



The Future of the Retired Workers' Retreat

by Pastor David Lake

I enjoyed my second year at the NAB Retired Workers' Retreat at Cedar Springs. In many respects, I see myself as the new kid on the block. I recall a similar feeling when first arriving in Cameroon as a short-term missionary in 1972. Veteran missionaries asked me what I was observing around me. They felt that familiarity, together with longevity, may have dulled some of their first impressions.

Last year at Cedar Springs, I observed as a spectator; this year, I was part of the leadership team at the retreat. What has not changed is the natural and human environment at the conference center, that is, the place and the people. Yes, this year a skunk nearly sprayed our spiritually aromatic speaker, Pastor Marcus Elmer, and one of the microphones did not work properly. However, the skunk and the microphone were soon forgotten as the Holy Spirit imparted blessing after blessing.

However, this year's attendance was lower than last year's, which could portend some of what the future holds for this annual event in May. This lower attendance was partly caused by several home goings over the past twelve months. On the other hand, I observed something this year that, if it keeps occurring, should brighten the retreat's future. Several people were present for the first time. Several came because a friend or relative invited them. Pat Lenz, former missionary to Mbingo, Cameroon, and currently living in Fessenden, North Dakota, was there with her cousin, Marion Justus. Bill Muller brought his daughter, Joy, with him. Ken and Vicki Behr provided quartet music with Dorothy and me and were excited to learn that long-time friends and associates in ministry, Ron and Sharon Mayforth, were planning to attend.

SERVANT LINK

JUNE–SEPTEMBER 2017

Here is an idea for the future: how about broadening the potential attendee list to include relatives or friends of NAB retired Christian workers who have in the past shared in our support and ministry endeavors? For widows, widowers, and celibates, to bring along a relative or friend would solve some transportation issues, provide additional fellowship, and decrease the individual cost of attending.

For people on fixed incomes, the cost of attending any conference or retreat is always a concern. For a newcomer, getting to Cedar Springs is a challenge even with GPS. If individuals in the various regions of the NAB would volunteer to contact those in their region who might want to attend, as well as arrange carpooling when necessary, attendance would increase. The inclusion of these newcomers would bless them and us.

What I am proposing is not a new idea in Christendom. Local churches have long realized that like attracts like. Right from their first visit, many who are looking for a local church to attend are seeking people in a congregation with whom they have something in common or whom they already know. Our relatives can also appreciate gathering with former missionaries and pastors to reflect thankfully and openly on past and present ministry blessings.

How about it? Next year at the 2018 NAB Retired Workers' Retreat at Cedar Springs, each one bring one—or each two bring two.

Congratulations! Let's Celebrate!

Froh Hiller will be celebrating her 100th birthday on July 5. She served as a pastor's wife in churches in New York, South Dakota, Alberta, and Michigan and is a former president of the NAB Women's Ministry. She has attended twenty-five consecutive Triennial Conferences, beginning with 1940, where she met her husband, Herbert, and ending with 2012, where she celebrated her 95th birthday. The Hiller Lectureship at Sioux Falls Seminary was established to honor the ministry of Herbert and Froh. Froh has two children, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren to celebrate her centennial, along with many friends. Greetings can be sent to her at 28566 Imperial Drive, Warren, MI 48093, or to her son, Harry, at hiller@ucalgary.ca.

Jake and Peggy Leverette will celebrate their 70th anniversary with their family on September 9 at Calvary Baptist Church in Wetaskiwin, Alberta, where they are members. They were married on December 3, 1947, at East Sherman Baptist Church in Sherman, Texas. They have served NAB churches in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Florida, California, and Minnesota. Jake served as area minister for eleven years in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and northern North Dakota. They retired in 1999 and since then have served in interim ministry in sixteen churches in Alberta and Manitoba. Jake currently serves as volunteer pastor at a retirement home. The Leverettes can be reached at #203, 4604 48A Street, Leduc, AB T9E 5X8; (780) 986-5128; or jp2leverette@shaw.ca.

It's Good to Get Together

Fifteen retired NAB missionaries and pastors from the area gathered in Portland, Oregon, for lunch to share some events of their lives in ministry. It was great to have this time of fellowship on March 31.

In Care and Prayer

Dr. Donald N. Miller, former NAB pastor and vice president for Development at NAB Seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, is now on dialysis eighteen hours a day, but is holding his own. He and his wife, Nancy, continue to be active in directing Samaritan Ministries

in Ukraine, the humanitarian organization they founded twenty-five years ago in Don's ancestral villages in Russia (now Ukraine). Pray that Don will continue to be strong and steady in his faith and model what it's like to end well. Encourage Don at dnmiller@whiz.to or 12814 NW Bishop Road, Hillsboro, OR 97124.

Daphne Dunger recently had a successful surgery on her fractured vertebrae; however, shortly after returning home, she fell and broke her leg and arm. She is currently in the hospital to have the fractures treated. Daphne and Amie Dunger can be reached at ddad@alliancecom.net.

Home to Glory

Anita Taubensee Henkel—December 5, 2016, (86) after a fall and head injuries at her home in Calgary, Alberta. Anita and her first husband, Manfred Taubensee, enjoyed thirty-four years of marriage and served NAB churches in Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia, as well as at Green Bay Bible Camp in West Kelowna, British Columbia, until Fred died suddenly of a heart attack. In 2007, Anita married Rudy Henkel and lived in Calgary, Alberta, until her sudden passing. Anita is survived by her second husband, Rudy; two sons and two daughters; and three sisters, Ellen (Elmer) Breitkreuz, Eileen (Reinhold) Fichtner, and Manetta Hohn, her twin. Manetta Hohn can be reached at emhohn@shaw.ca.

Rosie (Schneider) Hunsicker—December 13, 2016, (100) in Medicine Hat, Alberta. In 1939, Rosie decided to go to Bible school in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she met her future husband, Paul Hunsicker. They were married in Cathay, North Dakota, in 1940 and resided there for three years. They pastored in many different places: North Dakota, Nebraska, British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and California. They retired to Medicine Hat and spent winters in Arizona. Paul passed away in 2005. Rosie is survived by her four children, Fay Braun of Calgary, Ruth (Chuck) Orr of Medicine Hat, Myron (Jane) Hunsicker of Medicine Hat, and Marilyn Hunsicker of Havre, Montana; seven grandchildren; and sixteen great-grandchildren. Visit www.pattisonfuneralhome.com to leave a message of condolence.

Bertha Janzen—February 2 (90) in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Bertha was raised on a farm in Alberta and went to Christian Training Institute in Edmonton, Alberta, in 1942, where she met Eldon Janzen, whom she married in 1946. She was a dedicated pastor's wife and used her many gifts in Valleyview, Alberta; Fenwood, Saskatchewan; Arnprior, Ontario; and the Chicago and New York City areas. She is survived by her children, Sharon (Timothy) Hawes, Dale (Coni) Janzen, Douglas (Zarah) Janzen, and Evangeline (Victor) Kovach; ten grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. You can contact her sister-in-law at mneu3@shaw.ca.

Beverlee 'Bev' Janet Buenning—February 13 (73) at St. Vincent's Hospital Riverside in Jacksonville, Florida. Bev grew up on a farm near Lake Norden, South Dakota, and attended school at Bethel College and South Dakota State University, where she earned her master's degree in home economics. While teaching at South Dakota high schools, she met her husband, Lester, who was attending seminary. They were married March 26, 1970. Bev's greatest joy and satisfaction was raising their son, Brice, and working with Les at the churches he pastored. Bev devoted her time to teaching others through Women's Missionary Fellowship, Sunday school, and children's church. She left a musical legacy as church organist and piano teacher. Bev's beloved husband, Les Buenning of Kingsland, Georgia, passed away shortly after her on March 28. She is survived by her son, Brice (Tammy) Buenning of Yokosuka, Japan; her sister, Lois (Maynard) Hughes of Bradenton, Florida; her brother, Roger (June) Olson of Aitkin, Minnesota; her grandchildren, Michaela (Judah) Hawthorne of Prescott Valley, Arizona, and Olivia Buenning of Yokosuka, Japan; and seven nieces.

Dr. Kenneth W. Jones Jr.—February 19 (92). Ken went to join his beloved wife, Frances, with the Lord. He lived a life of service as a doctor and as a missionary all over the world. A service was held on February 27 at Brush Prairie Baptist Church in Vancouver, Washington.

Julie (Scheffler) Hardesty—March 11 (40) in Oregon after various health challenges and a sudden heart attack. Julie was born in Cameroon to Bonnie Phillips Scheffler, a short-term missionary to Japan from 1973 to 1975, and Larry Scheffler, both of whom were full-time NAB missionaries to Cameroon from

1976 to 1980. Julie leaves behind her husband, Larry, and three-year-old daughter, Gracie. Pray for the family as they mourn their loss.

Delores Strauss—March 19 (83). She and her husband, Ervin Strauss (who passed away on July 18, 2014, at age 87), pastored three NAB churches: Hilda Baptist Church in Hilda, Alberta; Rose of Sharon Baptist Church in Richmond, British Columbia; and Grace Baptist Church in Kelowna, British Columbia. Ervin and his first wife, Rovia, had three children, David, Calvin, and Ivette. Rovia passed away one month after the birth of Ivette in May 1958, and Ervin married Delores in October 1959. In September 1965, they had a son named Steven. Delores is survived by all four children and their spouses, eighteen grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Her son David is pastoring at Rose of Sharon Baptist Church in Aldergrove, British Columbia.

Rev. Lester 'Les' Allen Buenning—March 28 (73) of Kingsland, Georgia, at Oceanside Health and Rehabilitation Center on Tybee Island, Georgia. Les grew up in several communities in the Midwest, graduating college in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he met his wife, Beverlee Olson (who passed away on February 13). Les completed his formal education in 1973 at the North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls. Les served as pastor at churches in Marion, Kansas; West Fargo, North Dakota; and McClusky, North Dakota. He had a great passion for woodworking and Gospel music. Rev. Buenning is survived by his son, Brice (Tammy) Buenning of Yokosuka, Japan; his sister, Laura (Patrick Royer) Thayer of Knoxville, Tennessee; his brother, Fred (Rosemary Doerner) Buenning of Lakewood, Colorado; his brother-in-law, Phil Watson of Abilene, Kansas; his grandchildren, Michaela (Judah) Hawthorne of Prescott Valley, Arizona, and Olivia Buenning of Yokosuka, Japan; and seven nieces.

Margaret Friesen—April 3 (101) peacefully with family by her side in Indianola, Iowa. Margaret and her husband, Leland, who preceded her in death, served as NAB pastors in Okeene, Oklahoma; Emery, South Dakota; Louisiana; and Terrace Heights, Washington. She is survived by her son, Larry (Judith) Friesen of Mounds View, Minnesota; nine grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions

may be directed to the Sioux Falls Seminary Leland and Margaret Friesen Scholarship Fund or the Indianola Village Good Shepherd Fund. Online condolences may be made at www.overtonfunerals.com.

Ehrenfried 'Fred' Merke—April 11 (87) in Edmonton, Alberta. He and his family immigrated to Canada from Germany in June 1951, settling in Vernon, British Columbia. His wife, Hildegard, immigrated to Canada in February 1955, and they were married that same month. At the Edmonton NAB Conference in 1958, Fred felt called into ministry. He last served as the associate pastor for German ministries at Zion Baptist Community Church in Edmonton. He remained active in volunteer ministry and as an encourager to the ministerial staff at Zion until his home going. He is lovingly remembered by his wife of sixty-two years, Hildegard of Edmonton; children, Edgar (Wilhemina) of Chicago, George (Margitta) of Toronto, Rose of Edmonton, and Gerald (Tania) of Toronto; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and sisters, Ruth (Guenther) and Edith, as well as nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Edmond 'Ed' Hohn—April 20 (88). Cherishing his memory and celebrating his life are his wife of fifty-eight years, Manetta; their children, Glenda (Jurgen) Kannwischer, Sharlene (Wilf) Mueller, Calvin (Susanne) Hohn, and Rhonda (Emile) Moured; and his seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Ed was born in Reston, Manitoba, and grew up on a farm in Swan River, Manitoba. Ed committed his life to the Lord when he was 15. He submitted to God's call on his life to full-time ministry, pastoring churches in Saskatchewan and British Columbia and also serving as a regional minister for the NAB. His gentle and

humble spirit, strength of leadership, and pastoral heart impacted many lives. Ed and Manetta enjoyed many years of retirement together in Kelowna, but with his recent decline in health, he was very ready to go to his heavenly home. Contact Manetta at emhohn@shaw.ca.

Jennie Burgess—May 8 (41) of cancer. Jennie was in education at Coopersville Public Schools. She was the wife of Mark Burgess, who was born in Cameroon and is the oldest son of David and Mary June Burgess, missionaries in Cameroon and Nigeria from 1969 to 2010 and youth pastor at First Baptist Church in Bellwood, Illinois. Jennie will be deeply missed by her husband, Mark, and her three children, Anna (16), Elizabeth (13), and Ben (10); her parents, Robert and Barbara Anderson; and many other family and friends. Contact Mark at 669 Center St., Coopersville, MI 49404, or mandjburgess@yahoo.com. Contact Dave and Mary June at 1313 Cranbrook Ter. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505, dburgess1313@comcast.net, or mjburgess@ymail.com.

Ralph R. Nelson—April 20 (85) while living at a veteran's home in Chula Vista, California. Ralph dedicated his life to missionary service at a Youth for Christ rally. He earned a degree in Bible at Multnomah School of the Bible, which he followed up with by attending Biola School of Missionary Medicine, where he met Martha. They were married in 1957 and had three children, Sheryl, Eugene, and Michael. Ralph and Martha joined the NAB as missionaries to southern Brazil in 1966, beginning their ministry there in 1970 in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul before relocating to Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, where they worked as evangelists and church planters until 1997, when they retired from full-time ministry.

This publication connects retired NAB workers with one another, with NAB, and with God.

Please let us know about your changes, celebrations, prayer concerns, particular interest in any area of conference ministry, and resources you have discovered to make senior life better.

Send updates to Ron & Joan Stoller.

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