

SERVANT LINK

Connecting Retired Christian Workers & Friends of the NAB Conference

GRATEFUL REFLECTIONS

By Siegfried H. Schuster

Yesterday's sermon, based on Philippians 4:10–13, still echoes in my heart. This passage was meant to encourage the readers to learn “the secret of being content in any and every situation” (NIV). With Paul, we can reflect on the difficult circumstances of the past few years with true gratitude. Indeed, our gracious God proved faithful through all these situations.

I was diagnosed with cancer only a week before COVID became an issue. Consequently, I spent the next few months in aggressive chemo treatment, interrupted by severe pneumonia. Despite all this, I was declared in remission in September, followed by a period of recovery, during which I contracted a mild form of COVID. By God's grace, I have recovered remarkably well. I've always been a high-energy person, even in my “retirement” when I served as part-time director of the Russia Bible School, as well as interim pastor at Hawkwood Baptist Church. But since my recovery, I never regained my former energy level.

The forced inactivity during my illness gave us ample opportunity to reflect on how to move forward into retirement and learn to adjust to a slower pace of life. Since I spent more than twenty years as a part-time or volunteer pastor for seniors and member care, I was well acquainted with various retirement and care facilities. I have counselled many senior couples to plan their move

before it becomes an emergency situation. Following my own advice, we visited several retirement centers in April to assess what would suit us best at this stage of life. We realized it would take a major adjustment to live among seniors, yet we also understood this was the right decision.

As anticipated, it took several months before a suitable unit became available. We moved into our present home in mid-August. We also know of couples who had to wait over a year before the right place opened up. We are very glad we did not wait any longer.

Although our sons and grandsons did all the heavy work of the actual move, the details of disposing all the excess furniture, utensils, and clothing were nearly overwhelming!

We are beginning to settle into our new surroundings quite nicely, making new friends and reconnecting with a few former friends, but there are still some stored items to be sifted through and given away. We are truly grateful for God's guidance and blessings throughout our lives, including the recent move. We both hope this is our last move. Hopefully, the next move, by God's grace, will be “up.”

Blessings!



CELEBRATIONS

Sig and Grace Schuster celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on May 7 in Calgary, Alberta. You can email them at sschuster@shaw.ca.

Tom and Lois Kramer celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on August 9 with family and friends in Portland, Oregon, where they live near two of their sons and are still involved in church ministries. You can email them at kramertrla@yahoo.com.

Rev. Henry and Darlene Ramus celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in June 2023.

his sons Henry (Sonja), Ron (Gloria), and Gary (Cathy); ten grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. In his retirement years, he continued to pray for and mentor people on the phone and in person.



Walter J. Goltz, 88, went to be with the Lord on May 30, 2023, at Selkirk Regional Hospital in Selkirk, Manitoba. Walter was part

of the North American Baptist College (now Kairos University) from 1961, and he became the president in 1982. He later served as interim lead pastor at Renfrew Baptist in Calgary. He was predeceased by his former wife Audrey and his grandson Caleb. He is survived by his wife, Mary; his daughter Rebecca (Frank) Hilbich; his son Stephen (Marita) Goltz; and his five grandchildren.

Rev. Roger James Freeland, 73, died on June 5, 2023, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Born in Minot, North Dakota, he graduated from North American Baptist Seminary (now Kairos University) in 1974. Roger pastored New Leipzig Baptist in New Leipzig, North Dakota, for thirteen years and Immanuel

Baptist Church in Loyal, Oklahoma, for thirty-two years before retiring from the ministry. He also loved carpentry and teaching students. Survivors include his wife, Chichi; sons, Geoffrey and Nathan (Mindy); and four grandchildren.

Gordon Unger, 84, passed away on July 14, 2023. Gordon served as a key leader in the Alberta Baptist Association and as moderator of the NAB Conference. Gordon and his wife, Marion, were charter members of Sturgeon Valley Baptist in St. Albert, Alberta.



Eugene "Gene" Kern, 86, entered his heavenly home on September 14, 2023. His early years were spent on the family farm

in Edmonton, Alberta. He planned to be a life-long farmer, but God had other plans. In 1960, he married Elenor Watkins, and they shared more than forty years of ministry and sixty-three years of marriage. Gene was privileged to be a pastor in Dell Rapids, South Dakota; Yorkton, Saskatchewan; Aberdeen, South Dakota; and Fair Oaks and Roseville, California. His heart was always for church planting. He started Sunrise Community Church with seven

HOME TO GLORY



Sigbert Rudolf Zukowski, 95, passed away to be with his Savior on February 19, 2023. He was predeceased by his wife, Irmi,

and his two daughters, Agnes and Anita. He was educated at the NAB seminary in Edmonton, Alberta, and ordained in Immanuel Baptist Church in Vancouver, British Columbia. He and his wife served in Edmonton; Winnipeg and Moose Horn, Manitoba; and Vancouver, where he was the interim pastor at Pilgrim Baptist. He is survived by



people and Pleasant Grove Community Church with a small Bible study. They were blessed with three children. You can contact Elenor via email at elkern@comcast.net. You can watch the celebration of life online at shorturl.at/coCJZ.

Rev. Yoshio Akasaka, 92, passed away on September 14 after several years of suffering from dementia in Matsusaka, Japan. He pastored in Japan and was a Japan Baptist Conference leader for many years. He worked with many NAB missionaries over the fifty years of his ministry. His oldest son, Izumi, is now a seminary president in Tokyo.

IN GOD'S WAITING ROOM (90+)

Rev. Peter Aaldyk turned 91 in April 2023 in River Hills, Manitoba.

Rev. Gordon Huisinga celebrated his 94th birthday on July 16, 2023. He lives with his wife, Betty, in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

Harold Lang celebrated his 91st birthday on August 21 in their home in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Lenore Lang was celebrated royally in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for her

95th birthday in April with many friends and family.

Florence Miller will celebrate her 99th birthday on January 14, 2024, in her retirement facility in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Send her an email at flojmillier@gmail.com.

Rev. Henry Ramus turned 94 on June 4, 2023. You can reach him at darhgt@hotmail.com or (313) 348-9232.

Rev. Peter Schroeder plans to celebrate his 102nd birthday on February 10, 2024, in Calgary, Alberta. A note from a recent visit with Peter said he was “doing great and he still has that twinkle in his eye and a great smile.”

Rev. Allan Strohschein celebrated his 95th birthday with his son and daughter and many grandchildren in Renton, Washington. You can call him at (425) 271-7924.

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Elmer Breitkreuz is on tri-weekly kidney dialysis at the age of 91. Pray that his high blood pressure will stabilize during treatments and for his ability to cope as they continue to live in their home. Elmer and Ellen served in Cameroon educational and administrative ministries.

Daphne Dunger is at the Good Samaritan Skilled Nursing Unit in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She is about the same. She sleeps a lot and is quite sedentary.

Rev. Perry Kallis had an operation in August for stage four brain cancer. He is progressing well with treatment near his home in Lodi, California. You can follow his next steps in treatment at caringbridge.org/visit/perrykallis.

Rev. Ted and Lorena Keck need prayer due to health issues as they advance in their senior years. They also moved into a double-wide home with their daughter in Keller, Texas, in early November 2023.

Rev. LeRoy Kiemele, with his decreasing health due to Parkinson's, is in a care center in the greater Tacoma, Washington, area.

Dr. Dieter and Marlis Lemke have senior health concerns. They said, “From pain in the shoulders and knees and many other joints, [pray] that we would reflect His grace.”

Jarene Rudolph is in hospice care at home in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and doing well. You can call her at (503) 930-4611.

ON THE MOVE

Dr. Ron and Ruth Berg have a new address as of June 2023: #206, 100 Lakeway Blvd., Sylvan Lake, AB T4S 0A4 Canada. Their email is still ronruth21@gmail.com.

Doug and Bernietta Graf moved to a senior facility near their home in the spring of 2023. Their new address is Lural Parc Unit 103, 15850 NW Central Dr., Portland, OR 97229. Their email is bernietta.graf@gmail.com.

Manetta Hohn's new address is #308, 1125 Molson Street, Winnipeg, MB R2K 0A7, and her current phone number is (204) 691-4553.

Dr. Dieter and Marlis Lemke moved into independent-living

quarters at Salem Mews in Leduc, Alberta. Their new address is Suite #111, 4421-46 Str., Leduc, AB T9E 8N9. You can call them at either (780) 739-4111 or (780) 221-8845. Email Marlis at digitaloma@gmail.com.

Elsie Lewandowski has moved into a nice apartment in Calgary as she starts her retirement after many years overseas as a missionary. She has a guest room for you at #322 723 – 57 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2V 4Z3. You can call her at (825) 945-3390 or email at elsielew55@gmail.com.

Dr. Dennis and Nancy Palmer have retired from Cameroon as of the end of June 2023. They are now living in Kansas City, Missouri, where two of their three

boys and their families live. You can reach them at their emails, palmerdd47@gmail.com and palmernancylea@gmail.com; by phone at (816) 204-7705; or at their address: 616 East 59th St., Kansas City, MO 64110.

Rev. Henry and Darlene Ramus now reside at 9501 East Highland Road Apt 214 Howell, MI 48843. Their cell phone number is still (313) 348-9232, and their email is still darhgr@hotmail.com.

Sig and Grace Schuster moved into a retirement facility in Calgary, Alberta, in July. Their new address is Rocky Ridge Retirement Community, 331 – 10715 Rocky Ridge Blvd. NW, Calgary, AB T3G 4G1.

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 or by phone at (503) 629-5053 or (503) 709-4041.



TRIENNIAL 2024

BECOMING A PEOPLE OF PEACE

Triennial 2024 is taking place in St. Paul, Minnesota, July 11–14, 2024. The theme is “Becoming a People of Peace.” Our time together will be one of worship and celebration, hearing God’s truth from his Word, and hearing stories of how God is using the NAB to bring his peace in Jesus.

Registration for the 2024 Triennial is now open! Visit www.nabtriennial.com to secure your spot today.