HOLDING ONTO HOPE

FALL 2014
My earliest memories are of Africa, the land of my childhood. Some are painful, but many are dear to me: the natural beauty, the warmth of the people, the simplicity of life. These days my heart breaks as I see a continent torn apart by tribal conflict, political and religious clashes and ravaging disease. Put these together with ongoing crises elsewhere in the world and I am tempted, like many others, to despair. What can give us strength to survive, the stamina to live, to wait for a better day? Where can hope—the one thing we long for—be found when trusted things are crumbling around us?

I find it in my Bible where I read, “Happy is he… whose hope is in the Lord his God” (Psalm 146:5) and I see that lived out in alumni like James Ngenda (BC’89) of Liberia. In the midst of the Ebola epidemic, he is mobilizing a prayer movement to intercede for his country because “our government cannot help us. We need an intervention from on High.”

I also sense it in our students and marvel at the miracles that bring them here (p. 10). Because of them, I am encouraged to believe that God still has plans for this world.

Lastly, I have hope because of love. The apostle Paul praises “faith, hope and love” but calls love the greatest, for it not only endures into eternity but gives meaning to everything else in life. In an overflowing treatment center in West Africa health workers risk their lives, overworked and underpaid, wondering who will succumb next to the disease. With hope in short supply, the radiant smile of a local pediatric nurse stands out. “Pay or not,” she says, “I need to be here for the kids.” When asked how terrified children respond to the alien-like appearance of medical workers in protective gear, she responds, “I begin to sing a little song: Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world…and pretty soon they start to smile.” Real hope results in practical love. And there I find reflected God’s greater love, the ultimate gift from which nothing can separate us.

May the stories of trust and perseverance in this issue of the Harvester encourage you to hold onto “the hope that lies before us,” the anchor of our souls.
92 YEARS YOUNG! Faculty, staff and students gathered on a beautiful autumn day to celebrate 92 years of God’s faithfulness to Prairie. Special thanks to Mike Fox, Director of Prairie School of Mission Aviation, and Paul Sankar, Digital Media student, for making this photo possible.
Golden Memories

THE BIBLE COLLEGE CLASS OF 1964 GATHERED ON CAMPUS IN APRIL TO CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR GRADUATION. IN MEMORY OF THOSE SCHOOLMATES NOW WITH THE LORD, THE CLASS DONATED $16,450 TOWARD THE UPGRADE OF PRAIRIE’S STUDENT COMPUTER LAB. THE NEW COMPUTERS ARE ON CAMPUS AND WILL BE INSTALLED BY MID-OCTOBER. WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION.

FRONT ROW (L-R)
Anna (Wegner) Gutowski, Kathryn (Baer) Kline, Kathleen (Miller) Johnson, Ella (Mittelstadt) Schindel, Geraldine (Volz) Hunt

ROW TWO
Linda (McKerihan-Baynton) McCaw, Jeraldine (Wilkinson) Derksen, Rita (Ryburn) Egli, Eleanor (Corey) Guderian, Elsa (Bromley) Henderson, Arline (Bettis) Dixon, Fern (Pierson) Carlson, Judy Canfield

ROW THREE
Bonnie Friesen, Elizabeth Louise “Betty Lou” (Pitman) Gibbard, Jean Sokvitne, Ione (Lutke, Rainsberger) Galat, Verna Aspray, Martha Thomsen, Lois (Bromley) Hammond, Marla (Ochenrider) Binet, Pearl (Healey) Keib, Marcia (Grove) Hadfield

ROW FOUR
John Dixon, Ron Berg, David Johnson, Al Riediger, Joseph Samy, Hugh Pierson, Dick Derksen, Walt Keib, David Thomas

ROW FIVE
Paul Kline, Jack Scrivens, Marshall “Dick” Chase, Phil Davis, Norm Harrison, Joe Gradin, Ron Guderian, Ken Foreman, Rodney Penner

TRANSFER CREDITS

Are you a recent graduate of Prairie? Have you applied to another accredited post-secondary institution since that time? Did you ask for transfer credit?

If so, we would like to hear from you. Please fill in our questionnaire (www.prairie.edu/registrar). It takes just a few minutes and will help us improve transfer opportunities for past and future students. Thank you!
Taking Jesus Home

FORMER REFUGEE NAMED 2014 DISTINGUISHED ALUM

Prairie has named 1992 Bible College graduate Cindy Luu as its Distinguished Alumni for 2014. Cindy grew up in a country at war and when South Vietnam fell to the Communists in 1975 her family had little choice but to flee. The young teenager was crammed into an over-loaded fishing boat with 700 other desperate refugees and sent out to sea. Pirates attacked and all aboard suffered from exposure, lack of food and constant fear. Cindy had no idea what had become of the rest of her family. Six months later, through a chance radio broadcast at a primitive camp in Indonesia, she learned their whereabouts and mother and children were re-united in Canada.

Even her new freedom, however, gave Cindy little reason to live until she heard the testimony of a young student and met the Savior. In 1988 she enrolled at Prairie Bible College and later spent two years in global ministry aboard the OM ship Doulos. Despite the horrific memories of her childhood, Cindy chose to return to Vietnam where, for the past fourteen years, she has demonstrated the love of Christ in practical and creative ways. By feeding the hungry, providing Christian daycare for the children of poor families and building two homes for the destitute elderly, Cindy continues to reflect Jesus to the neglected people of her homeland.
1940s

Jespersen, Harvey (BC’42) and his wife Elsie founded the Bethany Homes for Children in 1948, caring for close to 750 needy children over the next 43 years. Elsie passed away in 1999 and Harvey resides in Wetaskiwin, AB, where he was honored as the 2010 Pioneer of the Year. He is 96.

1960s

Dueck, Hilda (Riediger, BC’67) pursued music studies, teaching and writing and published a novel called “An Orphan’s Song.” In 1982 she and Ernie took over the family farm in Tofield and Hilda taught school for the next twenty years. They are retired in Edmonton, AB, where Hilda continues her writing and serves in music and leadership in their church.

McMinders, Dale (BC’62) and Betty celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in May of 2014. Dale also graduated from Toccoa Falls College where he taught in the School of Communications and assisted in building the original WRAF Christian radio station operated by the school.

1970s

Fauveau, Ilka (Hanke, BC’74) and Philippe have been living in France for thirty-seven years. He is a pastor and she teaches French literacy classes to immigrant women, many of whom are Muslim. Ilka is excited about the opportunity to see God touch hearts.

Lauber, Ed (BC’74) and Dayle (Vannoy, BC’74) joined Wycliffe Bible Translators in 1975 and have been based throughout Africa since 1978. They have two grown sons and live in Ghana where Ed is the Comprehensive Planning Coach for Ghana Institute of Linguistics.

O’Donnell, Mike (BC’70) and Deanne (Phillips, BC’70) are now in Philadelphia, PA, after serving with WEC in the Middle East for forty-three years. They are stepping down from regional leadership but continue to be involved with the mission and request prayer for adjustment to North American living.

Phillips, Max (BC’79) and Tamra celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August near their home in Nelliston, New York. Max was a pastor with the C & MA. He is now retired, works part-time as a school bus driver and does pulpit supply. Tammy enjoys caring for their grandchildren.

SEND YOUR NEWS AND STORIES TO alumni@prairie.edu
Yuen, Moses (HS’72) and Grace (Chan, BC’78) live in Calgary, AB, where Moses is Chaplain of the Remand Center. He also enjoys mountain climbing and babysitting his two granddaughters. Grace is busy with teaching piano and Sunday school, singing, coaching badminton and is an artist for The Kids’ Birthday Party and a member of the Calgary Festival Chorus. She is able to reach out to young people through tennis and squash activities.

1980s

Price, Steven (BC’81) and Joann are directors for the WorldView Center in Portland, OR. During their sabbatical from September to November of 2013 they walked the Camino de Santiago, a pilgrimage of almost 500 miles (800 km) across Spain, and visited Hungary and Slovakia.

1990s

Carlaw, Dan (HS’90, BC’94) and Marilyn (Scarrott, HS’90, BC’94) moved to Prince George, BC, in 2013. Dan pastors the Prince George Evangelical Free Church and serves on Prairie’s Board of Directors. Marilyn is a full-time mom to their boys Brendan (9), Marshall (6) and Grayson (3).

Miller, Paul (BC’95) recently had a children’s Bible story book published under the penname of Olin Edward James. In the Beginning, written in a “kid-friendly rhyming format” is the first in the Kathirene Kids Bible series, published by Life Sentence Publishing. Paul and Christy and their two daughters live in Ashland, OH.

2000s

Novoa, Guillermo (GS’96) is senior pastor of Capilla Calvario Broward and serves as Vice President of Operation Rescue the Children, assisting at-risk children and families in Latin America. He and Patricia have invested over thirty years in various ministries through Prison Fellowship Colombia, ACTION Canada to Latin America, Decision Evangelistic Association, Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale and ORC.

Higashi, Kensaku (BC’06) completed seminary studies in March of 2014 and is now a pastor in Chita-city. The church was planted ten years ago and they are trusting God for a building of their own. Ken is thankful for the impact that his time at Prairie had on his life.

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.
He'd agreed to give the program a try simply because there was nothing else left to lose. Watching now from a grassy hillside as a car grew small in the distance, he thought how his parents' visit had been much the same as always: hesitant, awkward—as if past disappointments were cautioning them against false hopes. And yet, although Jake couldn't quite put his finger on it, something had felt different.

One thing he did know was that here on these sixty acres of peaceful prairie, he had been given an opportunity not only to learn new skills and go back to school, but to find a whole new way of life. The love and acceptance he was finding made him feel like God himself had opened the door and welcomed him in.

Years earlier another young man had watched as his parents reached out in God's name to neglected people, particularly foster children. “I learned from their example,” recalls Dallas Block, “that we don’t exist just to serve ourselves.” When the young pastor and former Prairie student (HS’89, BC’90) learned that there was no long-term Christian rehabilitation for addicted teens anywhere in Canada, the vision for a year-long residential program was born.

A founding board member, Dallas became Executive Director in 2011. He credits his wife Marla (Ward, HS’88, BC’91) for being his valued partner through all of their ministries and after working with young people for twenty years, they found it a natural progression to move right onto the site south of Swift Current. As the Blocks and their four children enter into the daily lives of the students, they help to create a sense of family that some of the teens have never known.

“Some of them come willingly with a strong support system,” says Dallas. “Others come out of tragedy or broken homes and really don't want to be here. Our first challenge is to help them acknowledge their need for help and change. Once that happens, we see progress. At first we lead by authority and consequences. But our goal is for them to be led by influence, working on changes from the inside out and taking initiative for their own lives. That’s the biggest indicator of how successful they will be after they leave the program.”
Many of the young people find Christ at Rock Solid Refuge, thanks to its intentional spiritual emphasis. According to Block, while the program is intended to free youth from addictions and help them become contributing members of society, it’s really a year-long discipleship program where the power of God makes the ultimate difference. That had certainly been true in Jake’s life.

The sun was setting as he stood to his feet and headed back to the residence. It had been so hard in the early months to believe that anything could really change and yet it was happening. New attitudes and actions were slowly replacing the old. But more than that, Jake was learning to embrace a Love that didn’t let go even in the weak moments and failures. And there was peace and new strength to fight temptations, glimpses of the life God had intended for him before the darkness took over.

A startled quail broke cover as the boy shuffled through the long grass and suddenly the thought came: was that what was different about his mother and father? Their hearts had been broken again and again, but now—that look in their eyes as they hugged him goodbye, half afraid to trust what seemed too good to be true—was it…hopeful? Jake skirted a nearby gopher hole and quickened his pace. Maybe there would be a new day after all—for all of them.

“How could they trust what seemed too good to be true?”

DALLAS & MARLA BLOCK and their family make a home for teens in transition. Learn more about Rock Solid Refuge at www.rocksolidrefuge.com
I have a desire to be an author someday, but coming out of high school I didn’t know exactly what I needed to do. I sensed that a year of Bible before other education would be a good thing so I enrolled in Prairie’s 1-year Certificate in Bible. People talk about seasons of faith and since coming to Prairie, I feel like I’ve moved from winter to spring. Intentionally looking into Scripture and focusing on my prayer life have definitely encouraged my spiritual growth.

Collin
Airdrie, AB

Ever since high school I’ve been interested in media arts and film so I began looking for college options in the city. At same time, I also had a desire to go to Bible college. One day I googled ‘Christian College and Digital Media’ and Prairie popped up first on the list. I was surprised, not only because Prairie offered both of the things I wanted, but that this school I’d never heard of was only an hour from where I lived! It was definitely a “God thing” and I love the community here. It’s like a family and challenging at times, but I’m also solidifying what I believe, why I believe it, and how to take my passion for digital media and use it for God’s purpose.

Navid
Plymouth, MA

I grew up in a Muslim family but became a Christian five years ago. I had an interest in attending Bible college and through an Internet search I stumbled upon Prairie, but quickly brushed it aside. A couple of years later I was researching flight schools and Prairie came up again. I convinced myself that I wouldn’t be accepted so I didn’t even apply. Last year, I went to visit a college in Seattle, WA. The student that hosted me had two family members attending Prairie and encouraged me to go! I knew this wasn’t a coincidence, but I still ignored it. This summer while on a missions trip to Haiti, I sensed that the Holy Spirit was directing me here. Up to this point, I was always seeking my own path but now that I’m here, it feels like home and I am using this time to seek the next steps that God has for me.
The year got off to a rough start as I was faced with a number of tragedies. A close friend of mine was killed in a car accident and another committed suicide. Then a dear family friend died in a small plane crash. My world felt like it was caving in and I was thousands of kilometers away from home, but the community at Prairie surrounded and supported me even though we had just met.

**ACCESSING THE GLOBAL CLASSROOM**

Prairie expands eLearning opportunities

On August 1, Prairie eLearning launched *Theology 100*, a free one-credit online course that can be taken anywhere. The only requirement is having a computer or tablet that connects to the Internet. We’ve had good response so far with close to 100 students enrolled. They will be able to build seamlessly upon the one-credit course by completing two additional credits on the same platform.

In addition, we have also launched *Intro to Psychology* and *Thinking & Writing* as well as *Apologetics*. Other courses are currently in development.

By harnessing the reach of the Internet and convenience of eLearning tools, we hope to equip learners around the globe as they continue in their current jobs or ministry roles.

Learn more about our options and sign up for the free Theology 100 course at [www.prairie.edu/elearning](http://www.prairie.edu/elearning)

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF STUDENTS LIKE THESE, WHY NOT CONSIDER MAKING PRAIRIE PART OF YOUR REGULAR GIVING? REFER TO PAGE 19 FOR DONATION OPTIONS.**
With the Lord

**Backer**, Byron (HS’55, BC’58) and his wife Mary Lou were missionaries in Puerto Rico from 1962 to 1997, then ministered to Spanish-speaking prisoners in South Carolina through Bible Correspondence courses. Byron went home to be with the Lord on May 13, 2014, in Greenville, SC.

**Boender**, Adriana (former staff) taught in Iowa and Kentucky and was a graduate of Fort Wayne Bible College. From 1975 to 1990 she taught fourth grade at Prairie Elementary School. After retiring to Hospers, IA, she volunteered with Bibles for Missions, the Bible League and the American Legion Auxiliary. Adriana passed away on March 15, 2014.

**Butler**, Roy (BC’53) was married to Phyllis (Falkenberg, BC’52). In 1958 they returned to Prairie where Roy began over four decades of service in the Institute’s power, heating and physical plants. He was dedicated to his family, church and community and a valued contributor on Prairie’s campus and throughout the Three Hills area. Roy went home to be with the Lord on March 3, 2014.

**Davidson**, Amelia “Molly” (Oelke, BC’33) married Delbert Davidson in 1934. After serving with CSSM in the Peace River District and pastoring near Wetaskiwin, Molly and her husband served on Prairie staff for more than thirty years. She was 105 at the time of her death in Calgary, AB, on June 3, 2014.

**Edey**, Lillian (former staff) of Lethbridge, AB, passed away on September 17, 2014, after a three-week battle with leukemia. She and her husband Gordon were on Prairie staff from 1983-96. They spent several years in Papua New Guinea building missionary homes and travelled to Kenya in January on a construction project with Christian Mission Aid.

**Ewing**, Margaret (Fell, BC’50) took secretarial training and attended Toronto Bible College before coming to Prairie. She joined staff and married Tom Ewing (BC’48) after graduation and was the long-time secretary of the Prairie Tabernacle Congregation. She was an active volunteer in her retirement and was 89 at the time of her passing on April 24, 2014, in Innisfail, AB.

**Finsaas**, Raymond (BC’51) went home to be with the Lord in Fergus Falls, MN, on August 16, 2014. He had served in Zimbabwe with TEAM as a church planter, superintendent of schools and builder of mission homes and churches. In 1972 he and his wife Myrtle (Dahl, BC’51) returned to the US where Ray pastored churches in Minnesota and Montana. He was ordained with the Conservative Baptist Church.

**Foster**, Kenneth (BC’62) and his wife Marilyn (McElheran, HS’59, BC’63) ministered to the children of missionaries under SIM International in Nigeria, GMU/Avant Ministries in Ecuador, and for twenty years at Black Forest Academy in Germany. After retirement they worked with Mercy Ships International and later at Elijah’s Retreat, serving families dealing with autism. Ken succumbed to cancer on June 2, 2014, in Rusk, TX.

**Hoel**, Karen (HS’62, BC’66) began serving as a missionary nurse with SIM in Ethiopia in 1972, then went to Ghana and in 2001 re-
turned to Alberta where she continued to have a ministry with international students at the U of A and through her home church. Karen had been living in a retirement residence in Leduc, AB, and went home to be with the Lord on August 19, 2014.

Hosie, Errol (BC’56) served for thirty years as a Baptist pastor in Australia, then as chaplain in a Brisbane hospital. He passed away on February 10, 2014, after battling Alzheimer’s for many years. Errol is survived by his wife Margaret.

Hungerpiller, William (BC’50), administrator and professor at Carver Bible Institute and Immanuel Bible College, was also president of Carver for twenty-eight years. He was Secretary/Treasurer and President of the Southern Accrediting Association of Bible Institutes and Colleges and co-founder and Director of the Carver Foreign Mission, encouraging African-Americans to serve in missions. He died on April 20, 2014, in McDonough, GA.

Janzen, Kathleen (Hilde, BC’57) trained as a nurse and joined Prairie staff after her marriage to Karl (BC’61, GS’98). They were accepted for cross-cultural ministry under Canadian Baptist Ministries in 1975. Kathy taught sacred music at two seminaries in Brazil, having earned her ARCT (piano teacher), degrees in religious education and church music, and an MA in Ethnomusicology. They retired to Vernon, BC, in 2003. Kathy passed away at home on September 7, 2014.

Lowen, Irene (HS’46, BC’50) died in Chilliwack, BC, on August 1, 2014. She was a missionary to Japan with OMF from 1955 to 1960 and with JEM/TEAM from 1966 to 1986.

Matthews, Edith “Verna” (Beers, BC’52), of Rockwood, ON, was called to her Savior on March 7, 2014. Predeceased by her husband David, she leaves three children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

McLean, Donnel (HS’43, BC u’43) pastored with Japan Evangelical Mission. In 1960 he and his wife Venda joined the Assemblies of God, establishing churches and working with Aborigines in Taiwan. Following retirement to Aromas, CA, Donnel served as a prison chaplain and did jail visitation and other local ministries. He passed away on January 9, 2014.

Rohnke, Ralph (HS’43, BC u’43) went home to be with the Lord on December 2, 2012, in Rosetown, SK. He was a journeyman mechanic and worked with Western Sales from 1963 until his retirement. Ralph was predeceased by his wife Phyllis (Archibald, HS’43, BC u’43).

Wheatley, Nadine (former staff) passed away in Lee’s Summit, MO, on August 6, 2014. The Wheatleys served pastorates in the eastern US and were on Prairie staff from 1986 to 2000. Nadine worked in the Prairie Junior High library and hosted college girls in her home while Gerald (BC’53) taught in the college.

Yontz, Orvel (BC’47) and his wife Hazel were missionaries under UFM/Crossworld to Brazil. After retirement they represented the mission in western Canada and worked with International Student Ministries. Orvel was 92 at the time of his passing in Calgary, AB, on July 18, 2014.

THANK YOU TO SO MANY WHO HAVE INCLUDED PRAIRIE IN THEIR ESTATES.
HIGH HOPES
EXPLORE STUDENTS WITNESS FAITHFULNESS IN ACTION

story and photo by DENNIS LANDON
Jagged peaks loom above us as our hiking party makes its way down from the high pass we had hoped to reach. After being groomed on the culture and customs of the local people, we had set out on a backpacking trip into the Himalayas, but the attempt has been a failure due to avalanche conditions. The elevation creates a throbbing in my temples that is compounded by a head cold I picked up on the trail a few days earlier.

The descent is not difficult, however, and allows me time to reflect on the past two weeks that we have spent in Central Asia. Prairie’s Explore students learn their wilderness skills in the Rocky Mountains of Montana and are no strangers to extreme challenges. This year we added on a unique overseas experience and found ourselves in isolated and rugged terrain that literally almost “took our breath away.”

Several years ago my friend “Mark” and several companions chose to uproot their comfortable lives in hopes of bringing love and light to this remote mountain world. While the people are strong, rugged and very kind, even in our short time here, we have sensed a dark and violent underside to the culture. The God of Peace is missing and his absence is obvious.

Why does this small band stay on when there is so little hope of making a difference? Is it because, even with evangelization strictly outlawed and freedom of expression severely limited, they have a deep conviction that they are exactly where God has called them to be? “Presenting Christ” is strictly forbidden but “representing Christ” is another matter and Mark and his friends faithfully carry the life of the Spirit into all their interactions, conversations and business dealings. It may be years before a seed takes root, perhaps not even in their lifetime.

I watch my students pick their way through the rugged boulders and wonder if we can even begin to grasp the vision that this sort of persistence requires. We live in a culture that knows little of how to wait and persevere; a world of instant-everything. How does one keep planning, praying and just plain living, day after day, year after year, preparing the soil for the seed of the gospel with no sign of a harvest?

“God gives the increase,” says Paul (I Cor. 3:6,7), reminding me how dependent we are on our Lord to accomplish his purposes in this world. The key is submissive obedience regardless of how impossible the situation may seem because we serve a God who can resurrect and redeem even from the grave. I am encouraged by the faithful witness of these brothers and sisters who, in great hope, continue on in a context that seems to offer none.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EXPLORE PROGRAM AT WWW.PRAIRIE.EDU/EXPLORE
FOLLOW THEIR BLOG AT EXPLOREBLOG.PRAIRIE.EDU
A new academic year brings the excitement of fresh faces and a brand new start. We have been eagerly anticipating the launch of a new Music and Worship Arts program under the leadership of singer/song-writer Brian Doerksen and the first class of students has now arrived on campus.

Brian’s songs are sung in churches around the world and we are excited to welcome him to Prairie and to this new phase of his work. “I’ve been very blessed to do what I do as a career and ministry,” he says. “In this season of life it’s about giving back—mentoring and encouraging the next generation.”

In addition to their studies in Bible and Theology, students will be challenged to grow musically, particularly in the areas of songwriting and arranging. The first-year teacher is finding his pupils full of energy and ideas and admits that it’s a lot of fun. “This is an incredible opportunity to use their creative gifts to give their generation fresh, biblical songs of worship, justice and relationship—the songs that the world really needs to hear.”

The former faculty building is being renovated as a home for the music program. Classrooms, offices and practice rooms are being completed and future plans include a recording studio. We are working on a second study track that will eventually allow for two streams of students. Depending on their gifts, abilities and ministry aspirations, they will have the opportunity to apply for either a general music and worship arts leadership track or a specialized songwriting track.

Glynna, a first year student, values her teacher’s leadership and experience and finds him “very real and in tune with himself and what God has called him to do.”

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS INNOVATIVE PROGRAM, GO TO**
www.prairie.edu/worship

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*Song for the Journey: Volume One is the newest offering from Canada’s beloved Brian Doerksen.*

On this debut album with the SHIYR Poets, we find the world’s most loved and ancient songbook made new again. As they paraphrase the Psalms and set them into modern folk-rock tunes, the SHIYR Poets express the human longing for God with poetic artistry and emotional force.

See the form on page 19 to order your copy.
Prairie’s dining hall kitchen, designed to feed 500+ students at each meal, is roomy and allows abundant work space. However, much of the equipment it houses is now several decades old, increasingly inefficient and, in some cases, no longer serviceable. Today’s commercial kitchens contain stronger fans, stainless steel surfaces that resist the growth and spread of germs and equipment that can be easily repositioned as necessary.

Our long-term goal is to renovate this area to a smaller footprint with a much more efficient dish pit and cooking space. A carefully designed kitchen is in the planning stages and could be ready for renovation within the next three years.

There are urgent needs now, however, to purchase some items that will fit into the long-range plans for the kitchen but can be put to use immediately. The estimated cost of the upgrade is $80,000.

For an itemized list of equipment, visit www.prairie.edu/givingprojects

BENEFIT CONCERT

On October 30, 2014, Brian Doerksen and his band, The Shiyr Poets, presented an intimate evening concert in support of this project.

A dessert reception was held in the Maxwell Atrium, followed by a concert in the newly-renovated Parable Place. Guests enjoyed the sounds of the ancient Psalms coming to life as these gifted musicians shared from their new album Songs for the Journey.

All proceeds were given in support of upgrading aging dining hall equipment.
While I was growing up at Prairie, thirty-nine things prepared me for a career in writing. Hiding behind bushes with Gary Kirk so we could jump out at unsuspecting passersby taught me to accept criticism. Test results in school helped me deal with disappointment. The sting of rejection letters was lessened because Beth Freeman rejected me in sixth grade. And seventh.

Dad helped manage the Prairie Book Room and Mom wrote books, so I developed a love for words. Dad might said, “Dear, let’s absquatulate through the vomitory so we can canoodle.” I was confused for years, until a dictionary informed me that he was inviting her to exit the room so they might kiss. My brothers Dan and Tim had vocabularies light years beyond my own. They said things like, “Don’t bloviate or they’ll put you in the hoosegow.” They said this meant Mom needed help preparing supper. But they were wrong. I looked it up. It meant over-talking could land me in prison. We learned other groovy words too, like “swell” and “far out, man.”

“Fiddlesticks” was a term Mom used when she dropped a carrot. “For the love of Pete!” she employed when Prairie Heights kids entered her garden and ate all her carrots. My parent’s generation used confusing terms: “There’s more than one way to skin a cat.” This we said when Dad wouldn’t let us have a dog and we’d go ask Mom, prompting her to draw upon the strongest language I ever heard from her: “You stinker!” Man, that was swell.

Words. They can bring laughter. But they can shatter your world.

When our daughter Rachael called from Germany with news of her miscarriage, tears came quickly. We didn’t expect our first grandchild to beat us to heaven. Before we left to visit, I picked up The Living Light, a devotional my dad read at breakfast years ago. The cover is faded and stained with peanut butter. The words are alive and filled with hope:

“But despite all this, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us… For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can’t, and life can’t. The angels won’t, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God’s love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow…nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us.”

I read these words to my wife and we wiped tears. “Honey,” I said, “come here. I need to canoodle.”

PHIL CALLAWAY
(HS’79, BC u’82) is host of Laugh Again Radio. We’ve compiled a special CD of his favorite 4-minute broadcasts. Request a copy through the form on the next page.

Phil is hosting an Israel tour in May. For info, visit phicallaway.com
WHEN YOU GIVE TO PRAIRIE,
you allow us to equip students with a biblical foundation and practical skills to share the gospel and help meet the greatest needs of the world. Thank you for your generosity!

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YES, I WANT TO INVEST IN GOD’S WORK IN STUDENT LIVES. HERE IS MY GIFT OF $_________.

Donations payable to Prairie can be made by cheque, money order, credit card or online at www.prairie.edu/donate.

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PLEASE SEND ME ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- [ ] THE CD **FAMILY MATTERS** BY PHIL CALLAWAY
- [ ] THE CD **SONGS FOR THE JOURNEY** BY BRIAN DOERKSEN AND THE SHIYR POETS

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE MONTHLY, PRE-AUTHORIZED DONATIONS TO PRAIRIE’S GENERAL FUND.

I HEREBY AUTHORIZE PRAIRIE BIBLE INSTITUTE TO WITHDRAW $_________ CDN/US FROM MY:

- [ ] BANK ACCOUNT (please attach a blank VOID cheque)
- [ ] CREDIT CARD (complete information above)

ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH BEGINNING:

(MM/YY)

SIGNATURE

We cannot process your monthly gift without your signature here. This automatic withdrawal can be cancelled anytime by contacting our office in writing prior to the end of a month before withdrawal.

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