GOING DEEP GROWING STRONG
SUMMER 2017
My good friend Kenny Wilden likes to drive really fast cars—open wheels, lots of power, minimal wind resistance. Basically, rockets on wheels. Who wouldn’t?

Kenny had just returned from Laguna Seca, the legendary California race track in beautiful Monterey County where he had set the track record for the fastest car around the circuit. I was impressed!

“How did you do it?” I asked him. He laughed it off as if it was no big deal, so I asked again, “What is the secret to getting around the track faster than anyone else?”

He paused for a moment and then explained, “It’s probably in the corners. I’m likely the slowest car on the track going into a corner. That means I am more in control than most when I navigate the turn. It also means I have more time to react to accidents and avoid pile-ups.” Then he added, “But I probably come out of the corners faster than anyone else.”

*Slowing down to go fast.* As I have reflected on that philosophy, I realize it is sound advice for much of life…

When considering any major moves, slow things down, think them through and prepare well before setting out on a new course. Choosing a career? Slow down. Getting married? Slow *way* down. Making changes at your church, school or company? Don’t be afraid to take time to make the best decision. It may have an impact for years to come. Reduce your speed and get it right.

This principle is especially true of relationships: the only way to create quality time is to spend quantity time. The psalmist who wrote, “Be still and know that I am God” (Ps. 46) was suggesting the same thing. Our most important relationship is with the Almighty. Let’s give that relationship the time and attention it needs to flourish. At a minimum, let’s embrace the Sabbath into our weekly routine.

Prairie’s new Christian Formation degree will invite students to *slow down* in their first year and *go deep* in their second year so that they are able to *give life* in their third and fourth years. It will be a tremendous foundation for many relational roles, whether pastors, chaplains, counsellors or parents, and we believe it has the potential to produce the greatest personal growth of any of our programs.

Our campus is something of a greenhouse with the goal of helping students grow, both in life skills and in their love for God. Those who are willing to pause and sink their roots deep will be all the more ready to accelerate into the straight-away of life.

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**COMING EVENTS**

- **September 2**
  - Show & Shine (see page 11)
- **September 12**
  - Golf Tournament (see page 7)
- **September 22-24**
  - Alumni Reunion (see page 4)
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Deep roots
Prairie’s newest program

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Alumni Spotlight
Changing patterns

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Changing direction

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For the Record
Best “fut” forward

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Voice from the past
L.E. on CD

19
Phil Callaway
Keep calm and mow on

Photo by Crystal Gillespie
All Alumni are welcome to join!

Alumni Reunion
Fall 2017

Date | Sept 22-24, 2017
Who | All Prairie Alumni
Place | Prairie College
Web | prairie.edu/Alumni-Reunion

Reunion
Visit with classmates from 1967, 1977 and 1992, and connect with other alumni. It will be a full weekend of fellowship and activities.

Re-Graduation
Join us on Friday evening as we honor the class of 1967 on their 50th anniversary. Hear from the Distinguished Alumnus chosen for Lifelong Christian Ministry.

Community Day
There will be activities for all ages on Saturday as we celebrate Prairie’s 95th birthday! Visit the website for more details and contact information.

PRAIRIE
To Know Christ and Make Him Known
Growing deeper, growing strong

Sensing a growing desire among students for a richer walk with God and a greater ability to discern truth, members of Prairie’s faculty have brought together a course of studies that will offer a deeper focus on Christian discipleship. When it was announced that the new Christian Formation program would begin in the fall of 2017, student response was immediate and enthusiastic.

Program coordinator Ritchie White understands how difficult it is to walk with God in a high-stress culture and to discern his voice amid all the other voices in our lives. “We are lost,” he says, “until we find our bearings in Jesus Christ through Scripture, the true story of redemption in Christ that redeems each of our personal stories. In an age of rapid and unsettling change, this program offers students studies and experiences aimed at cultivating a prayerful life, developing an informed Christian psychology, and providing discerning spiritual care for others.”

Centering on keeping company with Jesus and being reshaped by his Spirit, students will become more deeply rooted in the Scriptures and the process of discipleship. There is the option of a two-year diploma or a four-year degree that includes an internship where students will help facilitate growth in others.

“In terms of Psalm 1,” says Ritchie, “we can become persons who learn to slow down, go deep, and give life.”

The Christian Formation program is an excellent choice for anyone considering a profession that works closely with people. It provides a firm foundation for relational or recovery ministries or for those considering an MA in counseling.

See program details at prairie.edu/Christian-formation or contact our Admissions office at admissions@prairie.edu or 403-443-3007.

We are lost until we find our bearings in Christ.
**Family Album**

**1950s**

Gregerson, Ken (BC’58) and his wife Marilyn served with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Indonesia from 1975 until 1983. They now live in Albuquerque, NM, and work primarily as consultants with colleagues on the field in Southeast Asia via email and the Internet.

Van Eaton, Jim (HS’52, BC u’54) retired July 10, 2013, after teaching 35 years at Liberty University. Helen, his wife of 53 years, went home to be with Jesus in April of 2016. Dr. Van Eaton still sometimes assists at the LU observatory and is active at Timberlake Baptist in Lynchburg, VA.

jamesvaneaton@yahoo.com

**1980s**

Logan, Richard (BC’89) worked in student ministry for 20 years in the local church. Six years ago he became founder and president of Attack Poverty, a non-profit transforming lives in under-resourced communities in the name of Christ. Richard and his wife Diana live in Sugar Land, TX.

Suderman, Jeff (BC’87) and Kasie live in Palm Desert, CA, where Jeff runs Suderman Solutions, a management consulting company focusing on strategy and leadership development. He also teaches Master’s and Doctoral classes as an adjunct professor for several universities and recently joined Prairie’s Board of Directors. Kasie nurses at a local hospital and their children are Justus, Kaden and Zoe. (Also pictured: Jim (HS’61) and Marilyn (Wold, HS’61) Suderman.)

**2000s**

Du Preez, Daniel (current student) and Priscilla (Westra, staff) are enjoying married life in Three Hills following their wedding on May 27, 2017. Priscilla is an Admissions counsellor for Prairie College and enjoys photography and design. Daniel will continue Worship Ministry and Pastoral studies while interning as the Worship Director for Mt. Olive Evangelical Free Church.

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**LIVING OVERSEAS?**

Are you living in a restricted area? Does your mail from Prairie take months to arrive?

Alumni living outside of North America now have the option of receiving a simple email notification when new issues of SERVANT and the Prairie Harvester are posted to the Prairie website (www.prairie.edu).

As overseas mailing is becoming extremely costly for Prairie, you can help lower expenses for the school by allowing us to send your magazines electronically. Contact us at alumni@prairie.edu if you would prefer this method.
Fraser, James (BC’10) and Pam (Schenk, BC’13) and daughter Ella are in Canada following James’ graduation from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, MA, where he earned a Master of Arts in Church History. James previously directed Prairie’s Athletics Department and Sport Management program. Pam worked in Enrollment and continues to serve the school in Alumni Relations.

Schlieck, April (Lanigan, BC’09, staff) and her husband Alex met while serving the Lord as singles and were married in Canada on October 15, 2016. April is a pilot and Alex works in IT and aircraft maintenance. They are currently preparing to move to Indonesia for their new assignment with MAF and are looking forward to the adventures that await them.
As her spiritual foundation deepened, Ruth dedicated her hands to God to use as he saw fit. She also met Jim Westfall, a fellow student with a crazy sense of humor and a genuine love for people. By their senior year (1980) the two were in a serious relationship and continued corresponding when Jim went to Sudan with Operation Mobilization.

Sensing a growing desire to work among Muslim people, Jim also realized that he was not cut out to be a preacher. Ruth was studying art and design by then, so after seeing how Muslims respected the written word, Jim decided to go into graphic arts.

After their marriage in 1983, an opportunity opened up with a ministry in Egypt. As the couple studied Arabic and learned about Muslim culture, Ruth painted on location among the Islamic medieval monuments and became fascinated by the beautiful geometric patterns carved, inlaid and painted on the walls of buildings. She sketched and photographed the patterns, using them to create watercolor designs.

The Westfalls moved to England in 1993 and Jim became an expert in typesetting Arabic scripts while Ruth produced digital arabesque designs. To a Muslim, the plain covers and pages of western Bibles indicate a lack of respect for God and his Word, whereas a beautiful presentation gives the books authority as genuine sacred text.

OM sent Ruth and Jim, with their young daughters Miriam and Anna, to Kazakhstan to give training in typesetting and design to translation groups producing Scriptures in Central Asian languages.

“This was a time where our skills and experience came into their own,” says Ruth, “and many fascinating projects went through our hands.”

Returning to England, they continued their work. As Jim did the typesetting, Ruth created graphics for the covers, page borders and title pages. It was a perfect partnership.

In the summer of 2014, however, Jim became seriously ill. Surgery for a blocked intestine gave way to a diagnosis of cancer and despite all efforts, it was obvious that Jim’s life was drawing to a close.

“We learned to celebrate everything,” says Ruth. “When our girls got good grades, we took them out for dinner. When the sun shone, we sat on the deck. When my husband had an appetite, I served the food on fine china. Jim made sure that everything was in order for me but it still felt like I was in a fog. What was I supposed to do? What did God expect of me?”
Alumni Spotlight

Ruth, an experimental weaver, was in the process of creating a seamless, one-piece jacket and spent countless hours sitting by her sleeping husband as she passed the crosswise “weft” threads under and over the lengthwise “warp” threads. Understanding and comfort had always come best to Ruth through physical images and now God began to reveal his truth.

“Just as I had determined the size, shape and structure of my garment,” she realized, “God had already determined the length and shape of my days. As the warp threads were held securely at both ends, God was also lovingly holding my life firmly at both ends.

“The current phase of my weaving involved care and attention to small details, and in the same way I was to apply care and attention to the small choices: trust or panic, love or resentment, patience or hurry. I only had to live for today, leaning on the God who held my future in his hands.”

In the hospice and during the months of grieving after Jim’s death on April 9, 2015, Ruth had begun weaving 3-dimensional wool sparrows. The small birds would bring a healing message.

“I told a counsellor about my failures in the process of grieving,” Ruth recalls, “and she asked to see one of my sparrows. I described my frustration that they were not as detailed as I wished, due to the thickness of the wool.”

“Is this thread as thin as you can spin?” the counsellor asked.

“Yes.”

“But you have settled for this limitation.”

“Yes.”

“That’s like grieving,” she replied. “What you are capable of is good enough.”

The light went on as Ruth realized that there was grace for getting it wrong. She had permission to be patient with herself as life took on a different shape.

“I don’t know why Jim was called away so soon,” she says, “but God has hung on to us in the changes.”

Anna is now married and Miriam serves in a student ministry while their mother pursues weaving and artistic projects and finds her place in a new church family. Seen and unseen, the Master Weaver continues his artistry, perfecting the pattern that he has planned.
THREE CHALLENGES—THREE OPPORTUNITIES

THANK YOU for your generous donations to the 2016/17 Matching Challenge for our Education Fund. As a result, we were able to award $509,000 in scholarships and bursaries to Prairie students. This was a 25% increase from the previous year.

DOUBLE YOUR INVESTMENT

For 2017-18 we are excited to announce not one, but three new matching challenges from very gracious supporters of the school. One has designated $250,000 for the Education Fund and $200,000 for Campus Renewal. 50% of this has already been pledged—will you help us reach the finish line? Major projects for this coming year include a new roof for Founders Hall, new IT and Residence Security systems, demolition of the vacant Imbach building, and housing for the Explore directors at Frontier Lodge.

Another $30,000 US matching challenge will fund continuing development of online education at Prairie while a third challenge of $100,000 will go to campus upgrades. This is a great opportunity to double the value of your donation and make an eternal investment in young lives!

PLEASE SEE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO DONATE TO THE FUND OF YOUR CHOICE.

Want more detail on Prairie projects? Tim MacKenzie would be happy to answer questions. Contact him at tim.mackenzie@prairie.edu, direct line 403-443-3034 or Toll Free 1-800-661-2425.

We appreciate your support of this ministry and are pleased to offer the following:

CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

L.E. Maxwell

Turn back the clock with this powerful message by Prairie’s beloved pastor, principal and teacher, L.E. Maxwell. Recorded in the Prairie Tabernacle in 1962 and now available on CD, this sermon brings back memories of Maxwell’s characteristic, straight-forward style as he teaches on what true liberty means for the Christian.

See the enclosed envelope to request this product. Order must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2017. Offer limited to North American addresses. Please allow 4–6 weeks for delivery.
For the first time ever, Prairie will be hosting a classic car and bike Show & Shine right here in Three Hills.

Proceeds from the event will go toward upgrading the campus underground water and power systems, so rev up the engine on that one-of-a-kind vehicle and join the fun on September 2, 2017.

To register, contact events@prairie.edu or call 1.403.443.5511 ext. 3295

REMEMBER WHEN?

Prairie has had its own share of “classic” vehicles over the years.
Benedict, Valla Vee (BC’53) invested 36 years of her life in missionary service to Nigeria, Africa, under SIM. She taught for many years and then became Hospitality Coordinator at a Christian retreat and conference centre. Valla Vee went to be with the Lord on December 25, 2016, in Huron, SD.

Bruck, Don (HS’45, BC’49) was ordained with the EFC and held a BRE from Prairie (’85) and an MA in Missiology from Luther Rice. He spent 22 years in the Canadian office of the Japan Evangelical Mission and was Executive Director of JEM’s Seattle office, Canadian Director of New Life League and English pastor of Musashino Chapel Center in Tokyo. Don and his wife Vivian made their home in Three Hills, AB, where he passed away on January 27, 2017.

Chapin, John (HS’51, BC’54, staff) went to be with the Lord on June 7, 2016, in North Port, FL. “Jack” studied at Columbia International University and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and touched lives as a teacher and pastor. He and his wife Hazel served for 15 years as Midwest Representatives with Arab World Ministries.

Congo, Kathleen (Kellough, BC u’42) passed away in Trochu, AB, on December 10, 2016, at the age of 94. She raised her family and worked in the food business, then went on to train as a nurse and was on staff at the Three Hills Hospital until her retirement. Kay leaves behind four generations of her family.

Cook, Loretta (Manzuk, BC’82) was a trained LPN with a desire to serve in overseas missions. When chronic illness prevented her from going, she devoted her life to sharing the good news of Christ with others. Loretta passed away on October 12, 2015, at the Vernon Jubilee Hospital. She is survived by her husband Ken.

Eickstaedt, Priscilla (House, BC’61) died as a result of an auto accident on July 7, 2016. She was married to Earl and resided in Yale, OK.

English, Beverley-Ann (Woodrow, HS’54, BC’58) and her husband Ken were missionaries in Fisher Bay, MB, with the First Nations people before settling in Montrose, BC. Bev was Coordinator of Pioneer Girls in the Trail Alliance Church for over 25 years. After a battle with cancer, she entered the Lord’s presence on October 9, 2016.

Garty, Kenneth (HS’63, BC’67) graduated from the University of Calgary and earned a degree in engineering from the University of Manitoba. He enjoyed cycling, skiing, camping and singing. Ken passed away in Taber, AB, on February 12, 2017, after struggling for several years with dementia.

Holoboff, Allan (BC’63) went to be with his Saviour on March 3, 2017, in Calgary, AB. He had served with the Canadian Sunday School Mission and later at Calgary’s First Alliance, First Baptist and Grace Presbyterian churches. Allan worked as a chemical technologist at Imperial Oil Ltd. for over 23 years. His wife Donna (Harchanko, BC’63) resides in Calgary, AB.

Hughes, Kenneth (BC’63) served for 40 years as Bible teacher, pilot, mechanic and carpenter throughout Alaska for InterAct Ministries. After retirement he continued a flying ministry to people in areas inaccessible by road. Ken died of brain cancer in September 14, 2016, and is survived by his wife Jennetta and family.

Hurlbert, Vern (BC’53) and his wife Phyllis (Derrick, BC’54) served with SIM in Nigeria, first in church planting and medical work and then
in bookshop ministry until 1971. Back in the US, Vern was a salesman for Christian Bookshops and he and Phyllis enjoyed a ministry with international students. He passed away in La Mirada, CA, on December 3, 2016.

**Ibbotson, Dave (HS’62, BC’67)** and his wife Sarah served in Europe for over 40 years, working under Bible Christian Union in Germany and in Austria with a focus on the needs in Eastern Europe. At the time of his death from cancer on November 28, 2016, Dave was pastoring an international church in Salzburg.

**Jespersen, Ralph (BC’45)** was a politician, farmer, church leader and community builder in his home town of Stony Plain, AB. A member of the Alberta Legislature, he was inducted into the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1995 and received the Governor General’s Caring Canadian Award in 2012. Ralph passed away on October 17, 2016, and leaves his wife Bernice and family.

**Penner, Keren (HS’65, staff)**, a grad of NAIT, held several positions in the secretarial field, including the Liebenzell Mission of Canada and assistant to Dr. Ted Rendall. When she could no longer work due to medical challenges, Keren began a dedicated prayer ministry. She went to be with the Lord on March 1, 2017, in Three Hills, AB.

**Strom, Ken (HS’58, BC’62)** pastored for over 50 years with the Evangelical Free Church in Alberta and BC. At the time of his death on September 25, 2016, he was serving part-time with White Rock Community Church. His wife Nova (Schimke, BC’62) lives in Surrey, BC.

**Sukkau, Henry (staff)** died on March 12, 2017, after suffering a stroke. He had served the school in Prairie’s plumbing department from 1976 to 1989. His wife Erna resides in Linden, AB.

**Voetmann, Merilee (Childs, BC ’u’57)** served with her husband David as missionaries to Africa under Missionary Aviation Fellowship. She enjoyed the piano and loved to sing. Marilee went to be with the Lord on October 7, 2016, in Edmonds, WA.

**Wiebe, Art (BC’58)** passed away in Victoria, BC, on June 8, 2016. Music was his passion and he worked in Prairie’s music department and led the Men of Song. Art’s career was in Life Insurance and he was also a well-known choral director. He leaves his wife Vivian and family.

**Wimberley, Estelle (Hofrichter, BC’61)** trained as an RN before attending Prairie. After serving as missionaries to Japan for 8 years, she and her husband Lewis became church planters for the Evangelical Free Church in the US. Estelle went home to be with the Lord on October 26, 2016, in Newberry, SC.

**Witherspoon, Bruce (BC’78, staff)** worked in journalism before coming to Prairie with his wife Bette and family. He taught English and journalism at PBI, and then returned to Michigan where Bette died in 1986. Bruce passed away on October 24, 2016, and is survived by his second wife Barbara.

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**THANK YOU**

To so many who have included Prairie in their estates.
One of four children, Jeff Bell grew up in the tiny northern Alberta hamlet of Bluesky, a place where kids made their own fun and had plenty of room to do it. The remote community of less than 130 people boasted a church, but little else. That didn’t hold the Bells and their children back, however, from being fully involved in the cultural scene, including community theatre, speech arts and music. After studying voice for most of his life, competing in music festivals, and taking part in drama camps, Jeff was sure that his future lay in the arts.

His family had always been active in their local Christian community, but by the time he reached high school, Jeff had lost interest and become lax about his faith, going to church mainly to see friends. In his senior year, he also decided to change course and pursue science or medicine. After settling on a career in nursing, he began checking out different schools, not realizing that God had a surprise or two in store.

When Jeff learned that Prairie College had a program for licensed practical nurses and a free application process, he was immediately interested. Despite a listless attitude toward church, he had always enjoyed studying religion and thought that perhaps this might be a chance to learn something new about Christianity. It was time to pay a visit.

Expecting the formality of a university campus, Jeff was intrigued to find the surroundings much more intimate and the people easy-going and friendly. There was also a dining hall, which meant he wouldn’t have to keep house for himself. He was in!

Bell stands out as one of only five male students in this year’s LPN class.
of 30. A reflection of the national average, that’s a situation he’d like to see change, as he feels that men have a unique role in the nursing profession.

Jeff doesn’t hesitate to admit that, in addition to the medical training, his time at Prairie has had a profound impact on him personally. Some might view spending a semester focusing on the Bible before beginning nursing studies as an unnecessary delay.

Not Jeff.

“I thoroughly enjoyed our Bible classes,” he says. “I’m a lot more serious about my faith now and have made it my own. Much of this is due to wonderful friends who have coached and supported me. We’ve shared ideas and worked through issues together. I think I’ve matured and mellowed and I’m more thoughtful. Plus,” he adds with his trademark grin, “I eat my veggies now!”

Asked what stands out to him the most in his Prairie experience so far, Jeff is quick to answer: “The community. You expect the ads to promote it but don’t really believe it. I got here and was surprised to discover that it was actually true! I feel it especially in my friendships, but it’s definitely there with the professors as well. They are so approachable and they genuinely care about helping us grow.”

Most of the program’s practical experiences come in the second year, so Jeff hasn’t had a chance yet to narrow down an area of special interest. “Any kind of nursing involves a lot of personal interaction, though,” he says. “I just love people, so I think this was the right choice for me.”

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&

Diploma in Ministry

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**International Practicum opportunities available.**

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Women welcome new Dean

Gillian Blomsma, Prairie’s new Director of Student Development for Women, joined staff at the beginning of 2017 and is enjoying a role that she once dreamed of, but never really thought would come her way.

“My favorite part of the job,” she says, “is being able to meet one-on-one with the women on our campus. I love not only hearing their stories, but also what God is doing in those stories. The university years can be some of the most challenging as students are discovering what they want to do and where they see themselves fitting in life. It’s a privilege to help them walk that out and draw closer to God on the way.”

After completing her B.Th. in Youth ministry at Master’s College and Seminary, Gillian taught English as a second language in South Korea for a year. She returned to Canada to begin her ministry journey, serving as a youth pastor in Woodstock, NB, and then Assistant Pastor of Life Care Ministries, working with seniors in Quispamsis, NB. As Assistant to the Ministries & Mission Director of the Maritime District of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada in Truro, NS, she gained a wealth of experience in leadership and organizing camps and events.

Wanting to expand her theological understanding, Gillian entered Providence Seminary in 2013 to do a Master’s degree majoring in Student Development. She is currently working on an MA in Counseling, also from Providence.

“My passion,” she says, “is to see people understand and care for themselves as integrated beings, connecting with God and each other through the ministry of the Word and worship. I am also passionate about sound theological teaching, as this deeply shapes our beliefs and how we live out our lives in relationship to God and to one another.

“It’s my deep desire that Prairie’s women students would grow to understand who they are in Christ. As they realize their identity in him, they will see that God has stamped his image on them and this knowledge will allow them to know God more intimately. It will also give them a deeper understanding of their call as Kingdom people: to be cultivators and restorers in the ways they live out their faith.”
World Record set at Prairie College

The atmosphere in Prairie’s Rick Down Athletic Centre was electric as our athletes gave it their all to break the World Record for the longest futsal game ever played. Beginning on March 3, twenty-four athletes had kept the game going for forty-three hours straight, besting the previous record of forty hours. The determination and enthusiasm of the athletes was remarkable as each one pressed toward the goal and encouraged their teammates to keep going.

“I was so impressed with their endurance,” said one volunteer. “Some were so tired they couldn’t even make it to the food table. But they still smiled and thanked us as we took food to them. And as soon as they stepped back on the court, they engaged in real futsal, working hard to score.”

The final three hours were ones of growing excitement and hilarity as students and fans filled the gym to shout out the final 10-second countdown.

According to organizer Andrew Wood, the credit didn’t belong just to the players. Countless fans, volunteer refs and score keepers, cooks and many others had come alongside the teams to make the goal achievable. Local sponsors covered the costs of the event with enough left over to purchase brand new jerseys for the Prairie College futsal team.

“We did it together,” says Andrew. “There’s no way we could have made it without each person doing their part.”

ON THE MOVE

Prairie students travelled the world this spring and summer, experiencing the cultures and needs of countries from Asia to Europe to Central America, all as part of their college learning experience. While Youth and Pastoral teams checked out ministries in Alberta and British Columbia, Sports Management students served through athletics in El Salvador, Explore and Digital Media sent teams to China and Tibet, and Humanities students did a history tour of Italy and Turkey.

“We live in a global village,” says Dr. Glenn Loewen, Prairie’s Dean of Education, “and students need to connect with the people in their neighborhood. We are committed to bringing Good News to the whole world and preparing students to address the world’s greatest needs.”
Free Workshops

Did you know there are creative ways to leverage your assets that will benefit you right now and have a future impact on your estate and the ministries that are important to you?

Tim MacKenzie, Prairie’s Director of Donor & Alumni Relations, is available to offer a free “Dollars & Sense” workshop in your church.

You’ll learn more about:
• Ways to make your assets work for you and support ministry
• Gifts that give back
• How to get the most from your RRSP/RRIF
• Eliminating capital gains on stock
• Creating an effective estate plan

To book an event, contact Tim MacKenzie at giftplanning@prairie.edu

(Workshops are limited to western Canada and are primarily beneficial for those 70-plus)

Gift Annuities

Prairie is among the few charities in Canada that are authorized to offer gift annuities. This is a great tool that enables you to enjoy secure higher lifetime income (in many cases 100% tax-free), receive immediate tax relief, and give a gift—all in one move.

Annuities are generally beneficial for those 70 years or older. For a quote on how an annuity could benefit you, contact Tim MacKenzie at 1-403-443-3034, Toll free at 1-800-661-2425, or by email at giftplanning@prairie.edu
We live in the town of Three Hills, Alberta, population 3,500—if you count cats. Nothing happens here. Until this past June when my son Steve looked through the window and saw a tornado moving in the general direction of his house. So he did what any responsible male adult would do: grabbed his smartphone, pressed record, threw open the back door and ran straight toward the monster, hoping for a better camera angle.

The twister touched down a few football fields away, but Steve kept calm and filmed on. It tore the roof from a barn, hurled a grain bin half a mile, and flipped and crumpled an RV, while half the town pointed their phones at the sky and gasped, “Whoa, have you ever?”

Our neighbors Theunis and Cecelia Wessels had front row seats. But Cecelia was napping and as for Theunis, well, he had a lawn to mow. Their daughter woke Cecelia and pointed out the window. A massive funnel was ripping through the field behind their house while her husband calmly mowed the lawn. Like my son, her first thought was, Grab a camera!

Cecelia posted the picture on social media, and in no time, CNN, the BBC, and Time were among the hundreds who picked up the story. A German news outlet labeled Theunis “The Chuck Norris of lawn mowing.” The Washington Times dubbed him “A breathtaking Internet legend.”

“I had to get the lawn cut,” Theunis told reporters. “I knew it was there…I was keeping an eye on it. [The tornado] looks much closer in the photo but it was really far away. Well, not really far, far away, but it was far away from us.”

Some called Theunis crazier than a four-dollar bill. Not me. I like this guy. Now, should you take cover if a tornado is coming? Yes. Please do. But the photo reminds me of that story of a tiny bird perched in a nest while a thundering waterfall misses him by inches.

I asked my neighbor about storms. “I’ve had my share of them,” he told me. “I was leading the pack climbing Russia’s highest peak when I slipped and fell 100 metres. It had been a lifelong dream to reach that summit, but I was evacuated 200 metres short. Maybe that tornado prepared me for this one.”

Then he smiled and told me his secret. “If your heart and soul belong to God,” he said, “storms still come. But you’re in his hands. Be cautious, but keep your faith. Trust God and be faithful.”

Or as someone commented on Twitter: “When the going gets tough, the tough get mowing.”

**KEEP CALM AND MOW ON**

by PHIL CALLAWAY

PHIL CALLAWAY is the host of *Laugh Again Radio*. Check it out at philcallaway.com
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