Voll, Fritz

Fritz Voll, United Church of Canada, was born in 1930 and grew up in Nazi Germany. At eight years of age he saw the synagogue opposite his parent?s house ravaged and burnt by Hitler?s Storm Troopers during the so-called Reichskristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass). He wondered why, in church and Sunday School, ancient Jews were talked about, but contemporary Jews were never mentioned. After studies at theological colleges in Denmark and Britain he served for twenty-five years as youth leader of an Evangelical church in Germany. In 1976 he emigrated with his wife and three teen-age children to Canada. In 1983 he became the Western Regional Director of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. In his work he came in personal contact with Professors Paul van Buren, Lloyd Gaston, Clemens Thoma, and Gerhard Bodendorfer and men like Dr. Hans-Hermann Henrix, Rabbi Dr. Pinchas Hayman, Dr. Allan Brockway, Dr. Eugene Fisher and many others who did groundbreaking theological work on the Christian-Jewish relationship. These scholars encouraged him to publish their articles on the Web when he in 1994, after his retirement, established this Web site on Jewish-Christian Relations. He funded and maintained this site for six years and gave it to the International Council of Christians and Jews in 2000, remaining its webmaster to 2004. He also hosted, through the jcrelations site, the first presence on the internet of various Christian-Jewish organizations in the U.K., Australia, Germany, Austria, and Israel, many of which have subsequently established their own websites.

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