



SERVANT LINK

Connecting Retired Christian Workers & Friends of the NAB Conference

WHAT FOOTPRINTS ARE YOU LEAVING?

By Ron Stoller

We all leave footprints. They might be small or large, but we all leave them. God uses each of us in special ways as we walk with him, and thus, we leave special footprints.

These past few months, again we have seen many of our NAB family members enter into their rewards in Heaven. Each of these fellow workers should be recognized by the footprints they left. The next few pages contain stories of some of these.

One of these is Bernie Lemke. His pathway started in 1938 in Poland. At the age of six, his footprints were seen in the great flight to freedom from Prussia to Germany. Walking for 800 kilometers, they found family in Germany. His reunion with his father happened unexpectedly when one day he appeared out of nowhere from prison.

The family immigrated to Canada, settling settled in Edmonton, where Bernie received his education. The Lord brought Lilly into his life, and after marrying in 1963, they walked together for sixty years in ministry. When Bernie was a young student, he learned the trade of carpentry, which contributed to his footprints. Building churches from British

Columbia to Manitoba as a young married man, and then to Cameroon and Nigeria, he modeled, built, and reinforced over seventy-five buildings. His mark is seen on hospitals, schools, mission homes, and retirement homes in many locations. They lived in the retirement home Bernie built in Alberta for twenty years before they moved to British Columbia, where he was still working on projects just weeks before his retirement to Heaven.

He took his young family to Cameroon. He built buildings, lives, and his own young family. He took missionaries and nationals aside to show them how to build sanctuaries, hospitals, clean water facilities, and homes. He left his footprints where God could be honored. After his first retirement, he took his family and friends back to Africa to enjoy God's ministry in those buildings and to glorify the name of God in ministry.

Many lives have been touched by Bernie. His footprints are big and deep. They will last for years to come in the wooden, concrete, and metal buildings he made, but far more than with the brick and mortar, he left his footprints

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ON THE MOVE

Nancy Grover has moved to Portland to an assisted living facility as of January 23, 2024. You can reach her at Calaroga Terrace 1400 NE 2nd Ave. Room 403 Portland, OR 97232 or by calling (503) 234-8271 and asking for Nancy Grover's room phone.

Betty Huisinga has a new address: 5415 69th Ave. #325 Brooklyn Center, MN 55429.

Gordon is in memory care now in the Twin Cities area.

Ted and Lorena Keck are living with their daughter at 11709 Coolbrook Court Fort Worth, TX 76244.

Richard and Fran Mayforth have moved to assisted living. He fell last fall and was in rehab for several weeks. They have moved only one mile from their previous apartment. Their present address is 4001 Derby Lane, Apt. 110 Rapid City, SD 57701.

HOME TO GLORY



Ruth Fuchs, 94, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, passed away on August 20, 2023. In 1948,

Ruth met a young seminary student traveling with a quartet that came to sing at her church. Ruth and Fred Fuchs married in 1950; the couple moved to North Dakota, where they began their ministry. Ruth and Fred had two children, Yvonne and Steven. They served five churches over forty years of full-time ministry. After moving to Sioux Falls, they served another six years as interim pastors. Funeral services were on August 25, 2023.



Louise Waitkus, 86, went home to be with the Lord on November 14, 2023, in

Kelowna, British Columbia. Louise is survived by her loving husband of 62 years,

Werner; their two children, Debbie Waitkus and Stephen (Jen) Waitkus; and their grandchildren. She will be remembered for her knitted slippers, her cheerful disposition and great smile, and her example of what it means to serve. A memorial service was held on November 23, 2023. You can reach Werner at 215-2065 Benvoulin Ct. Kelowna, BC V1W 0A5 or waikkus28@telus.net.



Peggy Leverette, 94, passed away on December 2, 2023, after complications from a fall on

September 3. She passed just a few hours shy of her 76th anniversary. Beginning in 1965, Jake and Peggy ministered in the NAB, serving as pastor of churches in Canada and the United States, as well as eleven years as a regional minister. Peggy was a supportive wife and faithful servant of the Lord.

Jake lives in the Peace Hills Lodge:

4501-60th St.

Wetaskiwin, AB T9A 1X7

You can reach him at jp2leverette@telus.net or (780)-368-2302.

Sarah Redlich, 90, of Elmhurst, Illinois, went to rest in Jesus's arms on December 21, 2023. She was the beloved wife of the late Joseph Redlich, whom she met in Toronto. After marrying, they moved to Forest Park, Illinois, followed by Elmhurst, where she stayed until her death. For forty-two years, she worked as an accountant with the NAB International Office, until her retirement. She was a longtime member of Forest Park Baptist Church.



Bruce Rich, 91, passed away in Hillsboro, Oregon, on December 25, 2023. Married to Sharon since 1955, they started ministry in youth work and continuing education in Portland, Oregon. In 1964, he

moved into the role of director of Children's Ministries for the NAB. By 1980, they moved back to Oregon, where he took a position with the American Baptist Churches of Oregon as minister of camping and educational ministries. He is preceded in death by his wife and two brothers, Robert and Donald. He is survived by his brother Sam, his three daughters, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. His funeral was held on Jan. 20 at the Hope Fellowship in Hillsboro.



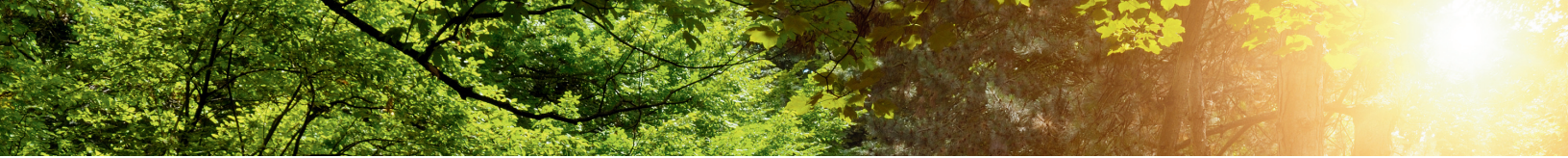
Donald Goltz, 77, passed away in Edmonton, Alberta, on January 10, 2024, due to a heart attack. Born in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, he was raised in a Christian home, accepted Christ, and was baptized in West Ebenezer Baptist Church. Don and Anne met at North American Baptist College, got married in 1969, and were blessed with two children, Taunya and

Timothy, and with a close-knit extended family. Don and Anne followed God's leading to Cameroon and Nigeria for three years with the NAB. His warm and caring nature extended beyond his family to friends, neighbors in Canada and overseas, and many church communities. His funeral was held at Greenfield Baptist in Edmonton on January 19. You can reach Anne by email at dagoltz@shaw.ca, by phone at (780) 752-8687, or at her current address:

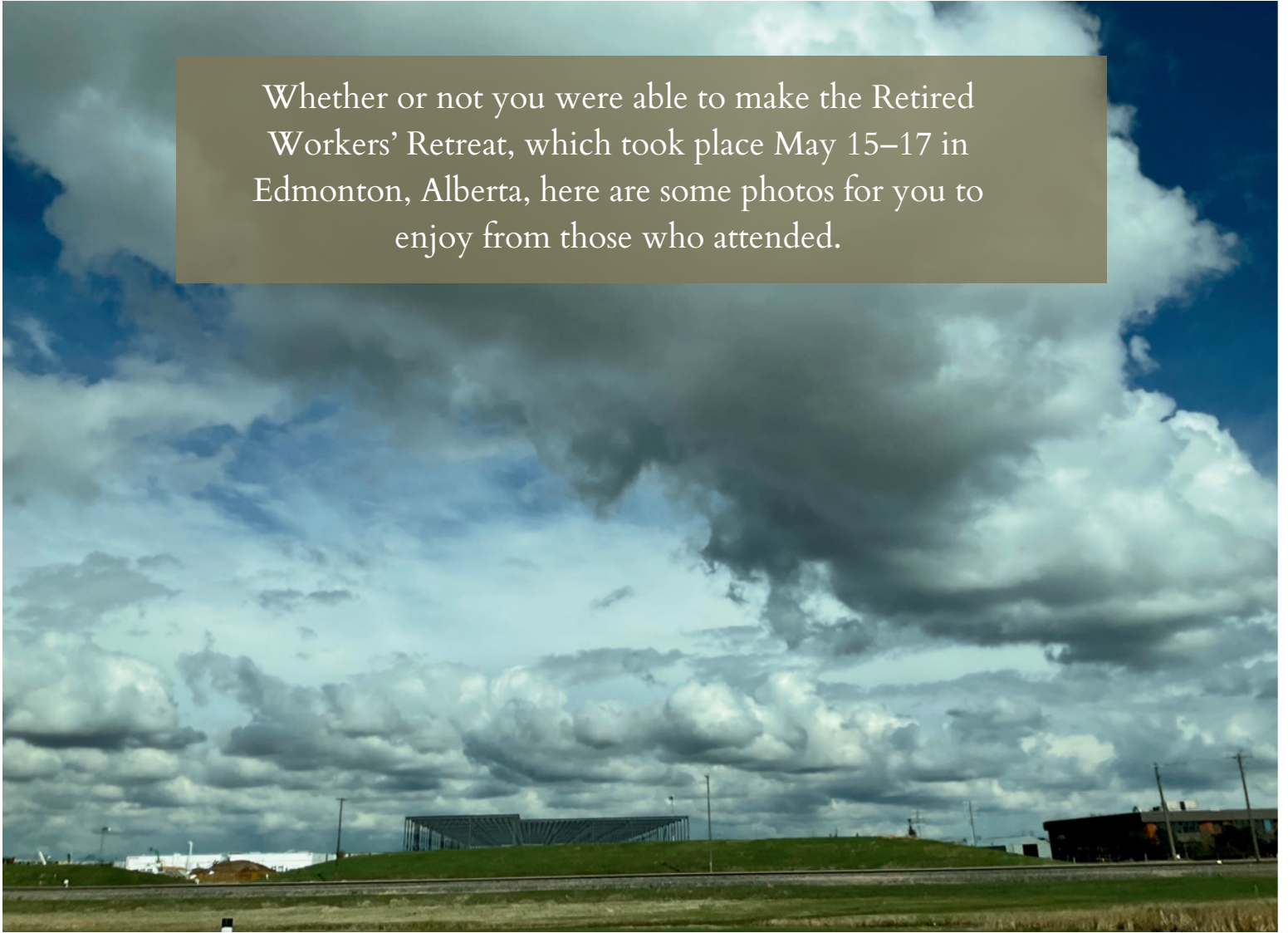
#46, 303 Twin Brooks Dr. NW
Edmonton, AB T6J 6V3.

Bernie Lemke, 85, died on February 21, 2024, in Langley, British Columbia. He was an apprentice carpenter for four years before completing his degree, which was when he met Lilly, who would become his wife. In November 1966, they travelled with their young family to Douala, Cameroon, to start their mission work with the NAB. For over fifty years, Bernie built, supervised, and trained many nationals and volunteers in the construction of over twenty buildings and over

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Whether or not you were able to make the Retired Workers' Retreat, which took place May 15–17 in Edmonton, Alberta, here are some photos for you to enjoy from those who attended.



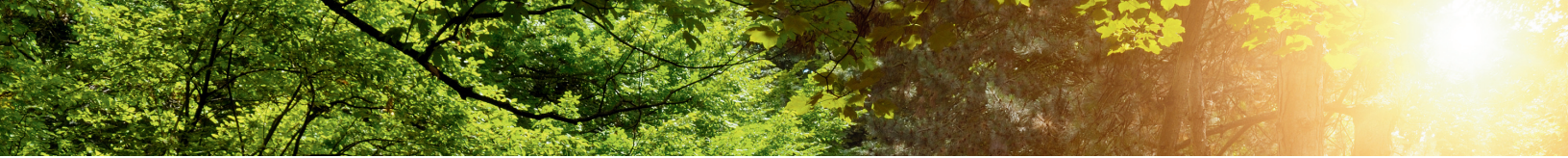


TRIENNIAL 2024

BECOMING A PEOPLE OF PEACE

Missed out on the Edmonton gathering? Meet up with the entire NAB family at Triennial in St. Paul, Minnesota, July 11–14. Find out more and register at nabtriennial.com.





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fifty water projects in Africa, plus twenty churches and camp buildings in Canada over a forty-five-year period. He leaves behind his wife of 60 years, three children, six grandchildren, his brothers Dieter (Marlis) and Ray (Heidi), his sisters Karen (Armin) and Sigrid, many nieces and nephews, and his many friends in Africa. A funeral service was held on March 2, 2024.



Patricia “Pat” Hoffman, 74, passed away in Lodi, California, on February 25, 2024, due to pulmonary hypertension. For several years, she had a traveling musical and teaching ministry before returning to church ministry and starting a family. Upon retiring in Lodi, she began “Pat’s Creative Designs” to showcase her projects due to her love of drawing, creativity, and sewing. A celebration of life was held on April 6, 2024.



Art Schlak, 91, went home to the Lord on April 23, 2024. After moving to Canada after the war, he worked as an auto mechanic for several years in Winnipeg, Manitoba, before following the call into the ministry. He graduated Prairie Bible College in 1962. He pastored at several NAB churches through his fifty-year ministry of preaching and music. He also led several mission trips to India and Russia. It was the birth of the first of his three grandsons that finally drew him and his wife, Christel, back to Prince George to be closer to family, his daughters Corina Cookman, her husband, and three sons; and Angela Schlak. Contact Angela Schlak at aschlak@telus.net.



Esther Schmuland, 87, passed away on April 29, 2024, in Spokane, Washington. She married Ken Schmuland on Christmas Day of 1956. Esther

followed Ken as he pastored one Canadian province church and many American churches. They were blessed with a son, David, and two daughters, Laura and Arlene, as well as three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Oryn Gene Meinerts, 87, passed away May 22, 2024, at Good Samaritan Home in George, Iowa. After college, Oryn accepted a role as a missionary to Cameroon with the NAB and was ordained by his home church before he left. In Cameroon, he served for many years in education, church planting, evangelism, and the role of NAB field director. Oryn met his wife Patricia Anne, a nurse midwife, while on the field, and they got married while on furlough in 1968, continuing to serve together in Cameroon for over thirty years. In 2001, Oryn was decorated by the Republic of Cameroon with the Knight of the Cameroon Order of Merit, the highest honor given to any civilian. That same

year the Meinerts returned to the States for good, after which Oryn served on the pastoral staff at Tabernacle Baptist Church, until he fully retired in 2022. Oryn's memory will remain with his wife Pat, his sister Alvah, and many relatives and friends from the United States and Cameroon. Contact Pat at pameinerts@premieronline.net.



Fred Jantz, 82, passed away on May 25, 2024, in Stockton, California, after a short and difficult battle with pancreatic cancer. Fred educated at Biola College in California and Sioux Falls Seminary in South Dakota. He was ordained in 1968 at Magnolia Baptist in Anaheim,

California. After being a youth pastor in Portland, Oregon, for two years, he pastored Swain Oaks Baptist (later Quail Lakes Baptist) in Stockton, California. He held many positions in the NAB, as well as positions in various organizations in the Stockton area. He is survived by Kathy, his wife of fifty-nine years; three children, Philip, Steve, and Jennifer; and nine grandchildren.

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Wilma Binder had a stroke last year and has been visiting her sisters. As of May 10, she has returned to her apartment in Bismarck, North Dakota. Pray for her complete recovery.

Ted and Marietta Faszer are back in Madison, South Dakota, for this summer. Pray for the doctors to find the source of her pain she is experiencing since this spring.

Jim Greene is living with his family in Bothel, Washington. He has dementia. Pray for Jim and his family.

Annemarie Hattenhauer is in Good Shepherd Assisted Living Center in Edmonton, Alberta. She has good days, and bad days when she has no memory.

Bryan Hochhalter has been the lead pastor at Bismarck Baptist Church since 2014 and will retire on June 30. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's eight years ago. He says, "I am fairly functional, but it is taking a toll on me in a number of areas." They will stay in Bismarck, North Dakota, where he will continue to be the chaplain for the Bismarck Police Department.

Perry Kallis is "holding" his own since this past fall after extensive cancer treatment for a brain tumor. He has started another treatment of "double strength, oral chemotherapy pills" for five days a month ending in June. This has caused him to be "a bit foggy" at times. **Linda** fell in the middle of March and is recovering at home from a hip replacement and broken femur. Both are taking care of each other! You can reach Perry and Linda at pjkallis@gmail.com.

LeRoy Kiemele is "managing with life's problems" with

Parkinson's in his care center in the greater Tacoma, Washington, area. He wants prayer for better sleeping and no hallucinations. You can call him at (253) 651-7526; speak slowly and clearly.

Sara Lee Pasiciel has dementia and lives near her daughter-in-law on Vancouver Island in British Columbia. Her husband Ernest lives very close by in their home.

Jarene Rudolph has been struggling with various health

Falls, South Dakota, since early in 2024, with 24-hour monitoring by hospice staff. You can email her at harandjar@email.com. If possible, send her a card at 6309 W. 43rd St. Sioux Falls, SD 57110.

Darlene Schuh fell on April 2, breaking her femur and hip. She was in rehab for twenty-eight days and has since returned home. Contact **Darrell Schuh** at dschuh@juno.com.

John Stolz will be resigning from Olympic View Baptist Church in Tacoma, Washington, this summer and will provide interim pastoral care for the conference.

Allan Strohschein is still by himself in his home in the great Tacoma, Washington, area and doing well, but needs prayer for strength. Call him at (425) 271-7924, and talk clearly and slowly.

Alice Zeeb is managing in her assisted living in southern Arizona.

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he left his footprints where God could be honored. After his first retirement, he took his family and friends back to Africa to enjoy God's ministry in those buildings and to glorify the name of God in ministry.

Many lives have been touched by Bernie. His footprints are big and deep. They will last for years to come in the wooden, concrete, and metal

buildings he made, but far more than with the brick and mortar, he left his footprints in the lives of Lilly, his three children, twelve grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Young and old, missionaries were not the same after they spoke with Bernie. Churches and communities have been changed because of his footprints in their lives, and nationals in Cameroon and

Nigeria will continue to see the footprints in their lives because of what Bernie did for them.

We might not all leave big footprints like Bernie, but we all leave footprints. Let us be known as a people who walked the pathway of God and left remarkable footprints in the lives of others. What size footprints are you leaving to honor God?