

Ray and Dorothy Christenson Family

Ray Christenson was raised in a Seventh-day Adventist home (in fact his paternal grandparents also were SDA) but he left home and the church when he was a teenager. When he was 33 years old he married Dorothy Evans – who had been raised a Congregationalist. Ray and Dorothy did not attend any church and lived a pretty worldly life the early years of their marriage. They did live just down the road from Ray's parents, Adolph and Agnes Christensen, and across the road from the Bath SDA church. In fact, when their daughter, Darlene, was a little girl, on Sabbath morning her mother would walk her across the road so she could walk to the Bath SDA church and attend Sabbath School. After church, Grandma would walk her across the road and she would go home.

Ray's brother, Marvin Christensen, and family lived on the home farm which gave Darlene cousins to play with. Dennis was a year older than her and they enjoyed walking to school together, playing and getting into mischief! But, when Darlene was 10 years old, Dennis unexpectedly died on the operating table. After grandma walked down the road to tell Dorothy about Dennis, Dorothy spent the rest of that afternoon trying to figure out how to tell her daughter that her best friend had died.

When Ray came home from work, Dorothy told him, "I don't care if we go to your church, my church or another church – I want to know what happens when you die!" The sudden death of their nephew caused them to rethink the way they were living, so they began Bible studies with Ray's brother's in-laws, Frank and Verian Buchanan, and were baptized the next year. Ray and Dorothy's two daughters, Darlene (Lombard) and Alvina (Cook), also both became baptized members of the SDA church.

Submitted in 2016 by:

Alvina Christenson-Cook

Darlene Christenson-Lombard



Christenson family members and many other Bath SDA pioneers await the call of their Savior in the Bath SDA Cemetery



Worship in the Bath SDA Church



Ray and Dorothy Christenson
Wedding Day



Ray and Dorothy Christenson
in 1996



Ray and Dorothy Christenson with daughters Darlene and Alvina