SINGING HIS PRAISE
MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS AT PRAIRIE
WINTER 2019
Handing it over

MARK MAXWELL
PRESIDENT

Y ears ago, I had the privilege of attending the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC. The main event was in a grand ballroom filled with many of the “who’s who” of that city and needless to say, I felt conspicuously insignificant.

Pastor Rick Warren spoke on God’s call to Moses at the burning bush in the desert. The one-time prince was asked to lay down his staff so that it could be empowered as “the staff of God.” In that room of substantial influence, Rick challenged each of us to consider what was in our hands, and to give whatever we held to God so that he could use it.

The message so impressed me that I soon added a walking stick to the décor in my office. As I ruminated further on the story, it struck me that God gave that stick life only when Moses laid it down. As he did so, God not only enlivened it, he returned it to Moses bathed in power. Held tight, the rod would have been “hand-icapped,” limited to its natural abilities and those of the one who carried it. When he let go, both Moses and the staff became powerful tools in the hand of the Almighty.

When Elaine and I came to Prairie I wondered how we could pass this lesson on to our students. About that time my uncle Brad Hartt offered us some beautiful diamond-willow walking sticks, so during graduation I was able to give one to each graduating senior. Since then, it has become a tradition with each degree-earning student being awarded a walking stick along with their diploma. I was a little worried that we might run out, but Paul Brody has taken up the baton and keeps us well-supplied.

For nearly one hundred years, God has taken what we have “in hand”—vision, land, buildings, staff and faculty, students, friends and donors—and used it all to impact the nations of the world. Why? Because we continue to commit all of these things to him. The truth is, we have much in our hands: a great tradition, an important mission, and a tremendous future. But the real measure of it all is what God accomplishes through us with all these resources.

Are you holding onto something that God might be waiting to use, something he has put in your hand for a specific purpose? It is a cosmic conundrum that the Creator has chosen to work in partnership with humanity. He knows that our ultimate personal fulfillment comes when we surrender to him, allowing him the freedom to empower us to do his work for the enrichment of others. For our own good, we surrender all.

COMING EVENTS

GCC
March 13-14, 2019
Grad weekend
April 26-27, 2019
I can’t count the number of times friends have asked me about two words that dredge up a mixture of perplexity and aversion: Capital Gains. Are there ways to deal with the taxman’s hunger? The simple answer is, “Yes, we can thin him down a little!” It is definitely possible to curb his appetite, spice up your estate and serve a delightful dessert to charity at the same time.

Each estate is unique so there are no “one size fits all” solutions. I would love to help you explore the “recipe” that is just right for you.
Prairie’s music program expands options

The Music & Worship Arts program at Prairie College continues to develop as new options and personnel are added to the roster.

Individuals who simply want to develop their personal musical skills or prepare for further studies can enroll in the one-year Certificate in Musicianship. They will have opportunity to deepen their spiritual walk through a year of biblical studies as they become more fluent in their knowledge and practice of music, and can transfer their credits to other Prairie College programs.

The Diploma in Songwriting & Recording is a two-year course designed to help students grow in the love and knowledge of God while discovering their unique musical style. As they gain confidence in performance skills, they also learn to integrate biblical truth into music that draws others into worship. The program is employment-oriented, teaching skills for service in the Christian music industry, and students have the unique opportunity to record an EP of five original songs in a professional recording setting.

Prairie also offers a Bachelor of Arts in Worship Leading & Music. Over the course of four years, students in this program will focus on understanding Scripture and learning principles of effective ministry as they develop a philosophy of corporate worship. The Church is in need of leaders who know God and will lead their congregations to honor him and grow spiritually through their expressions of worship.

Program Coordinator Mark Jonah and instructor Denis Baptista carry the bulk of the program, with guest artists and adjunct faculty, including Brian Doerksen, exposing students to a rich variety of musical genres. Juno Award-winning producer, sound engineer, and Prairie alum Steve Rendall has been heavily involved in the program since its inception, providing professional advice and expertise in the recording projects as well as designing and teaching a class in Music Business.

He believes that “the Music & Worship Arts program at Prairie College affords an incredible opportunity for students to learn and grow creatively within a faith context.”

Dr. Jonah’s vision for the program is that students will use their abilities to pursue the Kingdom of God: "Both in personal spiritual growth and an outward focus on needs within and outside the Church, we hope they will portray through music what it means to be a lover of God in this world.”

For more information, contact admissions@prairie.edu or call 403-443-5511
Creating songs from the heart

NEW MUSIC PROFESSOR JOINS FACULTY

The newest faculty member in Prairie’s Music & Worship Arts program was born in Brazil where he grew up in a musical and pastoral family. While Denis Baptista has a solid background in classical and jazz piano, his true heart’s passion is to bring original music to life as a composer.

After earning a Bachelor of Music in Composition from the University of Campinas in Brazil, he and his wife Talita made a permanent move to Canada where Denis became a teaching assistant at the University of Calgary and operated his own private studio. He continued to work as a full-time composer, creating chamber and orchestral music for performance in both Canada and Brazil, and a modern opera that won first place in a world competition in April of 2018. Continuing his studies, Denis completed a Master of Music at the U of C in 2017.

Numerous awards have come his way, including the Queen Elizabeth II Graduate (Master’s) Scholarship and the Richard Johnston Award for advanced skills in chamber music composition. Along with being recognized for his outstanding work by the Government of Alberta, Denis was also a finalist at the Land’s End National Composers Competition in Canada where his piece “Kosmos” won an award.

Perhaps one of his most gratifying accomplishments is the unique orchestral arrangement that he created by taking the magic of language and the spoken word and transforming it into music. Based on the pitch, rhythms and dialects of different regions of his native Brazil, Denis used speech as the unconventional inspiration for this major musical composition. The world premiere took place in Calgary in April of 2017 and a documentary has been filmed about the complex creative process behind the project.

The focus for Denis in Prairie’s worship arts program is on songwriting and arranging, music fundamentals, theory and music history. His desire is to nurture competent and professional musicians who are well-prepared for wherever God wants to lead them.

Denis is excited to be passing on his knowledge and love of music and to help students broaden their personal vision. “We are not here to compare ourselves with others,” he says, “but to discover what God intends for us that will have true meaning in his kingdom.”
Family Album

1960s

Thompson, Ted (HS’63, BC’67) was married to Maureen Leischner on June 9, 2018. They are living on Maureen’s farm near Torrington, AB.

1970s

Goebl, Viola (Giesbrecht, BC u’71) went to Austria under GMU (now AVANT) to work with children and youth and in music. She married her husband there and stayed for twenty-six years. They currently live in Winnipeg, MB, while their children and grandchildren live in Austria. Viola enjoyed directing her church choir and is now retired and busy with a home business.

Hoekman, Allen (BC’72) and Linda live in Watertown, SD, where Allen is a practicing pediatrician and he and Linda lead worship and help with a Single & Parenting program at their church. Their daughters Heidi, Hosanna and Helen are working and sharing a home nearby and Heather is teaching music education at an international school in Japan.

1980s

Kotlarczyk, Steve (BC’81) and Belva (Brown, BC’81) are in Japan with SEND International. Steve is the Camp Director at Okutama Bible Chalet and also takes care of the buildings and grounds. Belva is involved in food services and outreach to the Tsunami area, and both she and Steve teach English classes as a service to their community. Three of their children live in Japan and three in the US.

1990s

Blackmon, Maureen (Pogue, BC’93) and her husband Wes live in St. Pierre, MB. Mo has just celebrated twenty-five years of ministry among the Latvian people with Greater Europe Mission and now continues to train women leaders in both Latvia and Canada. She has been married to Wes for fourteen years and they enjoy his two married children and five grandchildren.

Tsui, John (PGS’99) with his wife Winnie and their four children are currently serving at an international school for Third Culture Family Album

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.
Kids in Cambodia. They invite friends to contact them at winpele@hotmail.com

Wong, Annisa (BC’94) is teaching at Bethel Bible Seminary in Hong Kong, where she offers seminars, training courses, and seminary courses on Management Theology. Her recent academic paper was published in English under the Alliance Bible Seminary in Hong Kong.

2000s

Berg, Sarah (McReynolds, BC’14) was Prairie’s first GlobeTREK student. She is married to Clayton and mother to two-year-old Eland. After starting a small pasture-raised meat business, they are now in Australia withYWAM partnering in a new at-risk youth outreach and will serve aboard their medical ship to Papua New Guinea. God is doing many new things in their hearts and creating a deeper dependence on him.

Buyer, Adam (BC ’17) and Jalene (BC ’16) live in Edmonton, AB, where Adam is Associate Pastor of Worship and Discipleship at Terwillegar Community Church. Their daughter Elizabeth was born on August 3, 2018. Adam and Jalene continue to lead worship and play house concerts while working on their next full-length CD. Concert information is available on elsaandfoster.com

Willis, Carey (continuing pastoral studies) and Stephanie are living in Linden, AB, where Carey serves as Associate Pastor at Linden Mennonite Brethren Church. His ministry ranges from children to seniors, and a new focus is the development of a youth drop-in program that serves the community. Carey and Stephanie welcomed their daughter Eloise a year ago and are grateful for the support of their church family.

SEND YOUR NEWS AND STORIES TO alumni@prairie.edu

FOLLOW OUR STORY @prairiecolleges

GCC
Global Connections Conference

March 13-14, 2019
Keynote Speaker - Bishop D’souza

"...the God who sees..." Gen. 16:13
Training  
future leaders

Early in January, as students were preparing for their return to classes at Prairie College, more than a hundred student leaders, faculty and staff gathered together for the annual Leadership Retreat at beautiful Camp Caroline in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies. It was an opportunity to step into the new year with a renewed vision and mission.

“The Leadership Retreat was the perfect start to the Winter 2019 semester,” says Student Union Vice-President Adrianna Van Gurp. “It was a time to rest, to be revived, to build memories, and to be inspired for a new semester. I loved having the chance to connect with fellow student leaders and some of the staff and faculty at Prairie. We have so much support here from mentors who take time for us, believe in us, teach us, listen to us, and encourage us. I am honoured to learn from them and grow in my leadership right here on campus.”

We have so much support from mentors who take time for us.

Like Adrianna, many students participate in the Student Applied Leadership Training (SALT) program to gain key leadership and relational skills beyond their college studies. They also receive a bursary that helps lower their student debt before entering the work world. Student leadership roles can include: leading small groups, Student Union commissioners, teaching assistants, program interns, chapel assistants, library clerks, Admissions and Athletics assistants.

A third-year student in the Outdoor Leadership program, Adrianna is gaining skills both inside and outside of the classroom that will serve her well in years to come. Through serving on the Student Union, she feels she has “learned the importance of having a common vision as a team. I’ve learned the value of servant leadership, how to listen to God’s will for our school, how to combine ideas with other passionate leaders, and how I can make a difference no matter what role I am in. I believe that God is working in and through us on campus and am so excited to see what he’s got up his sleeve for the rest of this semester!”

Learn more about the SALT program and eligibility requirements at prairie.edu
Prairie is committed to providing a holistic biblical education that will make a difference in the lives and future ministries of our students. As a school, we strive to provide not only excellent teaching, but intentional learning experiences outside the classroom as well.

The Student Applied Leadership Training (SALT) bursary is designed to lower student debt, provide a well-rounded education, and make it possible for eligible second, third, and fourth-year students to continue in their studies while growing in character, leadership and relational development.

Returning students are uniquely positioned to contribute, take ownership, and invest into every aspect of the school. A major component of SALT is participation within the life of the Prairie community in a variety of leadership roles.

Will you consider a gift toward leadership training at Prairie and help us to mentor future leaders for God’s kingdom? Donate through the enclosed envelope or online at prairie.edu/donate
Music pretty much defined me as a teenager. My dream was to travel full-time with a band, playing the guitar and writing songs, but that plan fell through. In an attempt to “discover” myself, I went to Bible school in New Zealand, which completely opened up my worldview. Studying psychology at Ambrose University in Calgary came next, but as much as I enjoyed it, I decided that a trade would be more stable. Working as a power-line technician in a rough blue-collar world left no room for things like music. Once I married Vanessa and our son Lochlan was born, I became consumed with making sure my family was secure. I was the provider. I was in control.

One day I was given an EP that a Prairie music student had recorded. How I wished that had been me, but it was too late now. For a time I tried to have both worlds, but my wife finally encouraged me to just follow God’s leading and do what I love. From then on, there was no question that change was coming. The job that had been so satisfying became a burden and soon I was completely burned out. It was time to let go.

I never imagined I would return to the town of my childhood, but it was obvious that Prairie had the training I wanted. What intrigued me even more was the emphasis on community. I didn’t know God the way I wanted to and the prospect of growing spiritually as well as musically was a real draw.

Little by little God loosened my grip on everything I had built my life on. We sold our home and went to stay with missionary friends in Hawaii for two months. To say that we experienced a whole new world would be an understatement. Not only were we in a beautiful, quiet place, but we watched this couple live a life of faith in God’s provision and saw a peace that we could only dream about. As we rested and gained perspective, the path ahead became clearer.

In Hawaii I met someone who had my dream job, using his music to lead Christian workers around the globe in times of worship while serving in mercy ministries (something I also love). Music is a language that transcends borders and I want my songs to direct people to the Lord and not to me.

We are looking at missions but God could lead us anywhere. Going back to school at this point in life has truly been a challenge, but I know I’m here for a reason. The old struggle for control is a daily battle, but I thank God for the over-arching peace that holds us as we continually choose to release our lives to him.
SAVE THE DATE

ALUMNI REUNION

SEPTEMBER 19 – 22, 2019

We welcome all alumni, along with the featured classes of 1969, 1979 and 1989 back to Prairie. Connect with friends, tour the campus, and meet current students and professors.

“We recently attended our 40th class reunion and it was incredible. To reconnect with classmates and laugh, cry, pray and sing together was truly amazing and encouraging. It was refreshing to hear the president’s progress report, meet former teachers, and tour the campus for an update on changes. What a fantastic weekend it was! Go to your class reunion—you won’t regret it.”

--Tim and Blossom Teele

STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS!
Alumni Spotlight

BOILED DOWN
ED LANDRY

Back in 1999, as missionaries in the Philippines, my wife and I had developed a program to help impoverished churches support their pastors. One of the things we trained the people to make was paper handmade from banana plant fibers, and the beautiful products sold well.

Processing the tough fibers into pulp required several operations, one of which was cooking. At first we cooked them over a wood fire in a small pot. As the project grew, we needed bigger pots. Finally it became obvious that to get serious about cooking large amounts of fibers, the best solution was a steam system. That meant a boiler.

As a California boy, I knew nothing about boilers, just that they were big and expensive and extremely rare in hot places like the Philippines. I hardly knew how to approach God with my strange request. Surely that was too much, even for him.

It happened that a missionary associate was attending a small barrio church where a Filipino banker was the pastor. When my friend mentioned that we were looking for a boiler, Pastor Vern calmly replied, “I have one that I could give to you.”

It turned out that Vern was not just a banker and a pastor, but he was also an entrepreneur. Ten years earlier he had been approached by a Korean businessman who had plans for an exciting new product. Since it was much cheaper to set up a factory in the Philippines, he needed a Filipino business partner to run the production side. The product? Liquid goat.

The plan was to use high-pressure steam to produce a cool carbonated soft drink, so the two partners erected a large building and the Korean imported a huge stainless steel steam system with a boiler and all its components. When it arrived from South Korea, operations began. In went the goats (don’t ask) and after the cooking, spinning and filtering, the remaining liquid was carbonated and bottled.

The anticipated moment had come. The partners popped a lid and downed the fruit of their labors. Then they stared, not with the joy of accomplishment, but the abrupt realization that liquid goat was anything but refreshing. In fact, it was horrible!! The Korean businessman boarded a plane for home the next morning and was never heard from again. Vern locked up the giant, gleaming, goat-liquefying facility and got on with his life.

Years passed and one day Vern put his property up for sale. He found a buyer, but they didn’t want the goat factory. What was he going to do with all that equipment? It was just then that an American missionary approached him and asked, “Do you know where I can get a boiler?” Two days later we toured the deserted factory where everything we needed was there for the taking.

“How do you know where I can get a boiler?” Two days later we toured the deserted factory where everything we needed was there for the taking.
later we toured the deserted factory where everything we needed was there for the taking. Vern visited our paper-making facility and loved the ministry so much that he donated the entire steam system to us. Then, just as quickly as our friend had come into our lives, he left, killed in a car accident two weeks later.

Suddenly, we were in possession of a very costly steam system, but had no idea how to install or operate it. It was time to pray again. “God,” I said, “I really am thankful, but if I could just ask one more thing—we could sure use someone to help us set this thing up and show us how to use it.”

Before we had gone into missions, I did what many thought was a foolish thing. I quit my secure job with the San Diego Fire Department, packed up my wife and five children, and headed off to Bible school in Canada. For the next three years I studied the Bible and waited on God for direction. I also worked as summer staff and got to know many behind-the-scenes workers who kept the school running. One of them was a quiet-mannered steam engineer who helped to operate the huge campus boiler. Now, twenty years later, the name of Art Krahn suddenly came back to mind. Was he still at the school? Would he even remember me?

I sent out a hopeful email and before I knew it, Art had agreed to come to the Philippines and help us. What a treat to have him there! He set up safety equipment, rebuilt parts and modified others, tested it and hooked it up, and then trained us to run a fully functioning steam system with confidence. It worked flawlessly over the years and allowed us to cook tons of banana fibers to help keep impoverished churches alive.

I can just picture sitting down with Vern and Art in heaven, laughing and marveling together at the unfathomable ways of God. I think we will all agree that the entire experience was unforgettable!

Ed (BC’82) and Janet Landry were missionaries for thirty-five years and enjoy experiencing other cultures. Ed is recording his adventures for their children and grandchildren.
Our alumni represent Christ in this world in remarkable ways and we want to recognize and celebrate these accomplishments. If you know of someone who fits our criteria, please send your nomination to alumni@prairie.edu with the following information:

- Nominee’s name, address and phone/email
- Why they should be considered
- Your name and contact details

**NOMINATION CRITERIA**

Prairie College wishes to honour alumni who personify Prairie’s values and have translated their educational experience into distinguished achievement in Christian ministry or the professional world.

One alumnus or a married couple will be recognized in each of the following areas:

1. Lifelong Christian Ministry
2. Integration of Christian Faith and Professional Achievement
3. Early Career Excellence (under 40)

Nominees must:

1. Have attended one of Prairie’s schools.
2. Have made a significant contribution to the cause of Christ through Christian ministry or in their chosen career.
3. Bear witness to Christ through a sincere walk with the Lord and exemplary Christian character.
4. Be nominated by their peers.
Adams, Bruce (HS’49, BC’53) was a career missionary with SIM in Ethiopia. He attended Seattle Pacific College, the U of W, and Winnipeg Bible College, and received his Masters and PhD in Linguistics from the University of London, England. Despite a revolution in Ethiopia, Bruce and his wife Betty began translating the Bible into the Wolaitta language in 1971. They retired in 2002 to Three Hills, AB, where Bruce passed away on April 19, 2018.

Bauman, Elmer (HS’47, BC’51) went in 1953 to Japan where he met his wife Carol. They served as missionaries there until 1978 when they returned to the US to make their home in South Carolina. Elmer was an avid musician and artist, a skilled builder, and a master electrician. He died on March 3, 2018, in Greer, SC.

Broadway, Ed (BC’52) served in the US Navy and enjoyed a lifelong ministry as a pastor in Alberta, Missouri, Tennessee, BC and Saskatchewan. He passed away peacefully on February 21, 2018, in Mayerthorpe, AB.

Cordell, Jeanette and her husband John joined Prairie staff in 1972. In 1987 they moved to Camp Homewood on Quadra Island, BC, where they worked in food services for ten years, then on to Venture Teams Int’l in Alberta, cooking for mission groups and young people in training. Jeanette passed away in Three Hills, AB, on May 6, 2018.

Duke, Margaret (Blackwood, HS’49, BC’53) went home to be with the Lord on March 13, 2018, in Kipling, SK, at the age of 90. She is survived by her five children and their families.

Fischer, Gerhardt (BC’52) of Aurora, ON, attended Biola, then studied medicine at U of A. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Toronto and worked at the Lockwood Clinic. Gerhardt retired following a heart attack in 2009 and went to be with the Lord on April 28, 2018, leaving his wife Julie and daughter Cheryl and her family.

Freed, Ruth (Workentine, HS’74, BC’77) served in Mexico before her marriage to Marvin Freed. They settled in Shenandoah, Iowa, where Ruth enjoyed roles such as directing the Hispanic Center, receptionist for the KYFR radio station, and child care. She went home to heaven on August 10, 2018, at the age of 61.

Friend, Royce (BC’56) worked at Camp Barakel and was employed at Au Sable Valley Builders for over 30 years, earning his electrical and electrical contractor licenses. After retirement he and his wife Beverly did volunteer work with SIM in Charlotte, NC, and Sebring, FL. He died on April 23, 2018, after suffering from Parkinson’s Disease.

Gamache, Viola and her husband Roy were on staff at Prairie from 1960 to 1970 and then served at Camp Homewood, Quadra Island, BC. She passed away in Abbotsford, BC, on May 29, 2018, at the age of 97.

Thank you to so many who have included Prairie in their estates.
Haller, Violet (Ruggles, HS’44, BC u’47) was a long-time resident of Trochu, AB. She worked for different medical offices, the Town of Trochu, Three Hills School Division, and Alberta Treasury Branch, and was an active volunteer and musician. She and her husband Ralph ran the family farm from 1964 to 2006. Vi passed away on July 1, 2018.

Hammett, Evelyn (Neiswender, HS’46, BC’50) earned her teaching certificate at Seattle Pacific College and taught for many years, along with raising five children. In retirement she taught Bible studies and Sunday school, tutored at a women’s correctional facility, and taught ESL and travelled with her twin sister. Evelyn held a Doctorate from Covington Theological Seminary. She died on August 23, 2018, in Kent, WA.

Klosse, Allie was born in the Netherlands where she met her husband Harry. After coming to Canada in 1954, they settled in Ontario, Canada, and later moved to Prairie where they served in the campus bakery for thirty years. Allie was called Home on April 3, 2018.

Krey, Joan (Armbruster, HS’54, BC’58) trained at Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary and nursed in Germany and Switzerland, and on First Nations reserves in Northern Alberta and the Queen Charlotte Islands. She and her husband Karl raised their three children in Burton, BC, where Joan passed away on February 3, 2018.

Norbo, Samuel (BC’60), founding pastor of City Bible Church in Sault Ste Marie, ON, went to be with the Lord on September 29, 2018. His passion was to serve and introduce the community to Jesus Christ. Sam is survived by his wife Edith, five children and their families.

Oberst, Gus (BC u’82) was an active high school athlete and served twenty years in the United States Army and US National Guard. He married Kathy in 1998 and they had two children. Gus passed away on January 12, 2018, in Bend, OR.

Orr, Robert (HS’59, BC’63) spent his early years in Brazil. He later began a Bible training centre for Brazilians and flew into remote areas for ministry. In 1976 he returned to Canada and completed his PhD in Management. Bob founded LTM to train international leaders, travelling to many countries to mentor others. He died in the Cook Islands on February 19, 2018, and leaves his wife Adriana, three children and their families.

Packull, Werner (HS’66, BC’64) earned a PhD in 1972. He taught at Renison College and Conrad Grebel University College in Waterloo, ON, focusing on Reformation and Anabaptist history, and also helped to revitalize Mennonite history. The onset of Alzheimer’s brought retirement and Werner passed away on April 27, 2018, survived by his wife Karin, two children, and their families.

Pike, Doloris and her husband Wentworth were in ministry in several US states from Georgia to Alaska and served from 1958 to 1998 on staff at Prairie where they raised their five sons. They later travelled for Action International Ministries. Doloris went home to be with the Lord on April 7, 2018, at the Westview Care Community in Linden, AB.

Redekop, Art (BC’48) and his first wife Helen taught in a Bible school in Nigeria for sixteen years. Art later became District Superintendent, then Deputy Director of Nigeria, and finally SIM Nigeria Director. They retired to Canada in 1988 and after Helen’s passing, Art married Evelyn Rorison. He died on March 4, 2018, in Abbotsford, BC.

Ressler, Ruby (Selzer, BC’50) and her husband Earl joined The Evangelical Alliance Mission as the first mission-
aries to the island of Bonaire where Ruby was involved in translating, teaching, music and hospitality. They retired in 1987, to Ohio and then to Alberta where they celebrated their 70th anniversary just before Earl passed away. Ruby followed on February 18, 2018, at the age of 95.

Schmidt, John (BC’79) passed away in February of 2018 after struggling with liver disease for many years. His wife Laurie (Webber, BC’82) and their three adult children reside in Tofield, AB.

Tiede, Leon (BC’45) died on May 2, 2018, at the age of 95. He and his wife Geraldine had served with the West Indies Mission in Cuba, Jamaica and St. Vincent. He also pastored with the Evangelical Free Church in Bassano, AB, North Delta, Kamloops, Williams Lake and Sorrento, BC, and was involved in the early days of Southern Alberta Bible Camp.

Wagner, Ray (BC u’56) and his wife Bernie were volunteer missionaries to Uganda, China, Mexico and Gaza where they taught English and shared the gospel. Ray also served with Baptist Builders at many disaster relief locations. He taught school and worked for the Licking County Board of Health in Heath, OH, where he passed away on April 4, 2018.

Weeks, Rollin (HS’54, BC’58) died following a stroke on September 4, 2018, in Santa Barbara, CA. After training in radio work at Prairie, he set up the radio studio at PRBI and then went to Brazil to do translation work among tribal people with Wycliffe. Rollin enjoyed singing in a number of quartets and choirs and is survived by his wife and four children.

Westfall, Elizabeth, (Lake, BC’51, staff) came to Prairie as a student with her husband Keith and they served on staff from 1951 to 1982. Elizabeth was predeceased by her husband and son Jim and passed away in Three Hills on August 13, 2018.

Whitmarsh, Philip (HS’54, BC’57) went to be with the Lord on February 28, 2018. He and his wife Barbara (Knipe, BC’61) served four years in North Thailand with OMF. After moving to Seattle he was actively involved in his church and a jail ministry. He leaves his wife, three children and two grandchildren.

Wiebe, Ruth (Merrill, BC’55) and her husband Lloyd served with Pacific Coast Children’s Mission at Camp Homewood until 1957. They established a Community Church in Sointula, BC, travelling by boat to reach believers in the area. They went on to pastor churches in Washington, BC, and Alberta and Ruth passed away in Nanaimo, BC, on March 2, 2018.

Young, Sally (BC’55) was a soprano soloist and taught voice in Prairie’s Music Department. She also served as a missionary with Janz Team (Teach Beyond). Sally passed away on February 3, 2018, in Federal Way, WA.

A life dedicated to advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ drew to a close on December 23, 2018, as Prairie alumnus Don Richardson (BC’57), author, speaker and missionary statesman, ended his battle with brain cancer at the age of 83. In 1962 Don and his wife Carol (Soderstrom, BC’57) embarked on a missionary career under RBMU (World Team) and spent fifteen years among the Sawi, a Stone-Age tribe of cannibal headhunters. Many came to Christ as the gospel replaced warring with peace and good will and it was from this time that the story of the “Peace Child” emerged.

In 1977 Don became minister-at-large for World Team and was a frequent instructor in the “Perspectives on the World Christian Movement” course. He was also an ordained pastor and held an honorary doctorate from Biola University. Following Carol Joy’s death in 2004, Don was remarried to Carol Joyce. His books and teaching helped to inspire two generations toward more thoughtful engagement in the Great Commission.
I can’t count the number of times friends have asked me about two words that dredge up a mixture of perplexity and aversion:

**CAPITAL GAINS**

Are there ways to deal with the taxman’s hunger? The simple answer is,

"Yes, we can thin him down a little!"

It is definitely possible to curb his appetite, spice up your estate and serve a delightful dessert to charity at the same time. Each estate is unique so there are no “one size fits all” solutions.

_I would love to help you explore the "recipe" that is just right for you._

**CONTACT ME AT:**

Email: tim.mackenzie@prairie.edu or giftplanning@prairie.edu
Phone: 403 443 3034 (direct line) or 1 800 661 2425 (toll free)

Tim MacKenzie,
Estate Planning Consultant
A month before Valentine’s Day two emails arrived. Here’s the first: “My husband gets the remote, clicks through forty channels, and then starts again. He likes shows about fixing cars and making swords. Is he crazy?”

I told her I have bad news. The guy who invented the remote died three weeks ago, but they didn’t announce it until yesterday after his wife found him behind the sofa. I’m kidding. But here’s the good news. Your husband is normal. Guys are not so much interested in what is on as they are in what they are missing while watching what is on. Research suggests that men prefer short bursts of information. Women tend to enjoy longer programs involving singing and Scarlett Johansson, who I believe starred in “Gone with the Wind,” parts one, two and seventeen.

Next question: “My husband calls himself a Christian. But he doesn’t live it. I’m frustrated. What do I do?”

Well, early in our marriage my faith was entirely outward. I was a phonified hypocrite. Ramona would be the first to admit she’s far from perfect. But four things helped me.

1. **She prayed.** Not as a last resort but as a first response. She believed prayer was more important than trying to “fix” me with nags and nudges or correct me with constant criticism. The frustrations continued, but I think prayer helped her focus less on the problem and more on the One who could solve it.

2. **She encouraged me.** One day she said, “You’re a good provider. I admire you.” I floated like a blimp for days. It must have been easy to see where I needed to improve, but she looked for something good and mentioned it.

3. **She put God first.** Her walk with Jesus didn’t depend on mine. She stayed committed and faithful to God, knowing she was accountable to him. Putting God first doesn’t mean we are second. It means we are last. That we look on others as more important than ourselves, which is about as easy as giving birth to quintuplets. But when Christ is in us, he gives us the strength and grace to do what he asks.

4. **She laughed.** I caught her praying and reading the Bible, but I also caught her laughing. It was her laugh in hard times that spoke the loudest. Ultimately, it was the birth of my first son that brought me back to God. And a girl who said, “Here’s the remote. Let’s watch something manly.” A girl who one Saturday morning about nine thirty whispered, “Sorry to wake you, but I made waffles.”

**She looked for something good and mentioned it.**

**Is my husband crazy?**

by PHIL CALLAWAY

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