

Anglican Church honors dedicated volunteer

A Mississauga man has been accorded the highest possible layperson's honor by the Anglican Church.

Bert Fleming received the Anglican Award Of Merit from Reverend Michael Peers, Primate of the Anglican Church Of Canada at St. Peter's Erindale church recently, for his long-time volunteer service to the local church and overseas.

Regional Bishop Victoria Mathews and Mayor Hazel McCallion were on hand for the packed service.

The 72-year-old father of two described it as a "real thrill" and a humbling experience.

Fleming cites a passage from the book of Isaiah, "Who will work for me", as his inspiration.

"That always stuck in my mind for many years," said the

former general manager of Hydro Mississauga. "I asked myself, what am I going to do about this? I feel I've been called with what talents I have, which are technical."

Since 1955, he has served St. Peter's as a sidesperson, Sunday school teacher, church warden, licensed lay reader, and lay member of the Anglican association SYNOD, representing his parish on major church issues for three years.

Fleming then opted for early retirement at age 63, to dedicate himself to overseas missions, often joined by his wife Elizabeth. He has served as a technical advisor on the construction and repair of churches and other buildings in Haiti, St. Vincent, the Arctic, the North West Territories and Jerusalem.

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St. Peter's Erindale Rector Stephen Booth cited Fleming's strong sense of responsibility to "share the gifts he's been given."

"(This award) has been historically fairly rare, and it has often gone to lay persons who have served on various committees, rather than someone like Bert who has been an overseas volunteer," he said.

Fleming's work at St. Peter's came while serving as general manager of Hydro Mississauga from 1960-1985, as the city's population boomed from 40,000 to over 400,000. For the past two years he's served as the church's maintenance co-ordinator, and he also makes pastoral visits to hospitals and shut-ins.

PEEL BIOGRAPHY FLEMING BERT

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