

# SERVANT LINK

*Connecting Retired Christian Workers & Friends of the NAB Conference*

## How Are We Affected by the Changing of the Seasons?

BY RON AND JOAN STOLLER

January is a time when we turn the calendar to another year. What changes do you face each time the season changes? Maybe it is a change from your normal home to a winter home in the south. It could be a fall to winter wardrobe, normal tires to winter tires, or maybe even bringing in the summer plants for the winter season. For many, we look out the window and see the green grass and trees turn into a white winter wonderland. Changing seasons is not only watching the leaves fall from the trees and experiencing the crisp cool mornings followed by snow on our front yards, but it is a change in our mindset. The emotional changes we deal with are important, but so are the spiritual changes we all go through.

When the colder weather approaches and leaves fall off branches, we brace ourselves for the winter storms around us, and we put on those warm jackets and mittens to stay warm. Like bears, many of us would like to hibernate for the winter! Sometimes we have to put on the emergency spiritual winter clothing when we experience health storms, family issues, or even church snowstorms! Do you have a spiritual winter jacket that gives you protection when it is stormy inside, in your soul? As we look back on our spiritual journey, we see changing attitudes, but how do we cope with those

changes? The falling away of our faith happens when we get involved in something other than our walk with God. The winter season brings cold and chilly winds, but we can't forget that God provides enough warm spiritual clothing.

Just like putting on a winter coat to protect us from the winter elements, we also have spiritual protection in our winter senior season. There is always hope as we find many promises in God's Word. Take time to search the Scriptures and be surrounded with his comfort.

The Word of God is our stronghold, our security and our comfort in difficult times of death, illness, weather conditions, and loss of friends, home, and security. Be reminded of God's comfort for us as we read in the Psalms and Isaiah. In 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, we read, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles" (NIV). We can hold onto the comfort that is ours through Christ during these winter days of our lives. What we wear on the outside should reflect what we share from our hearts of our love for Christ and our assurance that he is carrying us through these changes of seasons.



## IN GOD'S WAITING ROOM (90 AND OLDER)

**Reinhold Kerstan** turned 91 on November 12, 2022. He and his wife, Inger, live in Sarasota, Florida. He would love to talk NAB history with you. Call him at (941) 271-9184.

**Roselyn Wolff** will turn 90 on March 31, 2023. Send her greetings at (346) 241-0676. She lives near her son at Apt. 312 12102 Steeple Way Blvd., Village on the Park, Houston, TX, 77065. She is the sister to Rev. Clarence Walth.

**Elmer Breitkreuz** turned 90 on September 16, 2022. You can reach Elmer and Ellen at enebreit@telus.net.

**Jake and Peggy Leverette** celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on December 3, 2022. Jake served churches from 1965 to 1988, after which he served as a regional minister. Peggy turned 93 on July 22, 2022, and is doing well, though she does have dementia, which affects her somewhat. Jake turned 94 on October 1, 2022. Reach out to them at jp2leverette@eastlink.ca or #234 4501 60th St., Wetaskiwin, AB T9A 1X7 and ask what has kept them active in retirement.

**Fred and Edy Penner** celebrated their 60th anniversary on September 1, 2022. They are living at 501 E. 39th Street, South Sioux City, NE 68776. After retiring from the pastorate, Fred was a substitute teacher in local schools for sixteen years, and now he is fully retired. He celebrated his 86th birthday on September 20. He still enjoys biking regularly. Fred and Edy can be reached at: fepenner09@hotmail.com.

**Werner Waitkus** will turn 90 in March. Werner was a professor at the NAB seminary in Edmonton, Alberta, for many years and now lives in British Columbia. Send him some greetings at (250) 868-0681.

## GONE TO GLORY

**Ilse Michelson**, 81, passed away May 24, 2022, in Florida. A loving wife, mother of four, and grandmother of seven, she emigrated from Germany after World War II. After she married Helmut, she supported them both as a secretary while he attended seminary. After Helmut joined the Army as a chaplain, she became a stay-at-home mother to their four children.

**Nancy Folkerts**, 89, passed away on August 16, 2022, while residing at Windsor Park in Carol Stream, Illinois. From 1959 to 1972, Nancy and Fred were NAB missionaries in Cameroon. Contact Fred at 79 Cady Ln., Woodstock, CT 06281 or call him at (847) 450-3552.

**David Gallagher**, 61, died in Bismarck, North Dakota, on August 25, 2022, having lost his battle to cancer. David pastored Martin Baptist Church for eight years in Martin, North Dakota. He became a team staff member for six years at Century Baptist Church in Bismarck as the pastor of Care.

**Phyllis A. Harms**, 94, entered into God's presence on September 11, 2022, in Milbank, South Dakota. She married Harvey Harms in 1949, and they were blessed with five children. She volunteered with many groups and spent much time at the NAB seminary and Heritage Commission.

**James "Gordon" Harris**, 81, went into God's presence on September 15, 2022. Gordon was a pastor, colonel in the Army, state chaplain of South Dakota, member of various organizations, and professor at the NAB seminary for many years. His wife, Joyce,

lives with their daughter Jami in Columbus, Missouri.

**Richard Hohensee**, 89, peacefully passed away on September 24, 2022, in White Rock, British Columbia. He moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with his wife, Inge, in the late 1950s to attend NAB Seminary. Richard pastored in various NAB churches: Trinity Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, and Immanuel Baptist Church and Bethany Baptist Church in Vancouver, British Columbia. He is survived by Inge, three children and their families, and seven grandchildren.

**Dorothy Zimbelman**, 95, passed away September 27, 2022, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Dorothy and Ernie served with the NAB in Cameroon from 1959 to 1968. As Dr. "Z" got his education after they returned to America, Dorothy worked, supported him, and helped raise three sons.

**Ken Schmuland**, 92, went home to be with the Lord on September 29. He was placed into hospice care this past summer after several years of cancer treatment. Contact David Lake (dwdelake@gmail.com) for more information.

**Bob Fast**, 65, passed away unexpectedly at home on October 7, 2022. He met and married his wife, Dale, while at Providence College (Winnipeg Bible College). He sat on various boards, including a term as moderator of the NAB Conference. He leaves his work with the board of Pioneers Canada and Whyte Ridge Baptist Church unfinished. Bob is survived by his devoted wife of forty-three years, two daughters, and six precious granddaughters.

**Royce Baron**, 87, passed away

peacefully on October 28, 2022, in Houston, Texas. Three years after marrying Sue Risley in 1964, they moved to Mexico, where they established Iglesia Bíblica El Faro (Lighthouse Bible Church). In 1981, they moved to Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where Royce taught math and Bible at Markoma Bible Academy. In 2008, they retired and moved to Katy, Texas, to be close to family. He is survived by his wife, four children, and ten grandchildren.

**Bernice Strohschein**, 93, passed into the Lord's presence on November 16, 2022, at home in Renton, Washington, after a short time of declining health. After marrying Allan Strohschein, they served in North Dakota, Minnesota, Washington, and Oregon. Upon retirement, they spent time with family and friends in the Seattle area. You can call Allan at (425) 271-7924.

**Darleen Hoover**, 90, passed away in Bismarck, North Dakota, on December 8, 2022. Darleen spent her adult life as a nurse and in music ministry at Bismarck Baptist. She outlived two husbands: Milton Hochhalter and Elmer Hoover. Her surviving two sons are pastors: Bryan (Holly) Hochhalter and Greg (Corryne) Hochhalter. She leaves a host of grand and great-grandchildren and many friends. Contact Pastor Bryan at bryan@bb.church for more information.

**Richard Franklin Houts**, 93, died on December 21, 2022, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He taught at Simpson Bible College and Ontario Bible College before teaching Church Leadership and Administration and directing the Doctor of Ministry program at Sioux Falls Seminary.

## IN NEED OF PRAYER

**Wilma Binder** had a stroke after Thanksgiving and is in rehab at Baptist Health Care Center in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Pray for **Art and Sena Brust** in their senior years in Elk Grove, California, as well as for their families.

**Jan Gruber** fell and broke her leg at the end of December. She is in rehab in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

**Annemarie Hattenhauer** is doing well in extended care at Shepherd's Care in Edmonton, Alberta. She can no longer manage a computer or a cell phone, but she does enjoy visits. Her address is 220B, 6620 - 28 Ave. NW, Edmonton AB T6K 2R1.

**Elenor Kern** has completed six rounds of chemo for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. She is waiting the results of further testing in January. She would appreciate your prayers for continued healing and strength. Gene Kern is also struggling with various health issues. They live in the greater Sacramento, California, area. Email them at elkern@comcast.net.

**Lois Kramer** has finished her cancer treatments, which were successful. Tom and Lois live near Portland, Oregon.

**Bob Mayforth** just finished chemo treatments for stage 4 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and will now be undergoing more tests. Pray for Bob and his family in Florida. Call him at (727) 504-6756.

**Sharon Mayforth** was needing special care, so she was moved in September into memory care in Penticton, British Columbia. You can reach her at The Hamlets in Penticton, 103 Duncan Ave. W, Penticton, BC V2A 2Y3 or call her at (250) 492-0202.

**Florence Miller** broke her hip in her senior care facility in September. She had surgery and an infection, so she spent time in a rehab center for many weeks. She returned to her apartment before Christmas. Her 98th birthday was January 14. Email her at flojmillier@gmail.com.

**Trudy Schatz** is doing well in a facility in Edmonton, Alberta. Her memory has good days and bad days. You can direct all communications to Betty Mantay at bman1706@telus.net.

**Dr. Helen Schmidt** is recovering from total right knee replacement surgery and rehab in December in Spokane, Washington. Also, in December a biopsy of her eye showed an orbit beta lymphoma, which was treated; she had a follow-up MRI in January. Pray for her continued improvement so she can return to her online medical advisory position with Crown Health. Her phone number is (509) 475-9625.

**Esther Schmuland** is continuing to deal with cancer treatment. Contact Esther at her new address at Garden Plaza of Post Falls, 515 N. Garden Ct. Post Falls, ID 83854-5351. Her phone number is (208) 777-3609.

**Sig Schuster's** lymphoma is in remission since September 2020. In October, he had Mohs surgery for skin cancer on his nose and two further reconstructive surgeries in November. Sig and Grace are anticipating additional Mohs surgery on his left ear. You can reach them at sschuster@shaw.ca.

**Wilfred Weick** was on a cruise with his son in the UK area, when he had a heart attack on September 5. He was put in the hospital and was able to return to Calgary, Alberta, with a medical companion flight. With medication, he has been able to recover without any surgery these past few months. Pray for his heart condition and full recovery. Email at jtweick@telus.net.

Please continue to pray for **Alice Zeeb** in a care facility in Mesa, Arizona. She is bedridden due to a broken ankle that never healed properly. She is in fairly good health and good spirits, though she does miss Milton.



Send a card to her daughter at [faithdcreech@gmail.com](mailto:faithdcreech@gmail.com) or Mrs. Alice Zeeb in care of Faith Creech, 210 Shadow Wood Drive, Alamosa, CO 81101.

## IN TRANSITION

**Perry Kallis** retired from being senior pastor at GracePoint Church in Lodi, California, on September 30. He transitioned to become the head of the Member Care at GracePoint in December. Email Perry and Linda at [perry@gracepointlodi.com](mailto:perry@gracepointlodi.com).

**David Ewing's** retirement began on January 1, 2022. He turned 80 on January 27, 2023. You can reach him at [pastorewing@roadrunner.com](mailto:pastorewing@roadrunner.com) or (716) 573-0454. **Rev. Dr. Dana Goodnough** is the new NAB Eastern Association Regional Minister.

**Ken Solberg**, the regional minister for the Saskatchewan Baptist Association for over a decade, retired at the end of October.

**Amber Pedroni**, of the NAB International Office, moved on to a great opportunity at her home church effective September 30. We thank her very much for her work with the NAB and Servant Link for many years. She also was the coordinator for the annual Sumas Retreats.

**Steve Newman** has retired from First Baptist Church in Lodi, California. He pastored there for twenty-five years. Contact Steve and Holly Newman at [fbcsteve@yahoo.com](mailto:fbcsteve@yahoo.com).

As of January 1, **Steve Weisenburger** has taken the role of regional minister for the Northwest Region. He has been the pastor of Bernal Church in San Jose, California, for the past twenty years. Steve takes over for **Marcus Elmer**, the interim regional minister.

## RETIREMENT STILL SENDS SOME OVERSEAS

**Judy and Alan Steier** ministered with Barnabas International for five weeks in Japan starting September 20. They were missionaries with the NAB in Japan in the '80s and then pastored in North Dakota for many years.

**Scott and Ruth Clark** ministered for a few months in Cameroon with another mission. They traveled this summer/fall via Germany, where they visited their daughter family and their first grandchild. They returned to their home in November.

**Ron and Joan Stoller** are in Japan from mid-January to mid-March to volunteer for a chaplain in Tokyo and see many friends in various locations.

**Art and Dorothy Helwig** went to the Philippines from November 19 to January 15 to be with their son and family and do ministry at Faith Academy.

**Larry Burd** will again lead a Holy Land Tour, March 21–30, 2023. Contact Larry ([lburd@calvarybaptist-pa.com](mailto:lburd@calvarybaptist-pa.com)) for more information.

**Carol Potratz** taught a course in Public Speaking (Homiletics I) to seminary students in Porto Allegre, Brazil, from November 15 to December 9. Carol was also part of the seminary graduation ceremony on December 9.

**Lisa and Jim Black** will be leading about 50 Converge leaders of Africa in April in Senegal for their semi-annual leaders' conference.

The **Phoenix NAB Gathering** is the third Tuesday in February each year. For information, contact Ted Faszer ([tedfaszer@gmail.com](mailto:tedfaszer@gmail.com)).

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

**Peter Schroeder's** new address is #201 Prince of Peace, 300 Prince of Peace Way, Rocky View, AB T1X 1G2 Canada. He turned 100 in February 2022.

**Rev. Al Harsch** has moved to be near his son. You can write to him at 4337 Seminary Place, New Orleans, LA 70126.

**Fred Folkerts** can be reached at 79 Cady Ln., Woodstock, CT 06281 or (847) 450-3552.

**Bill and Wilda Newman** moved to 9816 Cooke Ct. Granite Falls, WA 98252.

**Helmut Michelson** has moved after the passing of his wife in May. You can reach him at Crane's View Lodge Apt. 506, 1601 Hooks St. Clermont, FL, 34711-3547. Call him at (352) 988-5207.

## RETIRED WORKERS' RETREAT MAY 15–17, 2023 AT CEDAR SPRINGS RETREAT CENTER IN SUMAS, WASHINGTON

Registration now open.

More information is available at the NAB website.



Scan this QR code with your phone or visit [nabconference.org/retired-workers-retreat](https://nabconference.org/retired-workers-retreat). You can also email [serve@nabconf.org](mailto:serve@nabconf.org).

For more information on these items or new information for the next edition of Servant Link, please contact Ron and Joan Stoller at [Stoller@Japan.email.ne.jp](mailto:Stoller@Japan.email.ne.jp)