Are you expecting?

MARK MAXWELL
PRESIDENT

We have spent the past twelve months in an attitude of gratitude, remembering all that God has done for us, both in the past decade and since the founding of Prairie in 1922.

At the top of our list was thankfulness for our created purpose, “to know Christ and make him known.” Several years ago we determined that our degree candidates would study (read) all sixty-six books of the Canon (this is how we endeavor “to know Christ”). To reflect the importance of this core value and to protect against mission-drift in the future, the board incorporated this level of Bible coverage into our corporate by-laws this year.

We are thankful as well that God has generously given us a spirit of harmony among staff, faculty and students on campus. This is not true of many churches and Christian ministries; we are truly blessed! We may differ in our various perspectives on Scripture, but regardless, we live in deep love for each other (the first step in “making Him known”).

Having spent the year reflecting on the goodness of God and the privilege we have of preparing young people for lives of service, Phil Orazi, one of our board members, encouraged us to adopt a posture of expectancy. And so we turn toward the future, excited for what God might have in store for us in the next years, in the next century, and until he comes.

The long arc of biblical history is a picture of expectancy. From the time of the fall, God began looking ahead with the promise to “crush the serpent’s head.” Through Abraham, he promised to bless the nations of the earth. Both Abraham and Moses were promised that the children of Israel would enter their promised land and later return after a time of exile. Most of all, he promised a Messiah, the Prince of Peace who would reign on David’s throne, ruling with justice and righteousness for all eternity.

Jesus, too, urged his disciples to look ahead, promising a) to never leave them or forsake them, b) to send another Comforter, and c) to return again for his people. He gave them (and us) hope for the future, both in this life and for eternity.

Looking ahead in hope is a solid expression of our faith in the God of the Bible. We can expect him to walk with us every day, to comfort and guide us, and to give us wisdom for all that we face.

Is this blind faith? Oh no! This anticipation of good things from the Almighty is informed both by the promises of Scripture and by the ways he has cared for us in our daily lives, those everyday signs that give the evidence of his presence.

We cannot know what awaits us in 2020 (we’d love increased enrollment and some new buildings), but we do know the God who holds the future in his hands. We believe that he will do all things for our good and that he will continue to provide for us, whispering in our spiritual ears as we are willing to listen.

Are you excited about the future? Jesus is here with us in every situation and has promised to come again at the end of time. Let’s live in an attitude of eager expectation…

Even so, come Lord Jesus!
COMING EVENTS

Global Connections Conference
March 11-12

Grad Weekend
April 24-25

Alumni Reunion
September 24-27
Surrounded by open fields, a solitary hangar stands sharply against the prairie skyline. Only the drone of a single airplane engine breaks the silence of blue skies above a frosted winter landscape, but this quiet rural setting can be deceiving. What goes on at this isolated base has the potential to impact the world.

Director Kalvin Hildebrandt is always eager to tour visitors through the facilities of Prairie’s Aviation Training Centre, located just 4 km east of the main college campus in Three Hills. A grad himself and a veteran of eleven years as a mission pilot with MAF in Chad, Kalvin is also an experienced operations manager, accustomed to fielding multiple responsibilities. In 2013 he and his family returned to Canada where he joined the staff of the flight school, serving as the program’s director for the past three years.

Like Kalvin, most of the PATC instructors have had considerable experience flying overseas in mission contexts, often in remote and challenging conditions. Others have invested years in providing flight training to the industry in Canada. The current team has an overall combined log of more than 50,000 flight hours and over 140 years in aviation. The maintenance team as well brings 100 years of combined service as aircraft engineers both here in Canada and in overseas missions. The school is now authorized to perform all its own maintenance of training aircraft and is working to establish an apprenticeship option for new aircraft engineers needing to acquire experience before heading into the mission field.

MAF and several other missions have invested in Prairie’s aviation program over the years by sending experienced professionals to help develop curriculum, train students and maintain aircraft. In 2018 Prairie College handed over management of the flight department to MAF Canada and has benefited greatly from their expertise. The school currently has ten mission staff on loan from MAF along with volunteers from AIM AIR and Ethnos Canada (New Tribes).

Some recent generous donations to Prairie have allowed for major modifications and upgrades to the training fleet. These include greatly improved instrumentation and navigation equip-
ment, providing a higher level of safety and a significantly improved quality of training. Each plane is also receiving new interior upholstery and matching paint schemes.

There is a significant need for facility upgrades as well, as the current hangar, classroom and student space continues to be stretched to the limit.

With a student-to-instructor ratio of three to one, PATC trainees receive more individual time with their instructors than is available in other similar programs. Their aim is to build into students not only the technical skills required to be exceptional aviators, but also spiritual and life lessons that will help them serve Christ effectively.

PATC’s director feels that the program may be experiencing the most positive period in its 27-year history. “God is bringing amazing students to our doors from around the world,” says Kalvin, “and our staff has the opportunity to walk alongside them as they learn, grow and prepare for ministry careers. Some will use aircraft to serve missions in the most remote and challenging places on the earth. Some will use their professional aviation skills to gain access to work in countries that are closed to traditional missions. Others will be called to serve in the commercial airline industry in North America. Wherever they go, it is our prayer that they boldly take the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who need it most.”

For more information on Prairie’s aviation program, contact admissions@prairie.edu or call 1-800-661-2425.
**1940s**

**Buhler**, Richard (BC’46) has pastored churches in Alberta, Minnesota, Nebraska and California for over 50 years. He and his wife Janet live in Rocklin, CA, and Richard serves congregations in an interim role since his retirement. He holds an Education degree from Macalester College, St Paul, MN, and a Master’s degree from the University of Minnesota.

**1960s**

**Crosby**, David (BC’69) spent 4 years in India with OM and pastored 5 churches, mainly in New York. In 1986 he moved to New Mexico where he started a Christian school. David was widowed in 2012 and is now married to Marcella. He is currently Associate Pastor of the growing East Mountain Cowboy Church in Edgewood, NM.

**1950s**

**Gardner**, Laura Mae (Schaeffner, BC’56) received the Lifetime of Service award from Missio Nexus in September. The award, whose past recipients include Don Richardson, Luis Palau and George Verwer, recognizes a lifetime of service to the cause of global missions. Laura Mae has served over sixty years with Wycliffe Bible Translators/Summer Institute of Linguistics. She and her husband Dick reside in Tucson, AZ.

**1970s**

**Fox**, Grace (Loewen, BC’79) and her husband Gene direct International Messengers Canada, a mission-sending agency. Grace trains new missionaries to the Middle East and recruits and leads short-term teams to Eastern Europe. She has written 9 books along with online Bible studies and daily devotionals. Grace and Gene recently moved aboard a sailboat and live in a marina on the Fraser River in Richmond, BC.

**1980s**

**Newton**, Patricia (Simpson, BC ’69) has retired after 30 years with the Seattle Public School District. She served 20 years as a High School assistant principal and Elementary School principal and is presently an instructor in a Bible Institute in Philadelphia, PA. Her husband Winston (BC u’69) passed away in 2002.

**1990s**

**Caleb**, Ajay (BC u’82) and Laura (Unruh, BC’81) are living in Langley, BC. After

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**LIVING OVERSEAS?**

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

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

As overseas mailing is becoming extremely costly for Prairie, you can help lower expenses for the school by allowing us to send your magazines electronically. Contact us at alumni@prairie.edu if you would prefer this method.
Ajay has been accepted as a full-time missionary with Global Action. Global’s purpose is to train and mobilize pastors and leaders to lead healthy churches that transform their communities.

Danyluk, Mark (BC’86) and Christine (Schmidt, BC’86) have been living and ministering in Midway, BC, for 18 years. Mark is a part-time pastor, works for BC Ambulance, and is a school board trustee. Chris works part time and has been caring for her aging parents. They have 3 grown children.

Leaf, Eva (Abers, BC’83) and her husband Derek serve in England with the Navigators. Eva coordinates the Nav UK publications team and Derek is the UK country leader. They have been with the organization for 30 years in a discipling ministry and have 4 grown children.

Miller, JoAnne (Schmidt BC’86) is the Office Manager for her church in Jackson, WY. She lost her husband Bruce 12 years ago and is grateful for God’s nearness through that time. She is now on the leadership team of the GriefShare ministry at the church, helping those who, like her, are navigating a painful journey with loss.

2000s

McDonald, Emmy (former staff) married Roy Edey on August 16, 2019. They presently make their home in Grande Prairie, AB. Emmy had been working in Prairie’s accounting department.

Philps, Stephen (BC’07) is Associate Pastor at First Baptist Church in Nanaimo, BC. His wife Nicole is an RN in the Nanaimo Hospital. Steve has been a youth pastor in Bakerview, MB, and the BC Representative for Partners International. Most recently he was with Insight for Living. He is currently studying for his M.Div. at Northwest Baptist Seminary.

Pickel, Jeremy (BC’03) is vice-principal and teacher at Haven of Peace Academy, an international school in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He and his wife Angie (Klassen, BC u’02) have been there for 7 years and work with youth and adult ministries at school and in their local church.

Voss, Erin (Thomas, BC ’11) and her husband serve full-time at Expeditions Unlimited, a Christian adventure camp in Baraboo, WI. She homeschools their 4 children and runs the women’s staff development and discipleship program at the camp. Erin also enjoys leading worship at their local church and speaking at women’s ministry events.
At Reunion Weekend in September, Prairie named three couples as Distinguished Alumni for 2019.

**PETER AND DEANNA FAST**

**Early Career Excellence**

Peter Fast (BC’07) holds degrees in Biblical and Intercultural Studies as well as an MA in Judeo-Christian Studies. Deanna also attended Prairie and continued her schooling at the University of Lethbridge, graduating with a Bachelor of Music in Saxophone Performance in 2008. Following their marriage, the Fasts worked in Israel for three years with Bridges for Peace. When they returned to Canada, Peter was named Deputy National Director of BFP and then National Director in 2019. He and Deanna are investing their lives in bridging the divide between Christians and Jews through compassionate service.

**PETER AND LEANNA DUNN**

**Integration of Christian Faith and Professional Achievement**

Peter (HS’64, BC’67) was born in China to missionary parents. At the age of six he came to the CIM home in Three Hills and spent the next fourteen years of his life in the Prairie community. He and LeAnna (Gerber, BC’69) worked with street girls in New York City after their marriage, then moved to Ohio and began a business known as P. Graham Dunn, making inspirational giftware. Now a respected name in the Christian gift industry, the business employs a staff of 300 with a production plant and unique retail floor that attract many visitors annually.

**HAROLD AND LORNA FULLER**

**Lifelong Christian Ministry**

Harold Fuller (BC’50) and Lorna (Parrott, BC’53) met in Nigeria where they both served under SIM, Harold as editor of the African Challenge and Lorna as manager of the Challenge Bookshop. Harold was also Director of Literature for SIM, Deputy Field Director for West Africa, and Director for Ghana and Nigeria. The author of thirteen books, he received an honorary doctorate in literature from Biola University. From 1979 to 1990 Harold was Deputy General Director of SIM International with Lorna as his secretary and editor. The Fullers now make their home in Stouffville, ON.
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

As you partner with us in lowering the cost of training here at Prairie, more students have been able to stay in school and allow God to continue his work in their lives.

In 2018-19 a total of 540 scholarships and bursaries were given out, totaling $622,761 and reducing the per student tuition by 32%.

By donating to Prairie’s Education Fund for scholarships, you could be the answer to a student’s prayer.

AVIATION SUPPORT

Aviation students benefit from the real-life experiences of flight instructors and aircraft engineers who have spent years serving God within international missions or the commercial industry. Not only do they have high levels of practical experience, but they are passionate about sharing their faith in Christ with students.

“Quality does not come without costs. Our flight and engineering staff undergo regular professional development and testing that ensures they remain both legal and effective in training up the next generation to represent Christ in the field of aviation.

The annual cost of this training is $1400 per individual. Would you consider helping Prairie equip one of our aviation professionals for the coming year?

“Thank you for believing in my potential and helping me continue my journey.”

Bible college student

“I love the atmosphere of Christian Community among staff and students.”

Aviation student

Please see Page 10 to donate.
I would like to make a monthly, pre-authorized donation to Prairie’s General Fund.

I hereby authorize Prairie Bible Institute to withdraw $          CDN/US on the 15th of each month  beginning (mm/yy): ____________________

☐ Bank Account (please attach a blank, VOID cheque)

☐ Credit Card (complete the information above)

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ________________

This automatic withdrawal can be canceled at any time by contacting our office in writing.

Spending of funds is confined to board-approved programs and projects. When the goal for the project has been met, the remaining contributions will be used where needed most.

Prairie Bible Institute, in business as “Prairie College,” is a registered charity in Canada and the US and issues tax receipts in both currencies.
Over the last several years, our Online Education Department and various faculty members have worked hard to take Prairie’s classroom experience beyond Three Hills through online courses. Prairie now offers eight undergraduate degrees fully online, including the recently launched Business Administration. These programs mirror the ones offered on campus and therefore include complete coverage of the canon, contained in four Old Testament and three New Testament courses. These Bible courses are also being offered for audit at a reduced price of just $50.

In addition, Prairie is launching an online Master of Leadership in Global Christian Education, focusing on equipping Christian educators to become leaders in their schools and communities. Coordinator Sandra Paetkau notes that this program “will prepare Christian educators and leaders to work within the changing environment of global education. Students will have the opportunity to not only investigate globalization and multiculturalism in their own context, but also to work with classmates and faculty from diverse backgrounds, thereby expanding their understanding of Christian education in a global context.”

While this is a new endeavor for Prairie, President Mark Maxwell feels it is firmly within the school’s mission and vision: “Education matters! It opens doors, empowers people, and changes lives. We believe that biblically-based education has the power to change the world. And we believe training leaders who will be teachers and administrators to children and teens around the world is a powerful expression of our mission “To know Christ and make Him known.”

This new online program will be taught to cohorts of students starting in July 2020 and will consist of eleven courses, each lasting seven weeks and followed by a practicum. The online venue allows each course to be taught by experts from around the world. Prairie has developed this degree in partnership with TeachBeyond and ACSI and graduates from the program will qualify for ACSI’s principle certification (in some cases additional Bible courses may be required).

For more information visit the program website www.prairie.edu/masters-leadership-online
In just two and a half years Prairie College will celebrate its 100th birthday!! Our Centennial year will begin in the fall of 2021 and continue through to October 9, 2022. During this time there will be events on campus celebrating the milestones God has established since Prairie’s founding in 1922.

You are welcome to join us at any time, but especially for our capstone event planned for the week of July 11–17, 2022. It will be a full week of festivities for all ages with different speakers, times to visit with classmates and friends, family activities, and great music. Let’s celebrate together the “Joy in the Journey” of all that the Lord has done, is doing, and will yet do at Prairie.

WE WILL BE SHARING MORE DETAILS THROUGHOUT THIS NEXT YEAR, SO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Class of 1969

At Reunion Weekend this past September, the Class of 1969 gathered to reminisce and celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation from Prairie. Pictured are:

BACK ROW (L-R): Larry Hofmann, David Kerns, Henry Klippenstein, Clifford Scott, Jake Penner, John Rice, Gregory Thomson, Alice Berry, Diane Mitchell

MIDDLE ROW (L-R): Esther Mills, Vernon Charter, June Charter, Frederick Hoehnle, Art Krahn, Marji Krahn, Teddy Sawka, Marie Penner, Floreen Cunningham, Margaret Armbruster, Molly Andries

FRONT ROW (L-R): Wilma Many White Horses, Doreen Thornton, Margaret Martyn, Lou Ann New-Ford, Bea Hartt, Leah Rausch, LeAnna Dunn, June Botha
Living the dream

NAOMI FROESE

Naomi Froese had wanted to be a missionary for as long as she could remember. But while stories of women of faith like Gladys Aylward and Mary Slessor intrigued her, the Alberta girl really couldn’t picture herself as a doctor, pastor or teacher. Nursing was a possibility, but she eventually rejected that as well. Did she really have anything to offer that God could use?

Naomi’s talents as a lifeguard and swimming instructor opened doors to work at several Christian camps, something she loved, but knew would not define her future. As she began researching schools, she discovered that Prairie College offered aviation training and Bible together and an idea began to take shape. The program had a missions focus with instructors who loved God and many who had spent years as overseas missionaries. This was exactly what she had been looking for. Little by little God confirmed the dream and, with her family’s encouragement, Naomi set out to work and save money for school. It would be two long years before she arrived on campus, eager and ready to take to the air.

Training began with a foundation in Bible, something unique to Prairie. “I’ve really enjoyed studying the Old Testament especially,” says Naomi, “and I’ve learned that God is the only real hero in the Bible. He still works through his people, though, even when they’re flawed. Flight school is challenging at times but I’m enjoying that too. There is so much to learn and I’ve appreciated the way my instructors are willing to take the time to answer my questions.”

One of the biggest challenges for flight students is the high cost of training. Naomi is quick to relate how God has provided for her in amazing ways and she has been learning that she can trust her Heavenly Father, especially in the area of finances.

Did she have anything to offer that God could use?

Women once had limited opportunities in the world of aviation, but Naomi now has many options open to her, both international and domestic. She loves to teach and wants to get her instructor rating, but her overall goal is to use her pilot’s license to fly in a missions capacity.

“I don’t know where or with what organization,” she says. “God hasn’t put any specific country or people group on my heart yet, so I’m waiting to see where he leads. At the moment my only clear direction is that I want to serve God with what I have wherever he places me.”

Naomi knows there is a long road ahead and that after her training is complete she may have to fly in the north or work as an instructor for several years in order to qualify with a missions organization.

“It will take time and persistence to live out my dream of being a missionary pilot,” she admits, “but God has been teaching me to be fully present where he has put me right now, and I’m learning to enjoy the journey.”
Abbott, Alma (Danielson, BC’55) worked at Bethany Homes for Children and as a nanny and in elder care. Married to Lawrence Abbott in 1953, she raised a family of seven children. Her later years were spent at Golden Hills Lodge in Three Hills, AB, where she made many friends. Alma went to be with the Lord on November 3, 2019.

Campbell, Chad (BC u’94) was a dedicated volunteer at Centre Street Church in Calgary, AB, serving in children’s ministry, single men’s ministry, ushering and hospitality. He loved people and lived his life with a spirit of joy despite numerous health problems. Chad passed away at Foothills Hospital on October 6, 2019.

Evans, Ronald (BC’60) served with Christian Literature Crusade for 15 years. He received his Master’s degree in Christian Counseling and was a counselor and pastor for many years. Ron succumbed to cancer on April 16, 2019, in Folsom, PA. He is survived by his wife Betty (Brodrick, BC’60) and four children.

Ferguson, Joyce (BC’58) earned degrees in French and Phys. Ed from the University of Calgary and spent 20 years as a missionary teacher with World Team in Congo. She later moved to an acreage near Sundre, AB, where she offered massage therapy and enjoyed the outdoors. In 2011 Joyce relocated to Calgary and eventually entered long-term care after a fall. She went to be with her Saviour on July 17, 2019.

Friesen, Sandy (HS’50) and his wife Kay raised their three daughters in southern Alberta. He was a veteran of the Canadian army, a graduate of the U of C, a teacher and a rancher who loved the outdoors. After Kay’s passing, Sandy married Shirley and they enjoyed family, traveling, camping and serving the Lord together. He died at the age of 95 on January 17, 2019, in Calgary, AB.

Hershberger, Gerald (BC’65) toured with the Men of Song while a student at Prairie. He worked for a Drug and Alcohol Rehab Center and Keim Lumber, and drove taxi for the Amish. During 60-plus years at Countryside Chapel, he was choir director, song leader, youth leader, Sunday school teacher and elder, and served on the board of India Evangelical Mission. With his passing on April 24, 2019, in Millersburg, OH, Gerald leaves his wife Ada, six children and their families.

Hetland, Linda (Nelson, BC’74) married Greg in March of 1975 and they moved to Vancouver, WA, where they raised their sons and were active in the Minnehaha Church. After Greg’s death Linda relocated to Clackamas, OR, where she served in the music ministry at Pleasant Valley Baptist. She passed away in Canby, OR, on November 20, 2019, and is survived by one son and family, her mother and sister.
Hockley, Marjorie (Garriott, HS’48, BC’51) went to be with the Lord on June 25, 2019. She was a missionary with WEC to Ivory Coast and spoke several African languages. Back in Canada she cared for her parents and worked as home support for seniors. A founding member of the White Rock, BC, division of the St. John’s Ambulance, Marjorie was admitted to the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem at a ceremony in Ottawa in 1985.

Hofer, Pete (BC’61) of Three Forks, MT, joined Open Air Campaigners after his marriage to Fanny. He loved preaching on street corners, prisons and on radio and TV, and pastored in Chicago, Calgary, and northern Montana. Pete was a frequent speaker at Bible camps, evangelistic meetings and country churches and began a television ministry that aired for 13 years. He died at home on July 8, 2019, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Maxwell, David (BC’81) passed away peacefully at home in Calgary, AB, on November 30, 2019, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. David spent his life surrounded by books, including 30-plus years managing the Logos Bookstore in Calgary. He is lovingly remembered by his soulmate Glenda, children Tiffany and Domini, brother Mark (Elaine) and sister Ruth.

McCombe, Wesley (BC’69) studied technical trades at NAIT and worked as a technician for Northwestel in Inuvik, NWT, Dawson Creek, BC, and Whitehorse, Yukon. In 1986 he met and married Elaine and upon his retirement in 2002 they moved to Wetaskiwin, AB. Wes loved to read and teach the Bible and served his church in maintenance. He died at home on July 8, 2019, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Postman, Henry (BC’63) of Nobleford, AB, passed away on September 14, 2019. He loved farming, had a passion for the Word of God, and blessed many with his musical talents throughout his life. Predeceased by his wife Alice, Henry is survived by his six children and their families.

Smith, Dennis (BC’63) earned degrees in Bible and Humanities from Biola College, a Master’s in New Testament from Wheaton, and a Doctor of Philosophy from California School of Theology. He pastored throughout the US and was an avid reader who enjoyed chess, tennis, and coaching youth sports, as well as music. Dennis went to be with his Lord on October 26, 2018, leaving his wife Virginia, three children and five grandchildren.

Smith, Lyle (HS’57) practiced as a chiropractor in Red Deer, AB, for 57 years. He was deeply respected by his many patients for his work ethic and compassionate care, often going the extra mile to help. He passed away after a brief illness on June 11, 2019, at the age of 80. Lyle is survived by Kathleen, his wife of 57 years, and their four children and families.

Weber, Ben (former staff) passed away in Quincy, WA, on June 28, 2019. He was predeceased by his wife Marilyn in 2003.

Wheatley, Gerald (BC’53) went to be with the Lord on August 5, 2019, in Kansas City, Mo. He earned his BA and MA from Columbia Bible College and a Doctor of Ministry from Luther Rice Seminary. After pastoring churches in Virginia, South Carolina, Pennsylvania and Maryland, in 1986 Dr. Wheatley came to Prairie where he taught Bible and Theology until his retirement in 2000. He was predeceased by his wife Nadine.

THANK YOU TO SO MANY WHO HAVE INCLUDED PRAIRIE IN THEIR ESTATES.
A Christian humanitarian organization had discovered that children in a remote region of South Sudan were dying daily of measles. A vaccination campaign was launched immediately, but there was one problem. The vaccine had to be kept very cold and a rough trip by vehicle over long and bumpy roads was simply out of the question.

That’s when Chris and his team from Mission Aviation Fellowship stepped up. The coolers were loaded onto a waiting aircraft and just three hours later they touched down at their destination. Medical staff blanketed the area, administering vaccinations to those at risk from the dreaded disease, and soon nearly 50,000 children had been reached. Once again, an airplane had made the impossible possible.

Along with their one-year-old son, they settled in the city of Juba, South Sudan, in 2014. The country had recently gained independence from the Republic of Sudan with high hopes for freedom from oppression and conflict, but that was not to be. Civil war broke out in December of 2013, killing thousands of people and displacing millions. Continuing violence prevented farmers from planting or harvesting crops and the food shortages resulted in famine in 2017. Flights in those days often involved supplying life-saving nutritional supplements for partner organizations to distribute.

With MAF serving over 400 aid organizations, the list of payloads on any given
day could include everything from missionary families, government officials and church leaders to surgical patients and wheelchairs or furniture and even fresh meat. For thirty years, SIM had laboured with the Baka people of Maridi, South Sudan, to help create their own translation of the Bible. In spite of robberies, evacuations and civil war they persisted and the Baka New Testament and Genesis were finally printed at the end of 2016.

A huge celebration was planned but now SIL had a new problem: how to get 12,000 Bibles up to Maridi. Fighting had closed the roads and no commercial flights were available. The mission turned to MAF and Chris Ball had the privilege of bringing the Living Word to a people who had waited a lifetime to read it. Karyn went along to report on the dedication service as more than 7,000 excited believers gathered to praise the God who had not forgotten them. It was the experience of a lifetime and a reminder once again that, despite the hardships and daily challenges, they were carrying precious cargo for God and making a difference in so many lives.

Life as a missionary pilot may sound adventurous but there is another side as well. As chief pilot, Chris must deal with flight risks, issues within his team, and the mountains of detail that each trip requires. For Karyn as a wife and mother, the daily challenges of cross-cultural homemaking can be exhausting, especially when her husband works long hours and is often far from home. When the demands of daily life become overwhelming and even attempts to respond to needs can be misunderstood, it’s easy for patience to wear thin and discouragement to take over.

The Balls and their three young children live in a country in conflict where guns and soldiers are an everyday sight. Reports of violence and raids are common, although often in more remote areas. But sometimes the insecurity hits close to home. In July of 2016 warfare broke out without warning right in Juba and MAF families were abruptly evacuated to Nairobi, Kenya. Horrifying reports of intense fighting trickled in and grief for those who couldn’t leave was heart-wrenching. As the pilots continued flying between Nairobi and South Sudan, everyone waited in limbo for four months, not knowing if they would ever return to the country and the people they had come to love.

Today the Ball family is back home in Juba, gratefully continuing their work and resting in the One who has promised to be with them, even through deep waters. Despite living in such a volatile country, they have repeatedly experienced God’s gift of genuine peace. As Chris flew daily into remote and sometimes dangerous areas and when they learned that their daughter was partially deaf, his peace held them. When they were robbed, fleeing political violence, and heartbroken by the tragedies around them, God came near and quieted their hearts.

“Every time I think I am spent,” says Karyn, “I am astonished at how God replenishes me for another day so I can invest again, hope again, love again. We have accepted God’s clear calling on our lives and we know we are part of the lifeline that holds so many ministries afloat. This is our home for as long as he wants us here.”
FREE! Dollars & Sense
Estate Planning Workshop

JOIN US!

April 5  EDMONTON
Ellerslie Road Baptist Church

May 3  CALGARY
Brentview Baptist Church

WHY PLAN?

Avoid the...
- cost of indecision
- confusion of poor planning
- pain of not having a plan

Enjoy...
- retirement income you can’t outlive
- tax relief now
- peace of mind
- solutions to capital gains taxes
- life insurance working for you & your loved ones

WORKSHOP INCLUDES:

- Complimentary light dinner
- Techniques to ensure your estate aligns with your legacy/values while reducing tax
- Will and estate planning
- Q & A

PROGRAM PRESENTERS:

Stephen Snyder
Prairie’s Legal Counsel
Snyder & Associates

Tim MacKenzie
Prairie’s Development Director

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Tim:

Email: tim.mackenzie@prairie.edu or giftplanning@prairie.edu
Phone: 403 443 3034 (direct line) or 1 800 661 2425 (toll free)
I love to win. Always have. You don’t meet many people who say, “You know, I prefer losing. Yes, some of my fondest memories involve being clobbered in checkers and belted at backgammon.” You don’t hear sports fans chanting, “We’re number twelve. We’re number twelve.” It’s easier to brag when you win. Baseball great Ted Williams said, “I can’t stand it, I’m so good.” Hall of Fame pitcher Bo Belinski said, “My only regret is that I can’t sit in the stands and watch myself pitch.” Winning is nice, but colossal losses in sports make for great stories.

The most astounding football defeat on record is Cumberland’s loss to Georgia Tech back in 1916. The final score was 222-0. The worst baseball loss ever goes to the Baltimore Orioles back in 2007 when the Texas Rangers thumped them 30-3. The game was close. Until that opening pitch.

When I was a staff kid at Prairie, we sometimes taunted pitchers during softball games. “I’ve seen better arms on a beanbag chair!” Mr. Ed Giger was the umpire, and he quickly put a stop to the heckling. In high school I heard some heckling myself when I scored a goal—into my own net. I felt like a loser for weeks. Maybe that’s one reason I love reading the Bible. It’s filled with stories of people I wouldn’t have picked for my team. From Genesis to Revelation, this book never hides the faults of its heroes. I find such hope in that. These are the people God loves and uses.

Some would call them losers. People who have failed miserably and sometimes publicly. But God says, “My power shows up best in weak people” (2 Corinthians 12:9, TLB). And let’s be honest, he doesn’t have much else to work with. The perfect people gene pool is pretty shallow. By his grace, God works in and through people like us. Forgiving us. Redeeming us. Using us.

I once thought of life as a ladder. If I could just do enough good stuff I would climb that ladder toward God. The higher I climbed, the more I could impress others and look down on the real losers. It felt great. Until I read about the Pharisees and found myself among them. Until I read that Paul considered himself the chief of sinners and wondered where that put me. In need of grace, of which, thank God, there is an ample supply. Ever since, I have sipped eagerly at the spring of God’s grace.

During a Monday night football game Walter Payton, the Chicago Bears’ famous running back, surpassed over nine miles in rushing yards during his career. His average run was 4.6 yards. That means he was knocked down almost 3,500 times. His success came from getting back up each time and running again.

May each of us find the grace to do the same.

By his grace, God works in and through people like us. Forgiving us. Redeeming us. Using us.

By PHIL CALLAWAY

Phil Callaway has had articles rejected by more than 20 magazines. He still writes. His 27th book Laugh Like a Kid Again will be released in June. Visit him at philcallaway.com
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