November 2024

ANDERSON (SOLLOM), Norma (BC '49)



Norma was born in Newfolden, MN to Kittel and Hilda. After graduating from high school, Aakers Business College, and working as a bookkeeper for two years she then attended Prairie Bible Institute. Norma went on to serve in Venezuela with TEAM and eventually Free Church Mission. It was there she met her husband Harvey and they continued to serve in Venezuela for 34 years before retiring in 1988. In recent years Norma has been very active in the Wyanett Evangelical Free Church. She is survived by her son Brent, his wife, a grandson Jonathan, and other family members. Norma went to be with the Lord on May 16, 2013.

ANDREWS, Harold (BC '53)



Harold passed away on April 9, 2024 after a long illness surrounded by loved ones. He is remembered as a loving husband, father, papa, and brother. Harold was a musician and excellent trumpet player, a retired high school teacher, a semi-professional comedian, a brilliant storyteller, and a dedicated member of the Northside Baptist Church in Murfreesboro. He is preceded in death by his wife of 61 years and is survived by his daughters Kim, Debi, and one son Marc. Harold was also blessed to have three grandchildren.

BAILEY, Catherine (BC '44)



Catherine was a plant geneticist known for developing a wide variety of new fruit, particularly in the peach, apple, nectarine, and apricot industries. She received her bachelor's degree from Douglass College in 1942, worked under Maurice Blake until 1948, and graduated with a Ph. D from Rutgers University with a dissertation on aspects of growing peach cultivars. She introduced more than 39 new fruit varieties during her life. Catherine went home to Jesus on March 29th, 2014.

BIENERT (NEE FASZER), Violet (BC '53)



Violet met her saviour on October 21, 2024 when she died peacefully in her sleep at the Three Hills Health Care Center. She was born in the Faszer farmhouse in 1930, and committed her life to Jesus at an early age. After graduating from Prairie she married Allan in 1953 and they were together for 54 years before Allan passed away. Violet served the Lord as a faithful wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She often prayed for her family that each one would come to know Jesus and love him wholeheartedly. She was known for her generous hospitality and was passionate about missions (which she prayed for and gave financially toward). Violet will be remembered her children: Carolyn (Hock Seng) Khoo, Ken (Linda), Keith (Lilyane), Marianne (Earl) Dyck, and Valerie (David) Robb; 22 grandchildren, and 20 great grandchildren.

CULLUM (GREEN), Susan (BC '86, Staff '89-'92, '94-08)



Susan was born to Chester and Mary in 1967. After finishing high school, she would go on to attend Trinity Western University, University of Alberta, and Prairie Bible Institute. Susan was known as an exceptional seamstress and lovable teacher. She taught at a variety of high schools over the years including Prairie High School, Wainright High School, Buck Lake, Whitecourt, and Northstar Academy. Susan found great joy in teaching and touched the lives of many through her work. Many Susan-original sewing pieces included wedding gowns, bridesmaid's dresses, wedding party outfits, grad dresses, costumes, figure skating dresses, and countless other outfits. She met Patrick in 1997 and they were married by the end of the year. They enjoyed adventures and spending time together for many years. After receiving a hard diagnosis, Susan began her toughest battle. Fighting till the end, Susan went peacefully to be with her Lord on June 29, 2024. She is remembered by her husband Patrick, their children (Garrett, Jenna, Keifer, and Declan), family members, and many friends.

DAVIDSON, Wes (BC '49, '05, Staff '72-'86)



Wes passed away on August 31, 2024, a few months short of 103 years of age. Despite contracting polio as a child leaving him with a partially paralyzed arm and twisted spine he didn't allow this to deter him. As a young man he attended PBI but was unable to finish due to responsibilities on the family farm. It was always his desire to graduate, so at the age of 80 he completed his studies and received a Certificate of Bible. In 1950 Wes married Leona and afterward Wes began his training with Kirk's Heating and Electric. He never stopped sharing God's love with others and in the early '70's Wes and Leona began New Life Outreach hoping to start churches across central Alberta. Wes is survived by his many children and loving family.

DEFORD, Lyle (BC '51)



During his teenage years, Lyle's family moved to California, and it was there that Lyle heard the Gospel and trusted in Jesus Christ as his personal saviour. After attending Prairie he headed to southern Iowa where he met and married Emily in 1952. During their ministry time, Lyle started two churches in Iowa and pastored several churches in Iowa, California, Oklahoma, and Nebraska. During those years he was also director of Glad Tidings Bible Camp of Bloomfield, NE. Lyle also held a wide variety of other professions as a bivocational pastor. One such occupation was serving as an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and in 1986 he was named EMT Instructor-coordinator of the year in Nebraska. Lyle was welcomed into Jesus' arms on Dec. 14, 2022 survived by his wife of 70 years, seven children, 42 grandchildren, and 79 great-grandchildren.

DOGTEROM, Bernie (BC '61)



As a teen, Bernie enjoyed friends, sports, and music, excelling as a hockey player and singer. After high school he attended Prairie Bible Institute where he met Joanne, whom he married in 1958. They lived in Vernon, Calgary, and Edmonton where Bernie completed his accounting designation. He enjoyed several years of accounting work at the University of Alberta and University of Lethbridge. He retired in 1998 after taking another position with Salmon Arm School District in 1975. Bernie found purpose in helping with music and leadership at Shuswap Community Church, exercising, gardening, reading, painting, travelling, and camping. Bernie joined heaven's tenor section on June 16, 2024 and is remembered by his wife, daughters Jolene (Dave), Denive (Cliff), and eight grandchildren.

FINLAY, Derek (BC '80)



Derek, a graduate of Prairie went to be with the Lord on July 8, 2024 at 80 years of age. He is lovingly remembered by his wife Lois, family, and friends.

FRIESEN (WALTER), Maurine (BC '49)



Maurine was born in 1928 and in August of 1952 she married Paul Friesen. Maurine died on June 26, 2023 and is survived by her four sons and their wives; one daughter and her husband; 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

HEDLUND (GRUSING), Alice (BC '63)

Alice accepted Christ as her saviour one summer at a camp and her life was changed forever. After a childhood filled with adventures, sports, and the Bible she went on to study at Winnipeg Bible Institute. She then continued her theological education at Prairie Bible Institute, followed by a year of Nurse's Aide training as well as a Summer Institute of Linguistics. After feeling led to care for children in South Dakota she met Earl and they were married in 1966. Together they served the Lakota people for 29 years. In 1995 they took a sabbatical in Fresno, CA where Alice received her Master's degree in Church Ministry from the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary. In 1997, the couple went to Diamond City, AR where they served as pastors at Lighthouse Bible Church. Alice loved to meet people and share her faith. She will be missed dearly by three children, 14 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and is preceded in death by her husband, step daughter, and son. Alice went home to Jesus on July 11, 2016.

HEGARTY, John (BC '54)



John entered heaven at sunrise on March 2, 2018. As a child he excelled as a student and loved playing basketball and baseball. At the age of 18, he began a career in education teaching while attending summer school in Iowa State Teacher's College (ISTC). In 1949, John received Jesus as his personal saviour and enrolled at Prairie Bible Institute. Upon graduation he married Gertrude and returned to ISTC to finish his degree in Education. He was well known and respected at all the schools he taught at and principled. John retired in 1993, but continued ministering through preaching until 2001. John was an encourager, lover of learning, and most importantly possessed a deep faith that guided his life. He was a man of prayer and a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend. John is survived by his wife, a son, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

HUFFMIER, Francis (BC '53)



Francis was born and raised in Kansas, living in a variety of towns until his parents settled in Wichita. After his time at Prairie College he returned to Wichita, met Beth, and they were wed in May 1956. In 1966, he joined the Wichita Police Department until he retired as a sergeant in Internal Affairs in 1987. Francis then went on to work a couple of security positions for over 10 years before retiring for good in 1999. Francis loved the Lord and was a good handy man. He went home to heaven March 1, 2023 and is remembered by his wife, two daughters, one son (another son passed away earlier), nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

HUYETT, Delbert (BC '58)



Delbert graduated from Berryton High School in 1957 and attended Prairie Bible Institute afterward. Delbert then moved back to his homeland of Topeka, KS where he ran and owned Huyett Printing for 59 years. He also served on the Topeka Rescue Mission Board and was a member of Topeka Bible Church, where he served on the Missions Committee and sang in a choir. Delbert married Alice in 1962 and is lovingly remembered by her as well as their daughter, son, siblings, nieces and nephews. Delbert passed away on August 24, 2022.

JANZ, Larry (BC '60)



Larry's father was a farmer and so Larry was able to grow up learning how to work hard and loved everything that had to do with farming. After his family moved to Acme, AB and he completed high school Larry attended PBI. During his time at PBI Larry became the leader of the European Prayer Group. The Lord then laid a burden on his heart for those countries and especially Germany. After graduation Larry began to work with One Hope Canada and began to think about marriage. His uncles who were missionaries in Europe came back to Canada with their German secretary, Christa. Long story short, the Lord brought them together and in 1961 Larry and Christa were married. They left for Germany in 1966 and spent 17 years in Europe with Janz Team Ministries. Larry's main ministries were evangelism, Bible teaching, and camp work. After their time in Europe Larry and Christa moved back to Canada to be nearer to their children. When they retired, Larry and Christa continued to minister to a church in Morden, MB every other week. Larry went home and finished his work here on earth September 12, 2024.

SCHLAK, Art (BC '62)



He graduated from Prairie in 1962 doing Bible and missionary training with pastoral and music minors. He pastored at several churches, almost continually, for 50 years. He also went on many mission trips to India and Russia. The last church he pastored was in Calgary. It was the birth of his first grandchild that eventually drew he and his wife Christel to Prince George, BC. Art Schlak went home to the Lord on April 23, 2024.

SHERSTAN, Bill (BC '51)

Bill passed away, in the presence of his family, on August 5, 2024. He will be lovingly remembered by his sons Paul (Sharon) and Peter (Wendy), as well as his seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

TYGERT, Earl (BC '45, Staff '45-'49)

Earl was a pastor in upstate New York when he heard L.E. Maxwell speak for the first time and got connected with him. L.E. then invited Earl and his wife Emogene to teach and take some classes at Prairie. In 1948 Earl went to speak to missionaries in China and Japan. While in Japan God gave him a clear word to return and serve Him there. As a result, the family moved to Japan in 1949 and started a Bible school and printing ministry. They stayed till 1968 when they chose to returned to North America for their children's education. They then bought a castle in PA and used it as a Christian school and for various conferences. Earl will be missed by many. He went to be with Jesus in June 1978.

TYGERT, Emogene (Staff '45-'49)

Emogene was invited with her husband Earl by L.E. Maxwell to teach at Prairie Bible Institute. Emogene taught voice and led the Radio Choir. While her husband was away in Japan she received a word from the Lord that they were to serve as missionaries in Japan. It was hard for her to leave Prairie as she really enjoyed her time there, however, in 1949 they set off for Japan starting a Bible school and printing ministry. They had four children during their time in Japan. After 19 years of service the family moved back to PA, bought a castle, and used it for continued ministry. Emogene will surely be missed by many. She joined her husband in heaven in July of 2006.

WALTER JR., Joseph



When Joe was seventeen he saw something in his sisters he wanted; their happiness and satisfaction after becoming Christians at camp. After attending Byron Bible Camp himself he made a decision to follow Jesus and Joe was transformed. After high school he attended PBI and Bethel College in MN. Wanting to serve with the Mennonite Brethren Missions and Services he decided to go to Grace Bible Institute where he met Janette Bergen, they got married in 1953. The next year they set sail for Peru to tell Spanish speakers about Jesus. Over forty years Joe and Jan served in a variety of ways including evangelism, preaching, teaching, and other forms of service. Joe always made sure to show his kids and wife they were first above his work. At 65 Joe retired from mission work and settled down in Kansas where they lived for 30 years. Joe went to the Lord March 25, 2024 and is missed greatly by his wife, kids (and their spouses), grandkids, and great-grandkids.

WEAVER, Max (BC '52)

Max was a sinner saved by grace and his family believes if Max were here he would say "I'm in heaven now, where will you be when your time comes?" Max passed away August 1, 2015 leaving behind his beloved wife Jackie; three children, Lenna (Grant), Dennis (Debbie), and Scott; 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

WEBB, Katrina (BC '24)



Katrina was born in Calgary, AB in 1998 to her loving parents Doug and Shelly. Katrina grew up as a "Pastor's Kid" and made many friends through those years. She went to college at PRBI in Sexsmith, AB for a year and then began attending Prairie College where she was just starting her 4th year working on a degree in Christian Formation and Counselling. Katrina went to be with the Lord on September 6, 2024. She is survived by her father and mother, brothers, nephews, grandmother, aunts, uncles, and many friends.

WILLIAMS, Wendell (BC '61)



Wendell was born in 1923 to Corliss and Nettie, and in 1942 Wendell married Ruth. Wendell joined the Army during World War II and served with the 91st Infantry Division in Italy until the end of the war. After returning Wendell farmed for 15 years and then spent 25 years doing missionary work in Ireland, eventually retiring in 1988. He had lots of memories and enjoyed writing about them in prose and poetry. Wendell is survived by his wife, one daughter, six sons, 18 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Wendell died November 4, 2018.

WILSON, Jeanne (BC '56)



Jeanne grew up in rural Iowa and in 1946 she attended Northwestern Bible School. After graduation Jeanne left for Africa to serve as a missionary to teach people about Jesus. When she returned four years later she went to PBI to do more biblical studies before again returning to Africa. In 1962 Jeanne graduated from Broadlawns School of Nursing, and continued to teach future students for a year. Later she earned her Bachelor's in Nursing from Marycrest College and Master's Degree in Guidance and Counselling from Drake University. In 1971 Jeanne served as a co-pastor at Central Bible Church and worked for the Iowa Board of Nursing until her retirement in 1987. Jeanne continued to pastor at that church until 1997. Jeanne passed away on September 6, 2011, survived by her sister, nieces, nephews, family and friends.

WRIGHT, Paul (HS '80, BC '88)



When Paul was three years old his family move to Three Hills, AB because his father found a teaching job at PBI. As a child Paul read a lot, loved to talk, and had a large interest in history and politics. He graduated from high school, attended PBI, and then went to Red Deer College for two years and University of Alberta for two years majoring in History and minoring in Political Science. He planned on being a teacher, but ended up working as a tour guide at the East Coulee Coal Mine and Tyrrell Museums. Paul moved to Calgary in 1994 and became involved in the Royal Oak Victory Church for the next 30 years. Paul was known for being grateful, helpful, humble and filled with an unwavering faith in God. Paul was diagnosed with cancer in 2022 and throughout the whole process his faith was at the forefront influencing many people. Paul passed away on August 13, 2024. He will be lovingly remembered by his family and friends.