S
ome months ago, I was asked if it was time for us to create a new logo. After all, the one we have is more than ninety years old. Do we need a fresh image? My gut reacted before I even engaged my mind. My response? Absolutely not! The wheat sheaf continues to be symbolic of Prairie in so many ways. It speaks to:

I. Our Location. Here on the great Canadian prairies, one of the core crops is wheat, making this area one of the major breadbaskets of the world. In this rural, unhurried environment, students can focus on learning to know God.

II. Our College. One of our core values is to be “Bible-based.” In the parable of the Sower and the Seed (Luke 8), Jesus identified the seed as “the Word of God.” Not only are we sowing that seed in the hearts of our students by providing full coverage of the Canon in every degree program, we are preparing them to be sowers of the seed themselves wherever God leads them.

III. Our Call. Jesus told his followers that “unless a grain of wheat falls in the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (John 12). Two more of Prairie’s core values are “Discipleship-Directed” and “Christ-Centred.” We do not live for ourselves. We become available to Christ to fulfill his purposes, not our own.

IV. Our Commission. “Lift up your eyes,” said Jesus, “and see that the fields are white for harvest...pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (John 4, Luke 10). In keeping with our core value of being “Mission-Mandated,” the wheat sheaf reminds us of the waiting harvest, the millions around the world who still need to hear the good news of the kingdom of the living God—truly the greatest need of all.

Prairie’s logo is rich with meaning and relevant to who we have been and who we are as a college. I can’t imagine a more appropriate symbol for us than this simple, elegant sheaf of wheat. We have framed it and lifted the top right corner to illustrate how we hope that our school will be a “launching pad” for our students. It also represents our desire for a broader global impact through initiatives like our new Distance Education opportunities (see p. 4).

Our logo speaks to me. I hope it does to you too! 🌾
PHOTO BY CRISTAL GILLESPIE

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE WILLS

PHOTO BY CRISTAL GILLESPIE
Global classroom
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

We have a dream—to provide premium Bible training to any person, any place, at any pace. This year we have made significant strides toward that goal.

Thanks to both a generous donor and our supporters and alumni who supplied the matching funds, Prairie’s Distance Education department has been working hard to make online learning an important part of fulfilling the mission of the College.

“Prairie’s goal,” says Dr. Glenn Loewen, Dean of Education, “is to provide biblically integrated education in a classroom as big as the world.”

Prairie’s goal is to provide biblically integrated education in a classroom as big as the world.

The DE team has been rapidly moving ahead on developing new course offerings and expects that by the fall of 2018 students will be able to take the following programs entirely online: the one-year Encounter Program, a two-year Diploma in Bible, and four-year degrees in Pastoral, Youth Ministry and Intercultural Studies. Rather than purchasing pre-packaged courses, Prairie is developing its own in-house product, with most of the material being taught by current campus faculty and mirroring actual campus courses. The curriculum is solidly evangelical, biblical and interdenominational. Prices are competitive and scholarships are available.

Church-based study groups: Distance Education through Prairie also provides a learning platform where members of a church community can study together, thereby increasing the overall level of biblical literacy and leadership development in their own congregations.

Individual pacing: Unlike some programs that require students to join “cohorts” and are tied to a calendar, Prairie’s Distance Education is self-paced for convenience and global accessibility. This format is ideal for potential students who need to continue in work or ministry while they learn, or for those who cannot come to campus due to distance and cost. Our goal is to create a diverse classroom of learners from around the world by offering quality biblical training without boundaries.

To learn more, call toll free to 1-800-785-4226, email distance.ed@prairie.edu or check out our website at prairie.edu/Distance-Education.
Journey of discovery
by ANALEA STYLES

God has brought me on an interesting journey and I love recounting all that he has done in my life. Currently I am completing a Bachelor of Arts in Ministry (Youth) through Prairie Distance Education, but am also working part time with high school youth while I complete my courses.

Working with young people as a volunteer is something I’ve always loved, but I never saw myself actually in ministry. When a temporary job was offered to me at my home church in Abbotsford, BC, however, my life took on a new direction. The job turned out to be not so temporary and a new passion began to take shape.

As I worked alongside the youth pastor, met others who were involved with teens, attended conferences, and kept learning more, it became clear that this was where God wanted me to commit my life. I’m still amazed at how he has slowly moved me toward youth ministry and allowed me to pursue the needed education from a distance while still participating in this life-giving work.

It was difficult to find any Canadian Christian colleges that offered Bachelor Degrees through distance programs, so I was very grateful to discover Prairie. The team there has been so flexible with my needs, eager to work alongside me, and encouraging throughout. The professors have each invested in me in different ways, whether in my life, my ministry, or my education.

A particular advantage of doing DE while “on the job” is that I get to apply what I’m learning right away in my interactions with students. This benefit of practical application confirms for me that the courses are valuable and worth the effort!

Though online learning comes with challenges, especially since it is all self-paced, I am learning how to establish goals and grow in self-discipline. We are also required to have a mentor throughout the degree process and these monthly mentor meetings have been one of the greatest gifts to me.

As I look back on all that God has already taught me since enrolling in Prairie’s Distance Education program, I am again reminded that he always gives more than we could ask or even imagine and we can trust him for the journey.
Family Album

1940s

Nelson, Walter (HS’44, BC’48) recently marked his 91st birthday. After leaving Prairie, he earned a BA from Columbia Bible College, a BA and Master’s in Education from Seattle Pacific, and a doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Oregon. Walt’s career has taken him from elementary to graduate education as a teacher and administrator. He and his wife Sharon have been involved in missions and worked with the English Language Institute in China.

1950s

Swanson, Larry (BC’53) and Evelyn live in Algonquin, IL, since retiring from missionary service with the Janz Team (now TeachBeyond) in 2000. They are grateful for reasonable health that allows them to volunteer at Willow Creek Church in many ways, including the prayer room, post-Alpha Bible studies, ESL classes, and men’s breakfasts. Larry is now in his 90s.

Porritt, Stan (BC’71) and Donna (Lindahl, BC’73) are now retired and living near Sexsmith, BC. Stan volunteers at the Grande Prairie Mission Thrift Store and Donna serves at their church Hand-Me-Down Depot where she meets many local mothers. Their main ministry now is in prayer for family, missions and community.

1970s

Ehmann, Daniel (HS’66, BC’70) and his wife Joi moved to France in April after a long-time ministry in Italy. This will allow them to work more closely with the global leadership team out of the World Team Global office. Joi will continue to direct and develop leader training and Daniel will coordinate distance learning for church planting missionaries.

1980s

Jenkins, Daniel (BC’85) and Grace (Markel, BC’85) make their home west of Nashville, TN, and are very happy to be living close to their children and grandchildren. Dan retired from the FAA in 2011 after working twenty-four years as an air traffic controller. He is now pursuing his passion of writing, singing and recording music.

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.
Jenkins, Nathan (BC’81) and his wife Paula live in Grove City, Ohio. Paula is a registered nurse and they have four children (Paul, Evelyn, Naomi and Joe) and are active in the Methodist Church. Nathan retired from the U.S. Navy after a career on nuclear powered fast-attack submarines. He then earned his Master of Science degree in nursing and currently holds a faculty position at Ohio State University. In addition to teaching nurse practitioners, Nathan is also an active nurse practitioner in the field of palliative medicine.

1990s

Lenihan, Frank (BC’95,’98), with his wife Debbie, has been serving as Senior Pastor of the Lustre Mennonite Brethren Church in Montana for the past sixteen years. Frank recently completed his Doctor of Divinity degree and was re-elected to another three-year term on the U.S. Board of Directors of Bridges for Peace, an organization dedicated to building relationships with Christians and Jews in Israel and around the world. They have just celebrated their 20th year in pastoral ministry.

Stenstrom, Peter (BC u’96) and his wife Ashley were formerly on staff at Cape Breton Bible Camp and have now moved to Three Hills where Peter is Field Director for One Hope Canada in Alberta and BC. He provides oversight and support to the fourteen camps and ministry points within the two provinces, equipping directors and ministry boards to effectively communicate the gospel to unreached children and youth. The Stenstroms have three sons, Nate, Luke and Joseph.

Train tomorrow’s youth leaders TODAY!

Join the faculty of Prairie College as a PROFESSOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY. Apply at: prairie.edu/careers

SEND YOUR NEWS AND STORIES TO alumni@prairie.edu

FOLLOW OUR STORY @prairiecolleges
Farewell to faith?

Most of us are acquainted with someone who disagrees with Christianity. Today, however, there is a new and increasingly passionate breed of person challenging the faith. They are people who were once devout members of the Christian community, including former pastors, theologians, church planters, and graduates of Bible colleges and seminaries. This wave of skeptics is accompanied by a growing number of organizations devoted to supporting Christians who choose to leave the faith they once embraced.

Some have had a traumatic negative experience or a sense of having been let down by the church or by God. Some, after a moral failure, have had difficulty finding renewed acceptance among former Christian friends, and some speak of unresolved questions that ate away at their confidence in the truth of Christianity. How do we respond?

In his newest book, *Why People Stop Believing*, apologist and Prairie alumnus Dr. Paul Chamberlain (HS’73, BC’77) shares insights that go beneath the surface of many of these questions and suggests that we learn to love, listen, and recognize the issues, and don’t shy away from meaningful dialogue with those who have experienced spiritual disappointment.

“Christian culture should be a culture of thinking and questioning,” says Paul. “There is legitimate disagreement among biblical scholars on secondary Christian teachings. If we promote our views on those matters with the same authority we give to essential doctrines, we send the message that Christian belief includes a commitment, not only to the essentials of the faith, but also to our own personal perspectives. This can have a devastating effect on thinking people in our churches who may find evidence for a different point of view. It puts them in the untenable position of having to decide between either setting aside their questions or turning from the faith altogether.”

According to church historian Dr. John Woodbridge, it is “a myth that atheism is the inevitable final intellectual stop for any serious, educated person.”¹ He adds that there are many Christian scholars and thinkers who have moved from disbelief to faith as a result of—not in spite of—their intellectual study. Their work can provide valuable insights into some of the difficult questions they were forced to navigate in coming to faith.

...learn to love, listen, and recognize the issues...

Dr. Paul Chamberlain is Director of the Institute for Christian Apologetics at Trinity Western University (ACTS division). To order a copy of “Why People Stop Believing,” check with your local bookstore, go to Amazon.com, or email Dr. Chamberlain directly at paul.chamberlain@twu.ca

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All Alumni are welcome to join!

Date | Sept 21-23, 2018
Who | All Prairie Alumni
Place | Prairie College
Web | prairie.edu/Alumni-Reunion

Visit with classmates from 1968 and 1978 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 1968 on their 50th anniversary. Hear from the Distinguished Alumni chosen for Lifelong Christian Ministry, Howard and Jo-Ann Brant ('66).
The summer s-t-r-e-t-c-h

“...summer means holiday time for many. It’s also the season when schools like Prairie face the lean months as donations take a dip and there is no revenue from student fees. Salaries still need to be paid and campus maintenance continues. At this time of year your support for the General Fund means more than ever.

Your summer gift to top up Prairie’s General Fund will make it possible to support our staff, meet ongoing expenses, and tackle urgent campus projects.

We’re so grateful for friends who empower Prairie to build into the lives of our students. Go to prairie.edu/donate to see how we invested your support during the 2017/18 school year.

Thank you for partnering with us through the summer stretch!

Nicholle Halushka, Online Course Design Specialist

Summer projects keep our maintenance crew busy and provide employment for students.
Prairie’s dedicated faculty make a lasting investment in young lives.
PRAIRIE PILOTS
GOLF TOURNAMENT
Tuesday, September 11, 2018

Individual Golfer $275
Team Entry $900
Alumni Team Entry $750

- To qualify as an Alumni Team, a minimum of 3 participants must be Prairie College alumni.

Register at:
www.prairie.edu/events
Collins, Edith (Starner, BC’51) met her husband Leroy Collins at Prairie. They had three children and were married for 34 years. As a young widow, Edith worked at a school for missionary children in Cote d’Ivoire, Africa, for five years. She passed away on December 19, 2017, in Spokane Valley, WA.

Deeter, Mark (BC’63) passed away on February 14, 2018, in Topeka, KS. He was ordained in 1968 and served at Grace Baptist Church with his wife Barbara. Mark enjoyed working the family farm and was employed at the Davidson Funeral Home for over 20 years. He is survived by his wife and their seven children and families.

Dirks, Iris (Reimer, BC u’67) went home to be with the Lord on October 25, 2017. She had suffered from leukemia for the past five years. Iris and her husband Cliff served with Youth for Christ in Steinbach, MB.

Dunlap, Art (BC’63) of Burnsville, MN, passed away on January 3, 2018, after a courageous battle with Huntington’s disease. He was predeceased by his wife Connie and daughter Crystal and is survived by son Jason and family.

Erickson-Reimer, Gladys (BC’50) died on December 23, 2017. She served with SIM in Nigeria for 25 years before marrying John Reimer. They made several trips to Africa together to serve short terms. Gladys was 94 and living in Lynden, WA, at the time of her death.

Gawryletz, Nick (BC’62) was in the Philippines with OMF for seven years. He then pastored churches in BC and was Regional Director and then Personnel Director with International Student Ministries until his retirement in 1995. Nick passed away on November 14, 2017, in Cochrane, AB. He was predeceased by Ivy in 1985 and is survived by his wife Ellen and family.

Gleddie, Trevor (HS’58, BC’63) farmed on family ranches in South Dakota and Alberta and was a gifted mechanic, working on both aircraft and heavy duty equipment. He and his wife Joan moved to Abbotsford, BC, in 1984. He was active in his church and with the Gideons and was a founding member of Cebu Children’s Shelter Society of Canada (Philippines). Trevor went to be with the Lord on January 26, 2018.

Jacobson, Doris (Bouck, HS’42, BC’46) and her husband Ralph served under SIM in Ethiopia where they were privileged to see the rural Kambatta area transformed by the gospel. They later represented SIM in western Canada. Doris’s home was an oasis for hundreds of young people and traveling missionaries and her hospitality ministered to thousands. She died on December 7, 2017.

Kruger, Wes (BC’43) taught in secondary schools in Ethiopia in the late 40s, on loan from SIM to the Ministry of Education. Music was his passion and he was involved in many music ministries. Predeceased by his wife Anna, he passed away in Edmonton, AB, on October 29, 2017.

Kvigstad, Irene (BC’48) went to Haiti under Crossworld in 1953 and became a housemother and teacher to orphaned girls. She taught Home Education skills to women and worked in Sunday school, children’s church and women’s summer camps. In 1990, Irene moved to Three Hills where she enjoyed quilting, researching family history, and periodic trips back to Haiti. She passed away on December 16, 2017.

Majak, Alice (Cole, BC’54, staff) and her husband Andy
were on Prairie staff from 1954 to ’94. She raised six children and taught the toddlers of the Prairie Tabernacle Sunday school for over 40 years. Many in the community were touched by her hospitality, home help skills and servant heart. Alice went home to be with the Lord on November 14, 2017.

McNeill, Lawrence (BC’50) was granted his desire for heaven on December 7, 2017, after suffering several heart attacks, surgeries and strokes. Following Bible college he took a missionary medical course at Biola and was ordained in 1950. He married Kathryn in Mali, West Africa, where he shared the gospel under Gospel Missionary Union for 32 years. They were blessed with three children.

Meyer, Roxie (Louden, HS’59, BC u’60) and her husband Garry sang together in their church choir in Calgary and travelled with The Berg Chorale. They farmed in Winfield, AB, and then moved to Strathmore, AB, where Garry took a position at Covenant Bible College, retiring in 2004. Roxie passed away on February 5, 2018, in Nelson, BC.

Phillips, Max (BC’79) died peacefully at his home in Nelliston, NY, on November 28, 2017. He was a US veteran, active in his church, and an avid fan of stock car racing, inducted into the Fonda Speedway Hall of Fame in 2016. He was dedicated to his family and Tammy, his wife of 52 years.

Singer, David (BC’61) passed away in Nanaimo, BC, on February 4, 2018. He and his wife Wilma served one term under the Japan Evangelical Mission and then as independent English teachers for four years. Wilma died in 2004.

Splane, Evelyn (HS’49, BC ’54) went to India at the age of 25, then studied nursing and returned to help begin a children’s home. She lived to see the building of a church seating 2000 people and continued spending six months at a time in India as long as health permitted. Evelyn went to be with the Lord on January 6, 2018, in Agassiz, BC.

Tensen, Willy (BC’71) was born in the Netherlands where her family suffered the painful experiences of the Second World War. After earning her teaching credentials, she moved to Canada in 1963. There she met the Lord and came to Prairie, later working as a teacher at the Prairie Grade School. Willy passed away on January 29, 2018, in Three Hills, AB.

Warkentin-Janzen, Alice (Wilson, BC’54) and Art were missionaries with SIM to Nigeria and Niger where Alice served as secretary, bookkeeper, hostess and dorm parent. A gifted soloist, she was active in church and community choirs. Pre-deceased by her husband and a daughter and her second husband Helmut Janzen, she succumbed to cancer on October 25, 2017, in Abbotsford, BC.

Young, Norma (DeBar, BC’53) worked with her husband Rusty in Guadeloupe, French West Indies, for ten years under West Indies Mission and for 32 years in France under the Evangelical Baptist Mission. She was a greeter and deaconess at Walnut Ridge Baptist Church and ministered regularly at the county jail. Norma died on March 15, 2016, in Waterloo, IA.

Young, Russell (BC’53) served in the navy before attending Prairie. He also graduated from Baptist Bible Seminary in New York and was a missionary in the West Indies and in France where he graduated from Strasbourg University. He was active in Walnut Ridge Baptist Church and passed away on April 27, 2016, in Waterloo, IA. The Youngs leave behind a son and daughter and their families.
SHOW & SHINE

HEAD FOR THE HILLS

SEPT. 1, 2018, 9AM TO 3PM
THREE HILLS, AB

Prizes  Cars  Bands

Bikes  BBQ

2ND ANNUAL!

FEATURING CARS FROM
THREE HILLS MOTOR SPORTS

Contact:  Dave Crossley  403-392-9104 | events@prairie.edu | 403-443-5511 ext.3295 | prairie.edu
LENDING A HAND  YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Finances often make the crucial difference between a student finishing a program successfully and having to drop out part-way through. Each year Prairie makes numerous scholarships and bursaries available to deserving young people, and there are ways that you can help!

MAKING A MATCH
Funds received by Prairie from churches, camps and mission organizations intended for payment of the tuition and fees of individual students will be matched each year to a maximum of $1000 per student.

ALUMNI REFERRAL BURSARY
Alumni are one of the most significant influences in student recruitment, and for that reason we offer an entrance scholarship that allows alumni to provide an exciting impetus to young people considering attending Prairie.

Known as the Alumni Referral Bursary, the award provides a $1,000 tuition credit for first-time students who meet the criteria. This past school year, 40 students took advantage of this bursary to reduce their college fees.

Whether you graduated from Prairie decades ago or just in the last few years, you can make a significant difference in encouraging someone on the road to a biblical life foundation.

For more information on financial assistance, contact the Financial Aid office at finaid@prairie.edu
It sounds so idyllic, but this morning the peacefulness seems at terrible odds with the turmoil in my heart. We have just heard that one of the young students in our school was sexually assaulted by someone in the community. This man already has four wives and yet felt free to steal the innocence of a fifteen-year-old girl.

I was astounded to discover that the family didn’t seem concerned whether the perpetrator was arrested or not. They only wanted to make sure he would be required to pay the going price for robbing their daughter of her virginity. There was no thought of justice for the victim, only of saving face and family honor. Cultural ramifications were once again far more complicated than I realized.

We were in the process of creating a club for young girls, a place where they could learn what it means to become a woman of God. Plans were progressing, but we had been too late to prevent this precious one from being abused. It would be so easy to hate this place, these beliefs and practices, these things that don’t need to be. But God has placed a love in my heart for these people and so I struggle to comprehend their ways.

Ever since coming to faith as a young adult I had wanted to be a missionary, but the Lord kept saying, “Not yet.” After more than sixteen years mentoring and counselling women students at Prairie College, in 2016 it was finally my turn. As part of the team in Mozambique with SAM Ministries, my responsibilities would include preparing pastors to counsel their people and serving as coordinator for those who come to us on short-term ministries, Prairie students included.

In my excitement at finally being part of global missions, it was a blow to discover that my expectations bore little resemblance to my current reality.

Certainly I knew there would be a learning period. But we don’t realize how much we depend on our ability to speak until it isn’t there. I often feel totally tongue-tied and on the sidelines of the conversation.
It’s hard as a counselor to be so limited in the ability to use my gifts or to speak freely. Translators are a wonderful help but they often either misinterpret my words or don’t really comprehend what I’m trying to get across.

Being a “people person” should have been in my favor, but it actually sometimes leaves me feeling a depth of loneliness that startles me. I long to make friends with those in our community, but most of them speak an unfamiliar local language. Even if they use Portuguese, deep conversations are almost impossible because I’m still a beginner. How can I join in their daily lives when we can’t even communicate?

And yet, to my surprise, just when I’m at my lowest God steps in and shows me that he can use me after all.

It was my turn for staff devotions recently and, to my amazement, my words that just didn’t seem good enough became a challenge whose impact continues. Then one of the staff died suddenly and God put me in the right place to walk our team through their grief.

Each time I lead a class or manage a conversation with someone, I see small glimmers of hope in spite of my weakness. When parents encourage their girls to get an education, when women who have lived hand-to-mouth begin saving for the future, it’s clear that change is happening and I’m privileged to have a front row seat. God is clearing my vision and reinventing my expectations.

I will hold on to this: that the God who called me to this place will be faithful to use the gifts he has given me for his glory. When I’m tired and lonely and long for the familiar and the comfortable, he will give me the courage to persevere.

As I let go of how I thought things were supposed to be and simply become available to him, he will finish what he started. I would expect nothing less.

Shannon Weiss is a 1997 graduate of Prairie College. She serves in Mozambique with SAM Ministries.
Most of us will owe taxes upon our passing. I often ask friends where they would prefer to see those taxes go—to the government or to their favorite charity? Without exception, the answer is always the same: "Charity is important to me."

**AS A GENERAL RULE, PEOPLE PAY MORE TAX IN THE YEAR OF THEIR PASSING THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN THEIR LIVES!**

Are you facing capital gains taxes now or at the end of life? There are ways to leverage your assets to reduce (or perhaps eliminate) tax while supporting ministry at the same time.

**THIS DOESN’T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT; IT TAKES CAREFUL PLANNING. ASK ME HOW!**

Tim is available to do estate planning workshops in your church* or to meet with you personally to answer your questions and explore possibilities. You can reach him at:

**Email:** tim.mackenzie@prairie.edu or estateplanning@prairie.edu

**Phone:** 403 443 3034 (direct line) or 1 800 661 2425 (toll free)

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*Canadian friends within western Canada*
Each day I awake and immediately take 101 things for granted. Like the fact that I woke up. 95% of people die in their beds. I was not one of them. Spiders did not descend from the ceiling. My wife did not put a pillow over my head to halt my snoring.

I take a breath, unaware of the miracle of such a simple act, then stagger to the bathroom, never doubting that water will be there waiting for me. Clean water. Warm water. Coming from a tap. The dog greets me. It’s friendly. Some aren’t.

The fridge lights up when I open it. The coffee pot gurgles when I touch a button. The toaster pops up a slice of golden brown. Winnie the Pooh did not visit overnight to polish off the honey. There’s peanut butter too. I sit, munching away, taking for granted the fact that I can taste. See. Hear. Talk. Touch.

“I sit, munching away, taking for granted the fact that I can taste. See. Hear. Talk. Touch.”

“See you later,” I say to my wife when I should be asking, “Why am I among the chosen few whose wife wants to kiss me despite morning breath and whiskers?” Mine, not hers. How was I singled out to spend the day engaged in meaningful work at Prairie in an office, far from the threat of turmoil and war, unbullied, overfed, appreciated?

At 5 PM as I leave I stub my toe on a door jamb. Let the whining begin. It’s just one more ailment on my growing list of the perils of aging: wrinkles on my face; hair in my ears; too much natural gas.

At home, my wife senses within seconds how my day has been going. Perhaps it’s the muttering about cold weather, sore toes and hard shoes. I limp to the table where steam rises from a bowl of soup next to a sandwich. “You pray,” I say. She does.

I lift a spoon. The flavors dance across my pallet.

My eyes drop to the book on the table, one I was too busy to read this morning. It’s still open to the most Googled Psalm. “You prepare a table before me…you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

“I’ll pray too,” I say. She smiles.

“Thank you, God, for your promises. For your presence in the midst of my whining. Thanks for 101 things I take for granted each day. For chocolate pudding and dinner with the girl who made it. For a dog who is hoping to sample it. Thank you, God, for nine good toes.”

PHIL CALLAWAY

Phil is an author, speaker, and host of Laugh Again radio. Visit him at philcallaway.com
ANY TIME

ANY PLACE

Distance Education
prairie.edu/distance-education
Distance Education

prairie.edu/distance-education