



SERVANT LINK

Connecting Retired Christian Workers & Friends of the NAB Conference

THE DOUBLE MINISTRY OF CHAPLAINS

By Ron Stoller

In both Canada and the United States, November 11 is set aside to honor all those who served in the armed forces and thank them for their service. Many from our NAB family have served in this capacity in different ways, and we thank them for their service. We would like to honor those who have served in our military forces, specifically chaplains.

Isaiah 7:1–9 reminds us that “Chaplain Isaiah” faced war and political turmoil around 735 BC. We read of Isaiah bringing comforting and spiritual words to the commander: to stand firm in faith, with God, one another, and their own principles. We might not have the privilege to take the Word of God overseas in a military position, but we should remember those who did take God’s Word to those in war-torn areas.

When I was a child, a neighbor named Don left his family to serve in Vietnam as a chaplain. It was hard for them to be separated from their father and husband, but they knew Don was serving both the military and God. I looked up to him – he was a 6’6” man, so it was both literal and figurative. He was a man who went into dangerous circumstances to bring God’s Word to those who were fighting for their country. Missionaries also go overseas to bring the Gospel to people, but it is a “double ministry” to serve as a military chaplain

overseas. We give thanks to those who left their families and comfortable pastoral positions to serve God in this way.

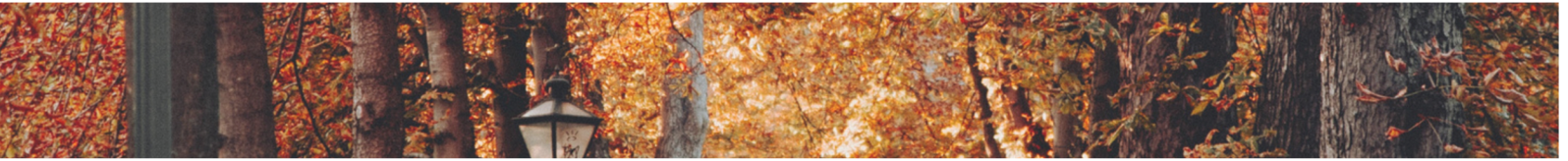
This month, remember those who have gone to serve their country, but specifically remember our many NAB pastors who became military chaplains in overseas areas. The following is an incomplete list of the many men who have served as NAB military chaplains. Let us give thanks to God for their ministry in bringing God’s Word to the military of our countries.

NAB Chaplains

Dr. John Hisel was a chaplain from 1970 to 1975. He spent one year in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star. He spent time in a base in Kansas before being deployed to Germany for one year. Now 84, he serves as pulpit supply and lives in Aberdeen, Kansas.

Harrison Lippert signed up for the National Guard but spent seven years in the Air Force reserves, during which he pastored at Oak Hills Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He then became a military chaplain from 2000 to 2016. For the past twenty-one years, he served as pastor at Steamboat Rock Baptist Church in Steamboat Rock, Iowa, though he retired this past summer and is now working in Mason City, Iowa.

(Chaplains continued on back page)



HOME TO GLORY

Mary McDonald, 82, passed away November 5, 2023, in Bakersfield, California. Mary was the wife of Rev. Professor Lee Martin McDonald, who taught at Sioux Falls Seminary for many years. You can reach Lee by phone at (480) 861-4428, lee.mcdonald11@yahoo.com, or 350 Calloway Drive, Unit 404 D Bakersfield, CA 93312



Alice Zeeb, 92, passed away on June 10, 2024. She served alongside her husband, Milton, for over forty-

four years at several NAB churches and as regional minister. In their retirement years, they served a retirement community chapel as pastor and wife. Alice was a deeply loving woman who is profoundly missed by her children and grandchildren. For more information, please contact their daughter Faith in Yuma, Arizona, at faithdcreech@gmail.com.

Melody Joy (Schlaffman) Swanson, 47, passed away on June 11, 2024, in Spokane, Washington. The daughter of Jarvis and Marilyn Schlaffman, Melody was born in Cameroon while her parents were serving as

NAB missionaries. A memorial celebrating Melody's life was held on June 29, 2024, at Valley Fourth Church. You can reach Jarvis and Marilyn at jmschlaffmann@gmail.com.

Elizabeth Kathleen Burgess, 102, went home to be with the Lord on June 18, 2024, just twelve days shy of her birthday. She was married to Rev. Eugene Gerald Burgess for sixty-two loving years before he passed away in 2003. At the age of 100, she moved to live with her son David and his wife, Mary June, where she remained until her transition to Glory. Whenever she was asked how she had managed to live so long, her answer always was, "It wasn't me, it was Him. God has done it all." Contact David and Mary June at mjburgess@ymail.com.



Fred Folkerts, 93, went home to his Lord and Savior on July 8, 2024. Fred and his wife, Nancy, were appointed as missionaries for the North American Baptist Conference in Cameroon from 1959 to 1972. In 1974, Fred began his second career with the NAB in the International Missions

Department, ultimately serving as director. He retired in 1998. He had a wonderful voice and they enjoyed singing hymns together. Fred was buried in the Steamboat Rock Baptist Church cemetery in Steamboat Rock, Iowa, alongside his wife, who passed away in 2022.



Alvin Harsch, 89, laid down to rest after completing some word puzzles and mowing the lawn on August 5, 2024, and woke up in the presence of the Lord. Born in Carbon, Alberta, he graduated from North American Baptist Seminary in 1961. Alvin pastored in South Dakota, Washington, California, and Manitoba, and he later served as a chaplain in North Dakota, Washington, and Oregon until he retired in 1997. He married Evella Rose Sawin in 1957; they had two sons: Dr. Lloyd Harsch and Dr. Jeffery Harsch. In 2022, he moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, to live with Lloyd and Jill. Alvin was preceded in death by his first wife, Evella; their son Jeffery; and his second wife, Gail Kuhlman.

Jarene Gunst Rudolph, 79, passed away in a hospice care center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on August 28, 2024. She was part of



God's Volunteers. After marrying Jim DeBoer, they served in many churches in British Columbia, Colorado, California, and North Dakota. After the marriage dissolved, she married Harlow Rudolph, a long-time friend. Together they developed SONrise ministry, traveling over half the year leading worship in churches. She was buried in Herreid, South Dakota, alongside Harlow, her husband of twenty-nine years. You can reach her family through her brother, Vic Gunst, at vgunst@att.net.



Christel Maria Schlak, 88, passed into Glory on September 2, 2024. She began attending Christian Training Institute (now Kairos University at Taylor Seminary) in 1955 and received her elementary teaching degree in 1970. In 1971, she married Arthur Schlak, who pastored in British Columbia and Alberta for many years. They were blessed with two daughters. Upon retirement, they moved to Prince George, British Columbia, to be close to grandchildren. She passed away in the Prince George Hospice Care Center that both Art and Christel started. You can reach their daughter Angela at aschlak@telus.net.

IN NEED OF PRAYER

As **Scott and Ruthie Clark** were ready to leave Cameroon in July, a large bookcase broke Scott's leg. After weeks of treatment in Africa, they were flown back to Portland, Oregon, where he has undergone several surgeries. As of August 20, Scott is back home. Email them at clark.gatecrasher@gmail.com.

Denny Miller has moved from Oregon near her mother to the East Coast to be closer to her daughter after the death of her father Don Miller in 2023. She has been suffering from acute kidney issues and has had several serious issues in the past six months. Pray for a replacement kidney and recovery.

Gerald Scheel had some tumors removed from his parotid gland and was recovering well until a few weeks later when he developed Bell's palsy and balance problems. Doctors suggest they are due to inflammation resulting from the surgery. They are trying to find help for the inner ear balance situation. Bell's palsy often heals within a few months to a year.

Dr. Sig Schuster had a cardiac issue this past spring and was rushed to the hospital, where doctors confirmed he also had a heart attack in mid-May, likely around the time of the Edmonton NAB Retired Workers Retreat. Sig is recovering well.

HEALTH UPDATES

Alice Decker is doing fine in Los Angeles, California. She still drives and took a cruise to Alaska this summer with family. Pray for her ministry in the church choir as they prepare for Christmas.

Perry Kallis is doing well after he and Linda traveled to North Dakota and Minnesota for a 50th high school reunion and to spend time with family. Linda is very much recovered after her broken ankle. They returned home to Lodi, California, in August. The doctor is amazed Perry is doing so well after surgery for brain cancer last summer. Perry and Linda thank you for your prayers.

Vic and Dixie Lehman in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, are feeling better now that Vic has been diagnosed with polymyositis, an uncommon inflammatory disease in which the immune system attacks muscles, causing weakness. Pray that Vic can now strengthen his muscles that have atrophied. Physical therapy and his meds are helping. They say, "We are grateful for the prayer support."

Gladys Richter is doing fine at age 92 in a retirement center in Portland, Oregon. You can send her a note at:

1783 NE 108th Ave.
Portland, OR 97229.

(Chaplains continued from front)

Lee McDonald was part of the chaplaincy program from 1976 to 1985. He and his family were deployed to Germany for three years in a civilian assignment. They spent years in Colorado, New York, and Georgia. After retirement from the military, he was a professor at Sioux Falls Seminary until retirement in 2008. He also pastored in Nebraska. He is now living alone in Bakersfield, California, after his wife passed away.

Dr. Helmut Michelson was a chaplain from 1970 to 1983, in

Illinois, Texas, Washington, Georgia, and Oklahoma before taking a three-year tour in Germany, the first year without his family. He was part of Desert Storm and was shot down by friendly fire. He is retired in Clermont, Florida, at the present time.

David Rapske was in the Army chaplaincy program from 1979 to 2000. He was stationed in many United States bases for training and chaplaincy support. He served in Washington, California, New Jersey, and Oklahoma and was

deployed to Korea and Germany. He is now retired in Kent, Washington.

Curtis Wiens was assigned to bases in New York and Kansas in 1969 before being sent to Vietnam for one year. In 1979, he and his family went to Germany for two years. After returning to Georgia, he was reassigned to Germany for another five years. They spent the last eight years in Oklahoma before retiring in Kansas, where they are involved with a local church.

Darlene Schuh in Elk Grove, California, is improving well at home after a broken hip and femur just before Easter. A rod was placed from her hip to the knee. She might have six months more of recovery to be able to “get around well.” Darlene and Darrell celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on August 18. Pray for Darlene as she recovers.

Virginia Thesis is doing well in her retirement center in Dallas, Oregon. She wanted to attend the Triennial but was unable to travel. Pray for her ongoing “ministries” in her care center.

ON THE MOVE

Ruth Effa has moved to nursing care in Columbus, Nebraska. For her 93rd birthday, send her a card: Emerald Nursing & Rehabilitation 2855 40th Ave. Columbus, NE 68601.

Nancy Grover is adjusting well to her new home in a downtown retirement center in Portland, Oregon, after her move in January. She turned 93 on August 3 and is teaching a Sunday Bible study in the retirement center.

Eleanor Kern moved to a smaller home in Roseville, California. You can call her at her new number, (916) 751-9537, or send her a note: Oakmont of Westpark 2400 Pleasant Grove Blvd. Roseville, CA 95747.

Dr. Sam Mikolaski, former professor at Sioux Falls Seminary, turns 102 in a few months! And he has just published another book!

Ron and Sandy Norman moved to northwest of Dallas–Fort Worth, Texas, in July. Their new address is: 133 Lantana Trail Boyd, Texas 76023.

Watch the memorial video from Triennial 2024 by scanning this code with your smart phone or visiting vimeo.com/1025188690.



Contact Ron and Joan Stoller at Stoller@Japan.email.ne.jp, (503) 629-5053, or (503) 709-4041.