



# SERVANT LINK

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



## KELOWNA RETIRED WORKERS' RETREAT: SEPTEMBER 2025

By Ron & Joan Stoller

From this photo, you can see there was a great NAB family reunion – with over sixty former missionaries, pastors, and workers – held at the NAB Green Bay Campgrounds in Kelowna, British Columbia. It was a time of singing, eating great food, hearing great speakers, and reminiscing about meetings held on the mission fields, at various Triennials, and during seminary days. The laughing and tears of moments from the past bonded many of us as we enjoyed the beauty of the lake, the campus, the beautiful new lodge, and the great banana splits we devoured one afternoon. For many of us, we cannot attend the NAB Triennials due to distance, costs, and inconvenience, but this three-day retreat just fit the bill of our family from two Canadian provinces and six US states. There was a time of devotionals in the morning, speakers from our mission representatives (who sent in recorded clips), and recorded greetings from our new VP of International Missions, Joel David, and greetings in person from our own Harry Kelm, who spoke on the status of our conference. Others

blessed us with a concert, solos, and reports of their ministries and challenges of things we need to remember in our senior years. What a joy it was to be together with those we see each year and others who came for the first time. Next year, we are adding another day of fun, food, and fellowship! Hope you can join the family reunion next year.

Here are comments from conversations about the retreat:

- Carol, Penny, and Ron had a great time recalling their commissioning service in Wichita, Kansas, in 1973, when all three of them were sent out to Cameroon or Japan for two-year commitments.
- Elsie finally got to meet Karen, who preceded her in teaching missionary kids in Cameroon over forty years ago.
- Darlene and Darrell drove their RV up from California and said this retreat brought to mind many rewarding experiences of work they were involved with on many of the mission fields.

*Continued on page 4.*





## ON THE MOVE

A correction on **Sig and Grace Schuster's** new address:

351 - 10751 Rocky Ridge Blvd  
NW  
Calgary, AB T3G 4G1

**Rev. Siegfried and Barbara Hoppe** have moved to a retirement home. He pastored NAB churches in Alberta, Manitoba, and British Columbia. Their new address is:

224 - 1831 Parkview Crescent  
Kelowna, BC V1X 7G7

## HOME TO GLORY

**Rev. David Keiry (92)** of Monte Vista, Colorado, passed peacefully on December 9, 2024, into the presence of the Lord he served. David married his sweetheart, Priscilla, in 1952, and together they raised seven children and lovingly fostered multiple more. They served churches in South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Colorado before David retired from the pastorate in 2014, though he continued to serve as chaplain for a hospital, a school, a correctional facility, and a senior center.

**Helmut Michelson (87)** passed away June 11, 2025. After marrying Ilse and completing

his theological training at Sioux Falls Seminary, the couple moved to Corn, Oklahoma, where Helmut pastored a small Baptist church. They later settled in Sterling, Michigan, where he served as hospital chaplain before they moved to Florida in 1998 to serve as pastor at a funeral home until 2002.

**Jake Leverette (96)** gracefully concluded his journey in Edmonton, Alberta, on June 24, 2025. From his training in Three Hills, Alberta, to churches in the southern US and northern Alberta – and from the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Coast – Jake made a difference in the lives of family, church members, conference leaders. His memory will forever be enshrined in the fabric of the lives of those he touched.



**Marilyn Schaer (87)** passed away peacefully in July 2025. Marilyn lived and worked in the Wheaton, Illinois, area for over forty years. Her position at the NAB International Office was well appreciated for many years. Marilyn's experience and wisdom earned her invitations to

serve on several boards, including a nursing firm, a literature mission, and both NAB seminaries.

**Rev. Peter Schroeder (103)** completed his earthly journey on July 5, 2025, in Calgary, Alberta. He was a devoted husband to his wife May, who predeceased him in 2017. Together they nurtured a family that grew to include their four children, nine grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. Peter was the first graduate in CTI's Theology Department in 1960 and went on to pastor churches in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia; he also spent a decade as an NAB missionary in Cameroon and Nigeria.



**Chaplain LeRoy Kiemele (88)** was called to his heavenly home on July 20, 2025. He pastored in Wisconsin and on the West Coast before he felt called to the chaplaincy. Starting in 1975, he was an active-duty Army chaplain stationed in Washington, D.C., serving in five countries. He retired after twenty-four years of chaplaincy

work when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's. His wife of sixty years, Joanne, passed away in 2022.



**Jonathan Stoller** (48) passed peacefully in his home in Portland, Oregon, on August 5, 2025, to his new Heavenly home due to a heart attack and complications from colon cancer. The oldest of three sons, he lived most of his childhood in Japan with his parents, former NAB missionaries Ron and Joan Stoller. He served as a board member of Camp Tapawingo, an NAB camp in Oregon. He is survived by his parents, brothers Stephen (Carrie) and Aaron (Heather), six nephews and nieces, and his 101-year-old grandfather, Harris Youngquist.

**Dr. Landis "Hugh" Litchfield** (85) entered Heaven on August 11, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. While studying at Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, Hugh met Sarah Jane Sherwood, the love of his life for sixty-two years. He was professor of Homiletics at North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls,

South Dakota. Hugh pastored and inspired countless congregations as youth pastor and an associate pastor in Norfolk, Virginia.

**Marlis Lemke** (81) passed away from cancer on September 14, 2025. She met and married the love of her life, medical student Dieter Lemke, in Edmonton, Alberta, and they married in 1962. They took their three sons, Markus, Thomas, and Robert, to Cameroon to serve as NAB missionaries in 1967, working at Mbingo and Bango Baptist Hospitals. Marlis is survived by Dieter and their five sons, ten grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren, as well as a host of friends around the world.

**Dr. Steven Corum** (73) passed away September 17, 2025, from advanced dementia, surrounded by his family. He earned an MDiv degree from the NAB seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. As a youth pastor in the Sacramento, California, area, he met Jill Renée Poppe, and they married in 1979. In 1992, the family moved to Sioux Falls, where Steve spent twenty-eight

## IN PRAYER & PRAISE

**Perry Kallis** is in his twenty-seventh month after his brain tumor surgery and is doing great. Continue to pray for Perry; he had another MRI in early December as a follow-up procedure. Drop Linda and Perry an email at [pjlkallis@gmail.com](mailto:pjlkallis@gmail.com).

**Bruce Merrifield** is dealing with cancer. Continue to pray for Bruce and his family during these days of testing and procedures.

years teaching chaplains across the Sioux Empire region. Steve also served as a chaplain in the South Dakota Air National Guard.

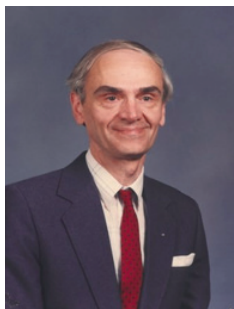


**Rev. Peter Aaldyk** (93) passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on October 7, 2025.

He leaves behind a legacy woven with faith, family, adventure, vision, ministry work, and a deep abiding love for others. His love of life and people took him far from home. His life was a testament to service, faith, and love.



**Audrey Littman** (91) passed into the presence of her Lord and Savior on October 22, 2025, in her hometown of Wetaskiwin, Alberta. She married Charles Littman in 1955, after which they served for thirty years in various pastorates in Canada. After retiring in Wetaskiwin, Charles passed away in 2003. Regardless of Audrey's dementia in recent years, her faith and witness were strong.



**Richard Macha** (86) passed away peacefully on October 23, 2025. He graduated from the NAB

seminary in 1976 with an MDiv. His first pastorate was an NAB church in Anamoose, North Dakota. He spent the rest of his life pastoring NAB and United Methodist churches, largely in Nebraska. Upon retirement in 1990, he moved back to his native Cleveland, Ohio, area.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
– including full obituaries and other items in this Servant Link – or to pass along information for future editions, please contact:  
Ron and Joan Stoller in  
Portland, Oregon –  
[ronjoanstoller@gmail.com](mailto:ronjoanstoller@gmail.com) or  
503-709-4041.

## **THE 90'S CLUB!**

**Barbara Binder** turned 90 in March.

**Alice Decker** turned 90.

**Monie Fluth** is turning 90 December 2025.

**Ted Keck** turns 91 December 2025.

**Harold Lang** turned 93 in August.

**Marge Lang** turned 90 in February.

**Richard Mayforth** turned 90 in May.

**William Neuman** turned 90 in July.

**Jean Strauss** turned 90 in June.

**Virginia Thesis** turned 90 in April.

**Werner Waitkus** turned 92 in March.

*Continued from page 1.*

- Harry Hiller's presentation on the history of the conference and the leaders who helped make immigration happen was inspiring, prompted gratitude, and initiated conversations from our personal experiences and service. His challenge for us to leave a written legacy as an inheritance for our children or loved ones was something we intend to do.
- One person enjoyed his "rooftop" devotional time at

- the new lodge top level overlooking the lake.
- Another person said she was overwhelmed by the Canadian pastors she got to talk with who knew and supported the US-based missionaries serving overseas.
- Sharon and Ed said one of the highlights was the opportunity to reconnect with Darrell and Darlene fifty-one years after they served together at summer youth internship where they were mentors.

- One person said praying and singing truths of God in a choir (and in worship) with fellow missionaries and pastors who've known, worshipped, and served this same unchanging God was invigorating.

If you could join the retreat next year, September 14–17, 2026, at Green Bay Camp in Kelowna, you might also find some friends from many years ago. Contact Ron Stoller (503-709-4041) or Eileen Priebe ([eileen@priebe.me](mailto:eileen@priebe.me)) for more information.