



# SERVANT LINK

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

## WHAT DOES HISTORY MEAN TO US?

By Ron & Joan Stoller

**H**ow do you celebrate the history of a country? We cannot live in the past, but we can learn from the past and live today on that foundation. We can celebrate the good history of our own country and adapt to a new hope of what is ahead.

In July, both Canada and the United States celebrate the beginnings of our countries. These very memorable dates in history are often a celebration of what has come before, even as eras, political climates, and traditions change many things, but there are other kinds of history we should also pay attention to.

Many of us have our own family history, but some discard this as what is behind us. Others have a desire to fill out a family tree or dig into their family bloodline. Ron enjoys his family history, as it clearly identifies his Swiss/German background.

Do you have a family heirloom that means much to you? What about family values that have been retained and passed on to the next generation? Our prayer is that we pass on the best of our family values, cultural backgrounds, and habits and traditions from family to family.

There is another question we must ask that is important: Are you celebrating your own spiritual history and journey with our Lord and Savior?

Some say our own personal spiritual history is a private matter, the date we come to know Jesus as our Savior is for us alone. Yet, shouldn't we celebrate this day marking a new life and freedom from sin? God's Word says in Psalm 78:4, "We will not hide them from their descendants, we will tell the next generation of praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done" (NIV).

Do you celebrate and talk to others about the day you accepted Christ and the day you were baptized? This is a legacy that needs to be passed down to the next generation so they know our spiritual history. Don't keep it a secret from your family.

As we all stop to celebrate the history of Canada on July 1 and the United States on July 4, let us also stop to remember our own spiritual historical journey and celebrate our freedom in God.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date for the annual **North American Baptist Retired Workers' Retreat**, September 14–17, 2026, at Green Bay Camp in Kelowna, British Columbia. Contact Ron Stoller at (503) 709-4041 or Eileen Priebe at [eileen@priebes.me](mailto:eileen@priebes.me) for more information and registration.

## HOME TO GLORY

**Paul Mohninger** (84) passed away on October 2, 2024, in Kelowna, British Columbia. He served in three churches in Saskatchewan until he and his wife Lois moved their family to Osoyoos Baptist Church in Osoyoos, British Columbia, until Lois became ill. He “retired” to take care of her until her passing. In 2001, he married Barbara, and they moved to pastor a church in Balcarres, Saskatchewan, where they remained until retiring back in Osoyoos. Paul is survived by his wife Barbara and his family.

**Herb Bachler** (89) passed away on November 11, 2024, in his home after a long battle with COPD. Herb and Myrtle married in 1957 and were blessed with two children and six grandchildren. After many years as a dedicated educator, Herb entered seminary. He and Myrtle

went on to pastor churches in Southey, Hilda, and Smoky Lake.

**Byron “Bud” Ling** (92) passed into God’s hands on May 11, 2025. Bud and Rose were married in November 1952. He pastored churches in North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, Montana, and Idaho. After they retired in 1994, Bud continued to serve as interim pastor in Mott and Glen Ullin, North Dakota. Rose passed away in 2004 on the couple’s 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary after a fight with cancer. In 2005, Bud married childhood friend Gloria Fitzgerald. He is survived by his wife of 20 years and leaves an army of family and friends.

**Erhard Knull** (96) passed away peacefully on June 28, 2025, in Brunswick, Ohio, with his family at his side. Raised in Germany, Erhard experienced the hardships of WWII. After he immigrated to America at the age of 22, he quickly learned English and earned a degree from Sioux Falls College, returning to Germany for more education. He returned to the States to earn his bachelor of divinity and MDiv from Sioux Falls Seminary (now Kairos University). After his first

pastorate at Rosenfeld Baptist Church in Drake, North Dakota, the family moved to Parma, Ohio, where he ministered at Mission Baptist Church (now Cross of Hope Church), where he remained a member for over 50 years. You can reach the family through his son Ralph Knull at (216) 644-5779.

**Dave Korb** (77) passed away in Brier, Washington, on October 11, 2025. Dave served in many Conservative Baptist Association churches but also served at Emery Baptist Church in Emery, South Dakota, before moving to Chicago, Illinois, and serving at Village Green Church in Glen Ellyn, as well as being the chaplain at the NAB senior home in Chicago.

**Larry Neufeld** (80) was ushered into the hands of Jesus on February 15, 2026. It was at college where he found the Lord and his wife to be, Sally. After they married in 1967, he started studies at Sioux Falls Seminary. Their ministries touched many in churches in Lodi, California; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Boring, Oregon, and Timberline, Washington, before he served as regional minister for the NAB Northwest Association. He also served as the NAB Church

Planting director. In retirement, they moved to Elk Grove, California, to be near family, where they served the Lord at Creekside Christian Church.

**Virginia Thiesies** (90) passed away peacefully March 14, 2026, in Dallas, Oregon. She married Myrl in 1956, whom she met at the Salt Creek Baptist Church youth group. They celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary before Myrl passed away in 2021. They served in various churches in Oregon, Idaho, South Dakota, Washington, and North Dakota. She leaves four children, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

**Michael “Mick” Andrews** (88) went to be with his Lord, Jesus Christ, on March 18, 2026. Mick happily brought his family along with him on his mission of life. From mission trips to mission fields and his work at Sunrise Church in Citrus Heights, California, where he served as missions director, he instilled in the lives of many the need to tell the message of God to those who are not yet walking with God.

**Loretta Jean Martin** (66), entered suddenly into God’s presence on April 22, 2026. Wife

of Daryl, mother of three sons, and grandmother to five grandchildren, she was committed to every aspect of the church, through administration, nursery, Sunday School, prayer chains, and women’s and youth groups, as well as Pinecrest Camp and much more. Through their work with the NAB International Office, overseas ministries in Russia, and admin work in the retired home in Medicine Hat, Alberta, she was a co-worker with Daryl throughout their married life.

**Harry Anderson** (69) passed away at home on May 23, 2026, with his wife Sharon and three daughters at his side. He declined in health in recent years due to cancer. At age 16, Harry was baptized by his future father-in-law. He and Sharon were married in 1980, at the church where they first met in the youth group. Harry’s love for basketball, for Sharon, and for God brought him to Sioux Falls Seminary to prepare for the pastorate ministry, which lasted more than 45 years. He and Sharon ministered in South Dakota, Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

## **CELEBRATIONS**

**Ron and Marion Hiller** celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 4.

**Rev. Steve Vetter** will retire from Turtle Lake Baptist Church in Turtle Lake, North Dakota, and will be moving in September to Pheonix, Arizona.

## **IN NEED OF PRAYER**

**Perry Kallis** from Lodi, California, is journeying down the road that will end in Heaven in the near future. He has had 36 months of brain cancer and treatments, though the doctor said he would only have 16. He asks us to ask God to give him “endurance and painless days” as he and his wife Linda and family wait for the day when God takes him by the hand to Heaven.

**Fred Penner** fell on January 6 and broke vertebrae in his neck. He was in the hospital for 100 days, including rehab. He moved to a retirement home in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Pray for Edy, as in June she moved their things to Arlington Heights to be close to their son and family in the greater Chicago area. Fred will be 90 on September 20.

FOR MORE INFORMATION 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.

## **SOLO SENIOR SOJOURNERS** (“What are you involved with in your retired daily life?”)

**Barbara Binder** in Wisconsin – *“For my 91<sup>st</sup> birthday, my family drove me to visit my sister, Laura, friends, and the people at the NAB Heritage Commission.”* Email her at [binderbjb@aol.com](mailto:binderbjb@aol.com).

**Alice Decker** in California – *“I enjoy playing hymns before Sunday morning worship services at my church, and people really enjoy it.”*

**Dorothy Ganoung** in Minnesota – *“I turned 95 this year and am living independently in a lovely apartment complex; due to some mobility challenges, I am enjoying living leisurely.”*

**Nancy Grover** in Oregon – *“I moved to assisted living 2.5 years ago at Calaroga Terrace in Portland, where I stay in my room, read books, and enjoy looking out my fourth-floor window.”*

**Helga Kahler** in Manitoba – *“After a year pause, I restarted summarizing mission prayer requests and general information for the bi-weekly Seniors’ Bible Study at Rowandale Baptist Church.”*

**Elenor Kern** in Tennessee – *“God has opened the opportunity to connect by phone and prayer with several recent widows in my former neighborhood and church.”*

Call her at (916) 751-9537. Her new address is:  
408 Gransley Ct.  
Johnson City, TN 37615

**Pat Lenz** in North Dakota – *“I enjoy volunteering at a thrift shop in Fessenden, two museums in neighboring small towns, and AWANA in the winter.”*

**Betty Mantay** in Alberta – *“After completing my exercises four days a week and my ADL, I visit seniors in assisted living and as needed in the hospital as well.”*

**Carol Mehlhaff** in Washington – *“I love being in my home surrounded daily by my family and enjoy good health, jigsaw puzzles, reading, and keeping phone contact with people who are not able to be up and about.”*

**Pat Meinerts** in Iowa – *“I am thankful for my family and friends at our local church and for good health; I enjoy good memories and hearing from Cameroonian friends.”*

**Sally Neufeld** in California – *“It has been four months since Larry passed away, and in June I moved to a senior care center closer to our son Joel and closer to the church. Thank you for your prayers as I am transitioning into life*

*without Larry.”* Her new address is:

Camden Springs Retirement  
Center #229  
8476 Sheldon Road  
Elk Grove CA 95624

**Syd Page** in Alberta – *“I lead a small Bible study twice a month and get together with other men from the local church on a weekly basis.”*

**Shan Reed** in South Dakota – *“In April 2025, I returned to the USA after 25 years as an NAB missionary in Japan not knowing what was ahead, but God opened the door for me to work with NAB International Missions in a newly developed role, director of Mobilization, when I am not traveling, exploring local state parks, or going out to eat or to the movies with friends.”* You can reach her at [shaninjapan@mac.com](mailto:shaninjapan@mac.com).

**Helen Schmidt** in Washington – *“I have joy in helping a national African young man who is developing a counsellor center in Bamenda after being called by God to be a pastor.”*

**Wilfred Weick** in Alberta – *“I enjoy living near my daughter Jana and family. My daughter Joyel and her husband come from Edmonton to visit with me, and my son Brent comes when he is able but often keeps in touch by phone.”*