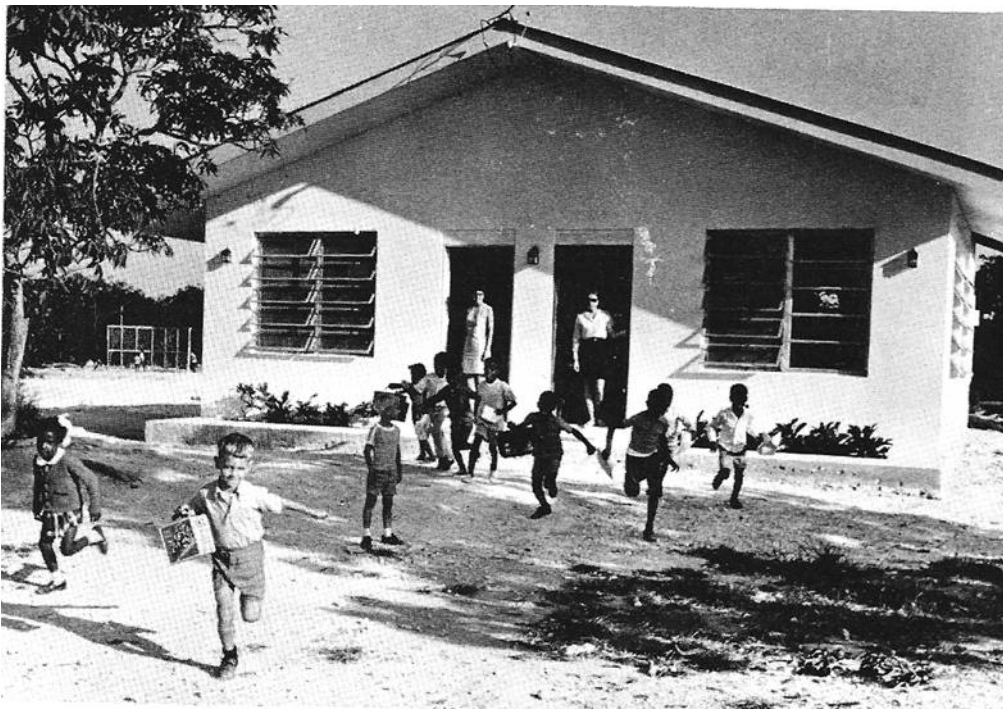
Back and front views of the 2 classrooms on the west end of the Activity Centre



Activity Centre was added in 1971



School's Out!



2 Kindergarten classes dismiss from newly built classrooms



Opening Exercises on the Patio - 1968



Teacher – Rosalyn Gibson Kindergarten – 1971
First class in the new Activity Centre building



Grace Kemp teaches a Bible story in the Activity Centre

Chapter 40

Kingsway Players

Sponsored by the PTA, the Kingsway Players were created to help raise much needed funds. For some of the Kingsway teachers, performing in our Biblical plays at the Dundas Civic Centre was the highlight of their time at Kingsway.

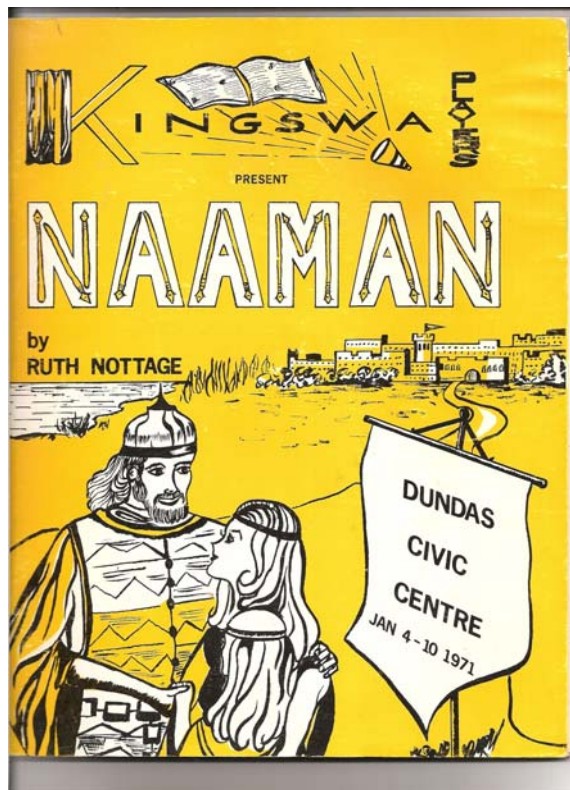
My sister, **Ruth Nottage**, wrote the three plays, [A Sceptre for Esther](#), [The Story of Ruth](#), and [Naaman](#), which were performed as many as seven times each to packed audiences. Young people from different churches joined the cast. **Susie Tatham** painted backgrounds. **Freddy Roberts** built props. Maestro **Andrew Curry** played the piano. **Gerry Black** was in charge of makeup. **Paul Cartwright** provided solos with his warm, baritone voice. At times he was joined by **Godfrey Roberts**, **Roddie Pinder** and **Gerald Pinder**. **Shervin Thompson** invariably played a kingly role. **Leroy Higgs** was our very capable sound and lights technician.

Behind the scenes, a frenzy of volunteers did their part to make the ancient Bible stories come to life.

Thirty years later, people still ask me about the plays.



Kingsway Players Curtain Call at the Dundas Civic Centre



Chapter 41

Treasured Teachers



1968



1969



1970



1972



1971

Chapter 42

Carol Harrison

Carol Harrison and I have been friends for a very long time. I knew two of her sisters from my nurses training days in Canada but I didn't meet Carol until she dropped by the school in 1970 after she came to Nassau to teach in a government school. Of course, I begged her to come to Kingsway as I regularly invested an inordinate amount of time in teacher recruitment. The following year, that is what she did.

I remember visiting her Grade 3 classroom with its eye-catching bulletin boards and well organized displays, a model of calmness and control. Her students excelled.

Before resigning from the Committee of Management in 1973 and moving with my family to Canada and, later, to the USA, I was looking for my replacement as Principal. Reviewing applications from strangers, it suddenly dawned on me that the best qualified person for the job was our third grade teacher, Carol Harrison. The Committee agreed.

I left Carol with a 10 year development plan and, over the years, we remained in touch. Although she needed no plan from me, she implemented most of it.

For the next 26 years, Carol and the Committee of Management improved and expanded the school. Among Carol's many accomplishments was negotiating and annexing the valuable, crown land property across from the school on the south side of Bernard Road, a project spanning three years of dedicated hard work. In 1999, Mr. Robert Turner of Palm Beach, Florida, donated \$10,000 to seal the deal and the land was signed over to Kingsway Academy.

The growth and development of the school under Carol's tender loving care, speaks for itself. Her contribution to the school over the years has been invaluable as hundreds of students and parents will attest. Carol has never sought recognition but I expect she will reap a rich heavenly reward in a coming, glorious day.

Carol Harrison in 1980



Chapter 43

The Night I Went Home

The Activity Centre had just been completed so it seemed fitting that the inaugural meeting of the PTA for 1971 should convene there.

It was only that afternoon that someone had managed to string an extension cord from the school to the Activity Centre to provide light. Clean up was so recent that dust still hung in the air.

By 7 PM, however, the whole campus appeared to be glowing. The classrooms were illuminated and ready for visitors. Teachers' bulletin boards displayed students' best work. The Activity Centre smelled of fresh paint. The program had been well planned and enthusiasm was high. Soon, the property was filled with cars and mothers were seen hurriedly carrying trays of sandwiches and homemade pastries into the Centre.

Incredibly, I was able to slip away into my office to tackle some of my ever present projects.

Pretty soon I heard singing wafting from the Activity Centre. I hurried outside with every intention of joining them but stopped just outside the office door.

It was an absolutely beautiful night. A bright moon revealed a few teachers and parents hurrying through last minute details before joining their friends in the Activity Centre.

I stood silently watching. It was seldom I was quiet, but in the serenity of this moment, the Lord spoke to me. He said, "You passed the test."

I pondered the words. Then, I remembered the beginning – the call, commitment, vision, the many trials when it seemed God Himself was working against us.

At that moment, I knew that the test was over. I knew that God had purposely put roadblocks in my path to test my faith. I realized that while Kingsway Academy was tremendously important, so too was my walk of faith. Untested faith is not worth much. God is looking for faith that endures through thick and thin; faith that does not depend on comfortable circumstances and divine intervention with every hardship. Rather, God loves faith that believes God in spite of circumstances.

At that specific moment, I knew the battle was behind me and that the road ahead would be relatively smooth. Then it seemed I heard God say, "You can go home now."

So I did.



Chapter 44

To God Be All the Glory

Things I learned: :

- Make sure you are called before you commit.
- God can be trusted.
- “Never doubt in the dark what God has revealed in the light.”
- God tests and stretches our faith if we hang on for dear life.
- Untested faith is not worth much.
- Faith that requires a miracle a minute to sustain it, is immature.
- The basis for faith is the character of God, not outcomes.
- “Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him..” Job 13:15
- God moves according to His schedule, not ours.
- Winners in the eyes of man may be losers in the eyes of God. And vice versa.
- When God calls us to a ministry, He will supply the needs of that ministry.
- God is interested in what He is doing in us as well as what He is doing through us.
- The ministries God calls us to are temporary; the lessons learned, eternal.

When I left Kingsway in 1973, the school had 250 students, 4 buildings, was debt free, with an appraised value of \$250,000, an increase of about \$200,000 over the original purchase price.

In my diary, written May 20, 1967, I made the following note:

“Reading Exodus 13:14, 21 – *“..it shall be when thy son asks thee in time to come saying, What is this? that thou shalt say to him, By strength of hand, the LORD brought us out...the Lord went before them..”* I wonder, when we are in the new school, if we shouldn’t observe a special remembrance once a year on our anniversary, to remind the staff and students of how God brought us into our present building and led us? We do not want to become self-sufficient and forget ‘the pit from whence we’ve been digged.’ How true this is with regard to the land.”

Amen



As for God, his way is perfect...he is a buckler to all those that trust in him. Ps. 18:30

Chapter 45

Dear Reader,

You may be wondering what motivated me to leave my native land of Canada and set aside my nursing career to devote 14 years to establishing Kingsway Academy.

My motivation was spiritual as well as educational. While a solid education is important for earthly success, it will garner no favors when we individually stand before God on the Day of Judgment. My goal, therefore, was to not only educate students, but to introduce them to Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour.

To this end, the Bible was taught daily in the classrooms and in special services in the Activity Centre resulting in scores of children coming to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

We trust that they have now matured in their faith and have blessed the Bahamas by living righteous and Godly lives.

If you have never prayed the sinner's prayer, may I suggest you do so now.

It includes:

- an admission of guilt - "I am a sinner"
- a truly repentant heart before a holy God
- an acknowledgment that you can do nothing to save yourself



Christ, our bridge to heaven

Following is the prayer:

Dear God,

I confess to you that I am a sinner and I need your forgiveness.

I understand that if I die in my sins, my soul will be eternally lost.

There is nothing I can do to earn your forgiveness.

I believe that Jesus Christ is your Son and that He died to pay the penalty for my sin.

I gratefully accept Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour and Lord.

I invite Jesus Christ to come into my life, forgive my sin, and make me a child of God.

I declare that Jesus Christ is now my Saviour and Lord.

I am in an eternal, covenant relationship with Christ.

Heaven is my future home.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your amazing love and priceless gift of salvation.

Amen

Signature

Date