



SERVANT LINK

FEBRUARY–MAY

Perseverance in Listening

Stu Streeter

Vice President of Ministry Advancement, NAB

Faithfulness and perseverance are qualities with which you are well acquainted. There is little doubt that, given the opportunity, telling your story of how God spoke in you, to you, and through you would inspire even the most casual of Christ-followers. Those within earshot would be blessed by your wisdom and encouraged by the story of God's faithfulness in your life.

This past month, I have been preaching through a series at Disciples Church called "The Moses in Us All." In each of the stories we chose from the Exodus, I was moved and amazed at God's faithfulness to speak to Israel through Moses, even in the midst of their darkest moments of unfaithfulness to God. There is a lot going on in all of that, of course, but one of the things I have heard God whisper to me through the journey is His passion for the one person within the masses who will attentively listen to the voice of God, that one person who, in utter chaos, is willing to go up the mountain and simply hear from the LORD.

And so the story goes in Scripture. Samuel prays, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." The great Nehemiah, upon learning of the state of the holy city, falls on his face, fasting and seeking the word of God. Jesus consistently slips away to a quiet place to be with the Father.

You have undoubtedly built great things in your ministry life, led people to places they never thought they would see, and spoken truth and life into the lives of hundreds, maybe thousands. But the greatest thing you can persevere in and faithfully pursue, something that is undaunted by retirement, is listening intently for the voice of God in your life and sharing it with those nearby.

Thank you for being the kind of leader within the NAB family who has modeled this for the rest of us. We stand on your shoulders with great honor and joy, and most importantly, with an ear attuned to the voice of God.

*But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say,
'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*
(Matthew 4:4 NLT)

Congratulations! Let's Celebrate!

Rev. Walter Dingfield will be celebrating his 95th birthday on February 23. Walter and Gladys were NAB pastors in Startup, WA; Fargo and Bismarck, ND; Kankakee, IL; and Lodi, CA. Gladys passed away on December 23, 2003. You can contact Walter at 10880 SW Davies Road #3010, Beaverton, OR 97008.

Ellen and Elmer Breitreuz celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on August 17. They were missionaries in Cameroon from 1968 to 1972 and have returned to Cameroon three times since to volunteer in missions. They are retired and involved with West Meadows Baptist Church in Edmonton, AB. You can send them belated anniversary wishes and belated 84th birthday wishes to Elmer (September 16) at enebreit@telus.net.

Art Brust celebrated his 85th birthday on December 8. He and his wife, Sena, served in four churches in California, South Dakota, British Columbia, and Montana. The last church they served at was in Lincoln, CA, before retiring in 2009. Art is now the pastor of visitation at Pleasant Grove Community Church in Roseville, CA. They reside at 1928 Farmgate Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648. ABrust@starstream.net.

Bert Itterman turned 90 on October 30 while celebrating with all of his family. In 1967, the Ittermans were asked by the NAB Conference to shepherd the construction and organization of Lakeshore Baptist Church at Stevensville, MI. Faith Baptist Church in Rock Rapids, IA, was started while Bert and Evelyn served at First Baptist Church in George, IA, the "Mother Church." You can send late greetings to their home at Trail Ridge Senior Retirement Center, 3408 W Ralph Rogers Road Apt B117, Sioux Falls, SD 57108 or baitterman20@gmail.com.

Ted and Marietta Faszzer are being honored by Sioux Falls Seminary as the Messiah Chapel is being named in honor of them. Dr. Ted Faszzer, Professor Emeritus, served on the faculty of Sioux Falls Seminary from 1977 to 2013 and conducted thirty-six annual performances of Handel's *Messiah* with the Seminary/Community Choir. An anonymous donor has contributed funds to name the Messiah Chapel in honor of the Faszzer's ministries of teaching, mentoring, worship, music, and hospitality. Everyone is invited on Friday, May 12, at

6:00 p.m. to Sioux Falls Seminary for the naming and dedicating service.

It's Good to Get Together

Every year on the third Tuesday in February, present and former NAB folk in the Phoenix area gather for fellowship, a brief program, and a meal. The 2017 Gathering is scheduled for 9:30 to noon on Tuesday, February 21, at Sweet Tomatoes in Scottsdale, AZ. The event begins with introductions and coffee 9:30–10:00. Dan Hamil and Ron Norman will share brief NAB updates. The program includes music by Garene and Harlow Rudolph. At 11:00, the NAB Gathering goes through the lunch line first at Sweet Tomatoes. After the NAB Gathering adjourns at noon, all who are interested are invited to an additional NAB presentation from 12:00 to 1:00 to hear from Dan and Ron about our NAB Reach Campaign. For more information, contact tedfaszer@gmail.com.

In Care and Prayer

Don and Alice Decker, who pastored in various states throughout the United States and retired to Dallas, OR, have moved to Southern California to be with their two sons. Don had gangrene, and after four months and three surgeries at the VA hospital, his left leg was amputated below the knee. Both Don and Alice are now enjoying their home and God's blessings. Contact them at (503) 559-4652 or ddeckerdallas@gmail.com.

Bee Westerman has moved from her home at Trail Ridge in Sioux Falls, SD, to be near her brother Elmer in Kansas.

Home to Glory

Wilbert Dachtler—April 30 (90). Wil met Delores Eleanor Spears in March 1943, and they were married on September 4, 1943. Wil and Delores had three children. He graduated from Grand Rapids Baptist Bible College and Seminary, where he completed a program of Music and Theology, and began fifty-five years of ministry in South Dakota, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Kansas. The Dachtlers retired and moved to Ft. Myers, FL, followed by Henderson, NE, and finally Sioux Falls,

SD, in 2003, ministering in various places until July 2006. After sixty-five years of marriage, Delores passed away on December 24, 2008. Wil moved to Viborg, SD, and lived with his son, Daryl, and daughter-in-law, Cecelia, until April 2015, when he moved to Henderson, NE, where he lived with his daughter, Lisa, and her husband until his death. A service was held on May 7 at First Baptist Church of Viborg, SD.

Gladys (Weiss) Feaver—June 19 (90) in Stockton, CA. After her marriage in 1943, she served as organist for about thirty years at Immanuel Baptist Church in Kenosha, WI. She then served as secretary to Pastor Ralph Cook at Magnolia Baptist Church in Anaheim, CA, and was involved in the choir and a vocal ensemble. She then moved to Lodi, CA, where she served as secretary to Pastor Ken Fisher at Temple Baptist Church. She once again enjoyed singing in the choir, as well as serving in their Stephen Ministry. She is survived by her daughter, Cheryl Bibelheimer (Wayne); three granddaughters; and eleven great-grandchildren. You can reach Wayne and Cheryl Bibelheimer in Stockton, CA, at wcbbebs@sbcglobal.net.

Dr. Gordon Stork—October 14 (55). Gordon was born in Morris, MB, to Rudy and Violet Stork. Gordon married his loving partner and supporter, Diane Neumann, on December 21, 1985. He graduated from the University of Manitoba and continued to receive his Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Counseling, and Doctor of Ministry from the NAB Seminary. Gordon and Diane were blessed with three children. Gordon served his Lord, friend, and Savior as lead pastor in Austin, Sioux Falls, and Bismarck churches and finally as NAB regional minister for the Northern Plains Region. Services were held at Century Baptist Church in Bismarck, ND, on October 22.

Steven J. Penner—October 26 (51), suddenly in Boulder, CO. Steven was the son of Fred (NABS/Sioux Falls Seminary, alumnus 1962) and Edith Penner. The funeral was held at Calvary Bible Church in Erie, CO, on November 7. He is survived by his children Ellie (17, 10th grade) and Caleb (20, freshman at University of Colorado).

Edward Bennie Link—October 29 (90). Edward's passion for singing led him to the University of Rochester, where he earned both a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Divinity. Edward was a soloist, a

music director, and a member in a male quartet for over one hundred concerts in Canada and the United States. For twenty-eight years, Professor Link taught at NABC and the University of Alberta, earning a Master's along the way, and led the touring Choristers through performances across the continent. After retiring, he served for twelve years in interim ministry at nine churches and became the singing chaplain at Salem Manor Nursing Home, caring for residents for over twenty years before retiring at the age of 86. Edward is survived by his wife of sixty-seven years, Violet; one daughter and two sons; and fifteen grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A celebration of Edward's life was held at Greenfield Community Church on November 5.

Ervin Gerlitz—October 29 (89), during surgery in Puyallup, WA. At age 16, he met his lifelong sweetheart, Lillian Hartman, and they married on July 27, 1947. It was Ervin's passion to study and serve God in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. He pastored churches in McIntosh, SD; Stafford, OR; Renton, WA; and Tacoma, WA, as well as serving as interim pastor to several western Washington churches. Ervin also served in ministry in Tacoma's St. Joseph Hospital and was a board member of the North American Baptist College, Renton Rotary Club, and Billy Graham Crusades, among many others. He is survived by his wife, Lillian; son, Stanley; and daughter, Jeanette, along with grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many family members and members of the flocks he looked over in his years of ministries. A memorial service and celebration of life was held November 5 at Christ Community Baptist Church. You can contact Lillian at Silver Creek Senior Living, 17607 91st Ave E Rm #363, Puyallup, WA 98375 or (253) 210-5158.

Roy Weiss—December 28 (86), after a battle with cancer. Roy leaves Gloria, his best friend and wife of fifty-four years. Also mourning his passing are his three children, ten grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Roy was born in Hilda, AB, and attended school throughout Alberta, eventually developing an interest in missions. He then attended Bible school at CTI in Edmonton, AB. He worked in management at South Country Village in Medicine Hat, AB, starting in 1967 and later was on the Board of Directors, a position he held throughout the rest of his life. Roy went on seven mission trips with Campus Crusade, showing *The Jesus Film* in Brazil, Cameroon, Africa, and Mexico. Roy and Gloria also volunteered at Banso Baptist Hospital in

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE >

Cameroon for almost a year. He was a charter member of Temple Baptist Church, where he served in many capacities. Contact his nephew Ted Faszler for more information: tedfaszler@gmail.com.

Adele (Kornell) Northan—December 29 (101), peacefully. She was born October 5, 1915. She is survived by one brother, Dan Schmuland; two sons; six grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. Adele was predeceased in death by her husband, Joseph Kornalewski. They served the Minitonas, MB, and Leduc, AB, churches before moving to Kelowna, BC, in 1952 to serve as pastor of Grace Baptist Church. In 1962, they founded Still Waters Private Hospital (now the Village at Mill Creek). It was the first private hospital in the BC interior. Adele was instrumental in the development and operation of several quality health care facilities in Kelowna. As a result of her vision and foresight, the third generation of the Kornell family continues to be involved in the provision of Senior Retirement Living throughout the Okanagan area. Adele was a woman of prayer and continued to be an inspiration to all who knew her. She lived her 101 years with dignity, grace, and purpose. A celebration of Adele's life was held on Friday, January 6, at Trinity Church, Kelowna, BC.

Kathryn Pearl Schilke—December 29 (98). She was born to Herman and Kathryn deNeui Hoekman in rural Wilmot, SD. She married Rev. Richard Schilke on November 28, 1942. Together they served NAB churches in Minitonas, MB; Edmonton, AB; and Anaheim, CA. They then resided in Oak Park, IL, for many years, where Richard was General Mission Secretary of the NAB General Conference. They hosted missionaries and members of the NAB Conference for many years while they lived in the Chicago area and were members of Forest Park Baptist Church. Upon Richard's death in 2001, Kay moved to Portland, OR, to be near her daughter, Linda Kinnier. She was part of

the ministry and outreach of Bethany Baptist Church in Portland for about fifteen years and shared her life with many. A sudden health issue December 29 in her home ushered her into the Lord's presence. She leaves behind four children—Clifford and Pat (Furey), Dianne and Fred Davis, Donald and Svetlana, and Linda and Jim Kinnier—seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, along with many friends whose lives were touched by her love, compassion, stories, jokes, food, and flowers. A memorial was held at Bethany Baptist on January 28. Interment will be at the First Baptist Cemetery in Corona, SD, at a later date. You can reach her family at 16880 NW Greyhawk Dr., Beaverton, OR 97006.

Myrtle Evangeline Ertis (nee Janzen)—January 6 (92). She and her late husband, Waldemar, served churches in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario, and British Columbia, returned to Alberta, and then retired to Kelowna where all who knew her recognized her gentle, peaceful spirit and her deep and abiding love of the Lord as a pastor's wife. Myrtle is predeceased by her husband Waldemar, two brothers, and a sister. She is survived by her daughter Crystal (Norm) Krause and son Alex (Susan) Ertis and their five grandchildren. Her memorial service was on January 14 at the Chapel of Springfield Funeral Home in Kelowna, BC.

Clara Milbrandt—January 10 (101). Clara was predeceased by her husband, Rev. Rudolf Milbrandt, in 1966. They founded and pastored several NAB churches in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia; they also played a key role in the establishment and administration of the Baptist Haven of Rest for the Aged (1946–1959) in Medicine Hat, AB. She leaves her children, Trudy (Ralph) Krueger and Dennis (Liane Depatie) Milbrandt; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. A celebration of life was held at Brentview Baptist Church on January 17.

Join us in beautiful Sumas, WA, May 15–17, for the NAB Retired Workers' Retreat!

Look for more information coming soon! To receive Retreat information, e-mail Amber Pedroni at apedroni@nabconf.org or call 916-797-6222 ext. 0

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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