The Healer

MARK MAXWELL
PRESIDENT

“Unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings.”

Malachi 4:2

As the president of this school, one of my primary concerns is the health of our campus. Are we a true community with Christ at the centre? Are colleagues encouraging and challenging each other, receiving as well as giving, thriving in their professions? Are students forming healthy attitudes and growing in their ability to address the needs of the world?

This past year we have seen God bring healing to many: physically, emotionally, and, most importantly, spiritually. My growing understanding of how close this is to the heart of God has enlarged my vision of how he might want to use our school as a training ground for the healing of the nations.

God first reveals himself as JEHOVAH RAPHA (The Lord who heals) in Exodus 15. Shortly after their miraculous deliverance from Egypt, the children of Israel faced a crisis when they ran out of water in the heat of the desert. Relief at reaching the springs of Marah was short-lived when the water turned out to be undrinkable. As Moses cried out to God, a solution was given and the bitter waters became sweet. God allowed his people to experience need that they might realize his love and care.

But there was more. Malachi 4:2 presents a beautiful picture of the rising Sun, dawning with healing in his wings. But for who? For those who fear the name of God. “Listen to me,” Jehovah told the Israelites as they moved on from Marah. “Obey me and I will be your healer.”

Perhaps one of the most devastating effects of suffering is the loss it brings to our souls—the discouragement, the bitterness, the feeling that we are alone and hopeless. Thus, even physical pain can have a spiritual component.

The campus-wide objective of Prairie College is to be, and invite others to be, lovers of God, trusting him, obeying him. Combining that posture with practical career and ministry training, we are preparing our students to address physical, emotional, social and soul pain.

Even those in Prairie’s nursing and EMT programs, while they learn how to treat physical illness and injury, are learning how to address that spiritual component and point others to the One who heals deeply.

Will you join us in sharing the great truths of Scripture with a compassionate heart, living in the power of a God who will never leave us? Will you accept the high calling of reaching a needy world with his healing love?

COMING EVENTS

March 15-16
Global Connections Conference

April 28-29
Graduation Weekend

April 30-May 2
Board of Directors
A God-thing
Classroom on wheels

Here to serve
Opportunities for donors

Not alone
Hope in the wilderness

New Book Offer
Music that unites

Phil Callaway
When life hurts

Alumni Awards
Impacting the world
Prairie’s Board of Directors meets on campus twice every year. We thank God for these capable men and women who dedicate their time and talents, offering wisdom, creativity and direction to the school.

BACK ROW: Myles Hamilton, Mike Petersen, Bruce Miller, John Grassmick, Linda Brinks, Nathan Rooke, Scott Hemenway, Brian Payne

FRONT ROW: Bob Splane, President Mark Maxwell, Jeff Suderman

Peace & Conflict
Global Connections Conference
March 15-16, 2017
Guest Speaker:
Dr. Joshua Bogunjoko
International Director of SIM
www.prairie.edu/events
Each year the college honors alumni who personify Prairie's values and have translated their educational experience into distinguished achievement in Christian ministry or the professional world. Three individuals were recognized during the alumni reunion weekend this past September.

KARL JANZEN
Lifelong Christian Ministry

After graduating from Prairie in 1961, Karl served on staff as teacher and Dean of Men. Following ministry in Victoria, BC, Karl and his wife Kathleen (Hilde, ’57) began missionary service to Angola, Africa, Brazil and South America, spending nearly thirty years in leadership development through seminary training. The Janzens retired to Vernon, BC, where Kathleen passed away in 2014. Karl remains active in his church and volunteers with the Okanagan Gleaners.

DONNA HUMPHRIES
Integration of Christian Faith and Professional Achievement

Donna attended Prairie High School in 1945-46 and graduated from The Holy Cross Hospital School of Nursing in 1953. After completing her Master’s degree, she became Director of the Department of Obstetrical Nursing at Foothills Hospital in Calgary, AB. In 1968 Donna was appointed Director of the School of Nursing, and had the joy of seeing nearly 2,500 students graduate by the time she retired in 1989.

JOHN CARTER
Early Career Excellence

After studies in Prairie’s Outdoor Education & Leadership program and at CAN-IL, John (’08) now leads a Language Assessment Team to the jungle villages of PNG. Travelling by plane, boat or on foot, he gathers strategic information for crucial decisions regarding Bible translation. “Giving people the Bible,” he says, “ensures that what they believe will be based on truth and not error. It’s exciting to be part of what God is doing here.”
1960s

Newquist, David (HS’63) and Judy (Bruce, HS’63) retired in 2010 from student ministry with OMF in Taiwan and settled in Kearney, NE. Since August of 2015, they have been spending three months of each semester living among the students and families at Logos Evangelical Seminary in Los Angeles, serving as honorary “Grandpa and Grandma.” This is a Chinese seminary with students from Chinese-speaking countries and the US.

1970s

Allen, Terri (BC’75) is living in Corvallis, OR, close to her 19-year-old daughter Ashley, and has retired after 29 years with Oregon State University. She is enjoying a full life that includes piano lessons, exercise classes, women’s Bible studies, a small group and providing transportation to seniors and people with disabilities. Terri recently began working at her church with young adults who have special needs. She would love to hear from former classmates or Prairie staff at tla87@comcast.net

Filkins, Mike (BC’75, former staff) and Elaine (Martens, BC’75) served with Action International Ministries in the Philippines from 1983 to 1985 and are now heading back to the country more than thirty years later. For the past decade they have been experimenting with gardening techniques which they plan to present at a pastors’ conference, teaching church leaders how to plant inexpensive organic gardens that will help them feed their families. They are excited to return and to put their experience to practical use to bless the Philippine church.

1980s

Sloan, Mike (BC’86) and his wife Molly and two sons lived in a village in Nepal for four years doing community development work. During that time Mike gained a love for remote trekking. When they returned to the US, he earned his Masters at Wheaton College and began pastoring. Nine years ago the Sloans started a church called “Church on the Rock” in Talkeetna, Alaska. Mike guides teams into the Himalayas where he makes contact with remote tribes. Two years ago he and his son completed their goal of climbing all the highest mountains of all fifty US states and he is currently on a 5-year project to complete the Great Himalaya trail from east to west.

1990s

Backhouse, Stephen (HS’94) has been primarily based since 1995 in the UK, where he lives with his
wife Clare, a nutritional therapist. Stephen is the Lecturer in Social and Political Theology at St. Mellitus College in London and is the author of a number of books, including most recently the popular biography “Kierkegaard: A Single Life,” published by Zondervan.

**Horton**. Murray (BC’93) and Maureen served with Chris tar in Albania for seven and a half years. They worked alongside a national couple and had the privilege of seeing a little church planted outside of the capital city of Tirana. In June they returned to Canada permanently and Murray is now serving as Community Life Pastor at Mt. Olive EFC in Three Hills, AB. They are enjoying being closer to their three daughters and one grandson who all live in Calgary.

**2000s**

**Hawkes**, Gordon (BC’09) and Sarah (Cogbill, BC ’09) are in Calgary, AB, where Gordon works full-time with Faith Beyond Belief, a ministry that equips Christians to be effective ambassadors for Christ in everyday conversations. He is also pursuing his Master’s degree in philosophy at the University of Calgary. Sarah worked for six years with FedEx Express and is now a full-time mom to their 1-year-old daughter Emma. Gordon can be reached for bookings at gordon.hawkes@faithbeyondbelief.ca

**Mal**, Peter (BC’01, former staff) joined Prairie staff as a recruiter and held various roles including Director of Admissions, Director of Marketing and Enrolment Management, Dean of PCAAT and Managing Director of Communications and IT. In September of 2015 he transitioned to Olds College where he is now the Registrar and Director of Student Services. Peter is working on his Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership from the University of Western Ontario. He and Melody and their four children live in Three Hills, AB.

**Pingist**, Roland (BC’11) and Brittany (Robinson, BC’10) moved to Brazil with their infant son Noah in 2012 to work with Open Air Campaigners. For three years they did urban missions in schools, prisons, drug recovery homes and on the street. Their daughter Chiara was born in 2013. They now live in the Amazon region among the indigenous population of Brazil. Roland teaches at a small Indian Bible school and Brittany helps with children’s ministry. They also do evangelism and discipleship in surrounding Indian villages. Roland is pursuing a Master of Divinity through Moody Theological Seminary. rolandlovesbrittany@gmail.com
Adventure was never-ending in the challenging world of youth ministry and even the arrival of our daughter Codi didn’t slow us down. When we learned that another child was on the way, we were excited that our three-year-old would have a playmate. Who knew that life was about to take a drastic turn?

I had looked forward to cuddling my new baby and bonding during intimate feeding times. But to my dismay, no matter what I did, she just choked and vomited up everything she took in. Babies throw up, babies cry, and some are finicky eaters, but this was different.

I took her to doctors and anyone else I thought might help, but they all told me I was overreacting; that just because she wasn’t an easy baby like my first child didn’t mean there was anything wrong.

But something was wrong. The harder I tried to feed Jovee, the more obvious it became. She couldn’t eat. And because she couldn’t eat, she couldn’t sleep, which meant I didn’t either. All new parents know what it is to lose sleep, but after three months of getting no more than two or three hours of rest a night, I was desperate.

In the darkness I would rock my baby, attempting to feed and soothe her, cleaning up her vomit and trying to persevere as she cried and cried for hours on end. My precious little one was skin and bones and I was told it was either my fault or all in my head.

Never have I felt so alone as I did during the wee hours of the morning, trying to nurse a starving child who just screamed and gagged. It seemed as though the whole world had gone to sleep and forgotten me and I was left endlessly awake and utterly helpless.

Days and weeks passed. And then one dreary night, God came near. The verses of Psalm 121:3-4 made their way into my head and my heart: “He who watches over you will not slumber; indeed he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.” I began
to weep. God was staying up with me. He knew I was exhausted and he sent his Word to remind me that he was doing the night watches right there with me. Night after night I would quote these verses to myself, hoping for improvement, hoping for change, but more than anything, just holding on because now I knew I wasn’t forgotten.

How well I identified with the story of Hagar in the Bible (Gen. 16)! Fleeing from the abuse of her mistress, she collapsed by a spring in the desert, utterly alone, hopeless and overcome with concern for the future of her child. There, to her astonishment, God found her, spoke to her, and comforted her with his promise. Her circumstances had not changed. In fact, she was told to embrace her problems. And yet Hagar was deeply touched and would never forget that personal encounter with the One she named El Roi—the God who sees me.

After many months a specialist finally discovered that I wasn’t crazy after all: Jovee had a hole in her heart that would require open-heart surgery. The operation was booked immediately and we were thrilled to hear the surgeon say that he expected her to recover completely. Only the parents of a sick child could imagine the relief we felt.

But it was short-lived. When Jovee came home and still couldn’t eat, we were devastated. The heart repair had only solved one of her problems. As hospital stays multiplied and my sleepless night watches with God continued, I began to realize that this might be the new normal.

It has now been ten months and while things have improved, our daughter still struggles and will require additional surgery. Only when Jovee is asleep does she actually relax enough to be able to swallow, so that means most of her liquid intake happens during the night hours. But the God who doesn’t sleep stays up with me and I am not alone.

I wanted my circumstances to change, but instead God gave me his presence in the midst of them. When we are drowning in a crisis, knowing God is in the thick of it with us impacts our very being in a way that it might not if the challenge were to disappear. The reality of my Father’s presence in such deep personal need will stay with me for a lifetime. He is my El-Roi—the God who sees me.

Only the parents of a sick child could imagine the relief we felt.
Music & Worship Arts Program Expands

NEW FACULTY ADDITION

This past summer, another new face was added to the teaching faculty of Prairie College when Dr. Mark Jonah joined the Music & Worship Arts program. Canadian-born, Mark grew up in New Brunswick and his training includes a BRE from Briercrest College, a BA in Honors Music from the University of Waterloo (ON), and a Master of Theology from Tyndale Seminary. He earned his doctorate from the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies in Orange Park, FL.

Dr. Jonah will serve as executive administrator for the team that is currently led by Brian Doerksen, and his teaching responsibilities will focus on the area of worship ministry. This will, he believes, allow Prairie to reach a broader range of students by initiating another concentration into the MWA program.

Mark believes very strongly in the local church and values working with the community of God’s people to see them grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. He has worked in music and pastoral ministry in churches across Canada, including Stanley Park Baptist in Kitchener, ON, Grant Memorial in Winnipeg, MB, and Beulah Alliance in Edmonton, AB. For the past six years he served on the faculty of LeTourneau University in Texas as Associate Professor of Worship Arts and his vision is to train and mentor those who are called to music ministry within the Body of Christ.

Enthusiasm for his new role is evident. “I love helping students explore and understand the worship ministry of the local church,” he says. “The people of God need to be established and built up in their journey of faith, so I want to see men and women go from here grounded in God’s Word, skilled at their musical craft, and prepared to plan and lead worship with a pastorally sensitive mindset.

“It’s a delight to be part of the team at Prairie College. Music and worship ministry is an area where I am personally continuing to grow, so as students and faculty, we journey together. There are many facets to the jewel that is the worship of our God and I find it an exciting and worthy pursuit.”

“There are many facets to the jewel that is the worship of our God and I find it a worthy pursuit.”
No wonder worship is at the heart of so many controversies in the church,” says author James Janzen in response to an ancient adage that “the way we worship becomes the way we believe, which in turn becomes the way that we live.”

In his relevant new book, this pastor, missionary, conductor, worship leader and teacher explores Paul’s teaching on psalms, hymns and spiritual songs and the relationship between this familiar song triad and spiritual maturity. Maintaining that worship can lead to unity rather than conflict and division, James offers solid biblical teaching as well as practical strategies that make this book an essential resource for those pondering the function of worship in the church.

The former director of the Worship & Performing Arts program at Prairie College, he currently teaches extensively in Eurasia with SEND International, Christian Music Academy (Ukraine), Music in World Cultures and TeachBeyond.

Please see the enclosed envelope to order your copy.

Offer available until April 30, 2017.
Colley, Thomas (BC’59), of Bellevue, WA, served with his wife Jewell in the Canadian Sunday School Mission in Alberta, and later with churches in Colorado, Idaho, and Washington. They also directed the Alacca Bible Camp in Idaho. Thomas was ordained with the Evangelical Free Church. He passed away on August 10, 2016.

Conley, Joseph (BC’52) was a missionary to Peru and served as International Director of RBMU (now World Team) for 30 years. In 1988 Joe and his wife Eileen (Elliot, BC’55) moved to Florida where he was instrumental in planting La Iglesia Hispana in Boca Raton. A talented writer, orator and handyman, he wrote Drumbeats That Changed the World, a history of RBMU and the West Indies Mission. Joe went home to be with the Lord on October 17, 2016.

Dubland, Olaf (BC’47) was ordained in the Evangelical Free Church in 1951 and went to India with TEAM. With his wife Helen, he developed a Bible camp and retreat centre and pastored a church. They retired to Abbotsford, BC, in 1987. Helen died in 2014 and Olaf moved into long-term care where he passed away on March 3, 2016, one week before his 93rd birthday.

Fung, Patrick (GS’92) trained as a nurse in Hong Kong and later studied at China Bible Seminary to become a pastor. In 1990 he moved his wife Leona and two sons to Canada to pursue a Masters degree at Prairie Grad School. Patrick struggled with illness most of his life but continued to mentor others and serve the church until his passing on May 6, 2016, at the age of 63.

Hanna, Hector (BC u’46, staff) served on Prairie staff from 1946 to 1985 on the school farm and in housekeeping. His parents, Alexander and Jessie Hanna, were charter board members of Prairie Bible Institute. Hector was pre-deceased by his wife Isabel in 1999 and passed away in the Three Hills Extended Care on June 17, 2016.

Houghton, John (Jack) (BC’99) was an aircraft mechanic and electrician and served on Prairie staff in aircraft maintenance. He was active in his church and loved basketball and sharing Jesus. Jack reached the end of his battle with brain cancer on August 24, 2016, and is survived by his wife Jeannie and four children.

Jacobson, Ralph (HS’42, BC’45) and his wife Doris served under SIM from 1950 to 1965 and saw the rural Kambatta area of Ethiopia transformed by the gospel. In the late 70s Ralph worked in Christian radio ministries, including Focus on the Family. Ralph and Doris were living in Elim Village in Surrey, BC, when he passed away on August 7, 2016.

Laskowski, Ted (BC’48) went to Brazil where he and his wife Janet served for 40 years with CrossWorld. They began the Amazon Bible Institute and were field leaders, and Ted built a recording studio for Transworld Radio. They retired to Canada in 1988 and Ted ministered in churches and to the Portuguese immigrant fruit farmers in central BC. He went home to be with the Lord in Abbotsford, BC, on May 11, 2016.

Morrison, Clinton (BC’68) served in the US Marine Corp and held a Doctor of Education. He directed the Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch and was a member of both
Baptist and Messianic-Jewish congregations where he taught Sunday school, Hebrew, Messianic Judaism and Torah. Clinton passed away on April 25, 2015. His wife Laura resides in Gulfport, MS.

Redekop, Evelyn (Rorison, BC’48) invested her life as a missionary in Nigeria and Niger with SIM, first as a bookkeeper and later as a nurse. She retired to Abbotsford, BC, where she married Art Redekop in 2005. Evie went home to be with her Lord on September 2, 2016, following a heart attack.

Reed, Marcella (Wilkins, BC u’50, staff) died on July 17, 2016, after a long struggle with Parkinson’s. She opened her home to many Prairie students and she and her husband Bob managed several camps together. After moving to Ponoka, AB, Marcella led Bible studies and care groups, served in her church, and enjoyed her 4 children, 14 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Reed, Robert (BC’53, staff) joined his wife Marcella in heaven on August 24, 2016, after suffering a stroke. Following 20 years on Prairie staff as manager of the laundry, he managed Camp Silversides and the Baptist Camp at Gull Lake and worked at the Ponoka Alberta Hospital in housekeeping until retirement.

Reed, Timothy (HS’69, BC u’71) passed away on June 3, 2016, after being struck by a car. He was a journeyman carpenter, custom kitchen designer and avid outdoorsman, and operated Golden Aspen Design in Steamboat Springs, CO. Tim loved his mountain life and leaves three children and six grandchildren.

Robfogel, Edna (Wiebe, BC u’69) trained as a teacher before going to West Africa with SIM to teach missionary children at Kent Academy. She served for 28 years in Nigeria where she married her husband Bill, a fellow teacher. They retired in 2010 to the SIM Retirement Village in Sebring, FL, where Edna died of cancer on May 5, 2016.

Schmidt, Ardyce (Bartz, BC’53) trained as a nurse and worked in local hospitals and nursing homes. Upon retirement she became a chaplain at a continuing care facility. A member of the Mennonite Brethren Church of Ulysses, KS, since 1958, she was married to her husband Wilbert for 58 years. Ardyce passed away on June 8, 2016.

Spaulding, Robert (HS’44, BC’49) and his wife Eleanor (Maxwell, ’49) invested 17 years in Bible school, church planting and administrative ministries with the Japan Evangelical Mission. They also worked with Japanese in Sao Paulo, Brazil, for 18 years. They retired to Three Hills, AB, where Eleanor died in 2010. Bob passed away in Edmonton on August 14, 2016.

Tromsness, Barbara (u’78, former staff), Three Hills, AB, entered the Lord’s presence on July 31, 2016. She was a secretary, administrator and teacher at PBI from 1970 to 1987. A member of Prairie Tabernacle for 46 years, she was active in women’s ministries and prayer initiatives. Her husband, Howard, passed away in 2012 and Barb is survived by her four children and their families.

Young, Doug (BC’95) of Strathmore, AB, passed away suddenly on October 4, 2016, at the age of 77. He is survived by his second wife, Joan, and combined family of 6 children, 8 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.
Classroom on Wheels

A wish became a reality this past fall when a spotless, 2006 Crestline modular ambulance arrived on campus, acquired by a Prairie grad who is now a professional paramedic. “The praise belongs to God,” he says. “I was just in the right place at the right time.” In a miraculous chain of events, a request put in to the BC Ambulance Fleet for a teaching vehicle came together in just four days at a very minimal cost to the school.

According to James Medford, Prairie’s EMT Program Coordinator, “This ambulance will make it possible for EMR and EMT students to practice their skills in a realistic environment. They are excited to use it and I know this will enhance the learning experience at Prairie.”

First responders, hardened out of necessity, are often unable to accept that the daily tragedy they deal with may be eroding their personal lives. Since outsiders seldom understand the unique stresses, these men and women tend to isolate themselves and become extremely difficult to reach.

At Prairie, a strong biblical foundation and emphasis on Christian character are essential elements of the EMT program. Students are preparing not only to offer professional and compassionate care, but to bring the light of Christ to their fellow medical colleagues from the inside. Earning respect by hard work and high standards, they can become a trusted friend in a challenging mission field.
With my little brother lying stiff and unresponsive on the floor, I diligently counted out chest compressions and rescue breaths, doing my best to save him. The treatment came to an abrupt halt, however, when he finally grew tired of the game and ran off to play.

As far back as I can remember, my passion has been to serve and help people. Growing up in a close family and community where everyone worked together and took care of each other only fueled that desire and I gravitated toward lifeguarding, first aid, veterinary work and studies in Animal Sciences at the University of Guelph.

School was a real struggle, however, and in my third year I was diagnosed with a learning disability. The skill and the knowledge were there, but it just didn’t transfer to written exams. It seemed like school was not for me, so I left my small town in Ontario and headed west to become an Alberta ranch hand.

My veterinary training and first aid experience were put to good use caring for the animals there and I also managed the sheep herd with the help of my loyal sidekick Marlin, a three-year-old Australian Shepherd.

Something I couldn’t identify seemed to be missing, but still I was happy in my work. We were surrounded by beauty on the ranch and I wanted to learn more about the impact of the oil and gas industry and how to help ranchers protect the health and safety of their land and animals. I completed my Land Analyst Certificate for Oil and Gas at Olds College and planned to continue but the course was cancelled due to the downturn in the oil market. That was when I discovered the EMR program at
A familiar hymn reminds us to “Count your many blessings,” and recently they have been “rolling in” on wheels. In addition to the ambulance acquisition, we have recently had, not one, but two 24-passenger busses provided for the college by friends of the school. Both vehicles are in constant use, transporting students to ministry opportunities and carrying sports teams to competitions.

According to Randy Stewart, Prairie’s Athletic Director, “They have been a huge blessing to our sports program. For many of our longer road trips we are now able to fit into one vehicle, which really makes travel economical, comfortable and safe.”

Over the years I’ve gained confidence in my knowledge and ability to treat patients medically. But I also know that being a first responder is a stressful career with a heavy burnout rate. My mother once told me: you can overcome any challenge as long as you have your faith.

That’s why I’m excited to train at Prairie. Studying Scripture and building godly friendships will help to deepen my relationship with God and I’ll be better prepared to really love people and be there for them when the worst happens.

**Busloads of Blessing**

Prairie is currently in need of three 8-passenger vans for our nursing practicums. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Tim MacKenzie:

1-403-443-3034
1-800-661-2425 (toll-free)

tim.mackenzie@prairie.edu
Prairie Welcomes New Director of Donor & Alumni Relations

TIM MACKENZIE (BC’81) RETURNED TO PRAIRIE STAFF IN JULY AND RECENTLY DESCRIBED HIS ROLE FOR HARVESTER READERS.

Tim, tell us about your ministry background.
I worked for Prairie in PR and Planned Giving from 1982 to 2005. That was followed by ten years with the Christian & Missionary Alliance National office in Estate Planning, Planned Giving, and Missions Mobilization. This past summer I returned to Prairie as Director of Donor & Alumni Relations.

What are your impressions of Prairie today?
Being gone for a period of time and then returning allows a person to view things through a different lens. I’m seeing a strong emphasis on genuine spiritual life, the Bible as the bedrock of every program, expansion of the curriculum. Students are receiving a biblical foundation as well as training and skills that are recognized in the marketplace. I’m particularly enjoying the positive campus culture where staff and students build into each other’s lives and where vulnerability and transparency are valued and practiced. Here at Prairie we journey together to spiritual wholeness.

What is your role?
My role is to tell the story of what God is doing on Prairie campus. I want to invite friends to partner with us in helping students become lovers of God who will impact culture and serve a needy world. I’m often on the road, meeting with individuals or groups of alumni and friends. It’s important to me that people have an accurate picture of Prairie today and an opportunity to get answers to their questions. There are a variety of ways that friends can engage with us and I’m delighted to assist in any way I can.

What services do you offer?
I’m available to share with our Canadian seniors how they can unleash the power of their estate more than they might think possible through intentional Planned Giving. There are many ways in which assets can be leveraged to increase retirement income, reduce taxes and bless ministry all at the same time. My long-range goal is to offer workshops in Alberta to share the benefits with local churches as well. I’m also available to help facilitate gifts in kind, such as stock, mutual funds or even physical assets.

Tim can be reached at:
1-403-443-3034
1-800-661-2425 (toll-free)
giftplanning@prairie.edu
The Class of 1966 gathered on campus this past September to celebrate their Golden Anniversary.

ALUMNI REUNION

The 50th year re-graduation of the Class of 1966 was celebrated this past September, a change from previous years. A full weekend of festivities was shared not only by this class, but by the grads of 1976 and 1991 as well. Those who attended appreciated the opportunity to reconnect with old friends, tour the campus, and listen to inspiring speakers. All three classes contributed to scholarships for the newest Prairie program, the Certificate in Bible for selected inmates at the Bowden Institute.

We look forward to another great weekend, September 22-24, 2017, to celebrate the classes of 1967, 1977 and 1992. There will be an athletics tournament for all alumni, a birthday cake to mark Prairie’s 95th year, great speakers and even activities for kids. Watch for more information and mark your calendar to join us for Alumni Weekend 2017!
One sleepy sunny morning, Joyce Steeves (former Prairie staff) was leaving her house in Sherwood Park, Alberta, to help prepare for a bridal shower when the unthinkable happened. As she walked over to her car parked in her very own driveway...well, I'll let her tell you.

"Probably no one will believe this," she writes, "but as I was leaving my house just now, a jack rabbit leaped out from in front of our garage and kicked me in the head! Honest to goodness truth! Freaked me out!"

Freaked out? No wonder. Joyce grew up reading stories about tender little bunnies like Peter Cottontail and Br'er Rabbit. She cheered loyally for Bugs Bunny when he faced off against an irate Elmer Fudd. So imagine her surprise when this little cottontail jumped up and smacked her one.

The insane hare fled for his life after hearing Joyce scream. A lady across the street turned and stared. Joyce tried to act nonchalant, even though she really wanted to holler, "Hey, I was just kicked in the head by a jack rabbit!" She hopped back into her house, hoping for sympathy from her husband and grandson. There was a bump on her head and scratches on her arm, but would they believe the crazy story of how they got there?

"I saw a jack rabbit leap a six-foot fence once," said her grandson Mason. He was a believer. And since Joyce tends to tell the truth, her husband Glenn believed her too (or so he said).

Others weren't so quick to take her word for it. Mocking friends said with rolled eyes, "Right. Are you sure it wasn't a kangaroo? Tell us again, how big was that rabbit?" Another smiling friend said, "Maybe it was a message from the Lord. You'd better listen."

The truth is, for every one of us there comes a time when life jumps out and kicks us in the head. Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble," (there will be jack rabbits, friends) "but be of good cheer—I have overcome the world." We've all found ourselves shaking our heads, saying, "Hey, I was just walking to my car. You shouldn't need a helmet for that, should you?"

I asked Joyce what separates those who threaten to sue the entire jack rabbit population from those who take to Facebook and cheer up their friends with such an amazing story.

"I'm not one to share my kicks in the head with the world," she answered. "Many others have it far worse. But life's knocks have made us lean more on God and on each other."

Joyce and Glenn remember the day when their house caught fire. They remember how their world shattered when their teenage daughter told them she was pregnant. And the day her father, in the early stages of dementia, moved in with them. I watched as they handled each of these 'kicks' with grace.

"Stuff hits you out of nowhere," Joyce admits, "and sometimes you scream. People may even judge you, but by God's grace, you pick yourself up and keep going. Gratitude helps. I suppose if I had known that rabbit was lurking around the corner, I'd have worn boxing gloves!"

Then she laughs and says, "I'm just thankful it wasn't a horse."

PHIL CALLAWAY is the host of Laugh Again Radio. Check it out at philcallaway.com
WHAT IF YOU COULD

Increase your secure retirement income?
Reduce or even eliminate taxes?
Invest in returns today and eternal dividends tomorrow?
Unleash the power of your estate?

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For our Canadian friends, explore your potential by contacting Prairie’s Planned Giving office for more information:

Tim MacKenzie Alumni & Donor Relations
giftplanning@prairie.edu
Direct: 1 403 443 3034
Toll Free: 1 800 661 2425
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