



With the LORD

May 2025

Douglas, Anna (Schmidt, BC'40, Staff)



Anna and her husband Alban were missionaries to China and later to the Philippines, and then joined Prairie Staff. Widowed since 1996, Anna was recently celebrated as the 4th oldest citizen in Alberta and lived in her own home in Three Hills until moving into a nursing home in 2024. She went to be with the Lord on February 18, 2025, at the age of 106.

Meiklejohn, Kathleen (Reed, BC'46)



Kathleen Meiklejohn of Sayward, BC, trained as a linguist after graduation from Prairie. She and her husband Percy went to the Philippines to translate the Bible into Serangani Manobo and then returned to Canada. When her three girls were grown, she began working for the BC government, eventually as executive secretary to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment. Kathleen wrote a book titled "Prisoners of Hope," and was also an accomplished violinist whose love of languages made her many friends around the globe. She went to be with the Lord on September 13, 2024, following a severe stroke.

Bruck, Vivian (Strickert, HS'44, BC'48)



Vivian committed her life to Christ at a young age and used her secretarial, musical, and ministry skills around the world. She worked for various Christian leaders, setting up the first Canadian offices for three mission societies and was bookkeeper for the Japan Evangelical Mission and for her mission-leader husband Don for six decades. In the mid-80s, the Brucks moved to Tokyo where they pastored the Musashino Chapel Center's English department for seven years. Along with raising three children, Vivian compiled more than 100 Scripture songs, poems and stories of God's faithfulness. She passed away on March 1, 2025, predeceased by her husband Don and son Lester.

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Goertzen, Henry (BC'54)



Henry served as a pastor for 27 years. He was also a skilled carpenter and to supplement income in the early years, he operated his own school bus and worked in a post office. Following their pastoral ministry, Henry and his wife Eva became regional reps for Prairie Bible Institute and travelled with the school for five years. They then owned and operated the Winkler Bible Bookshop before retiring to Three Hills, AB. He was a leader or participant on many boards and committees, contributing his wisdom and financial skills. Henry passed away on April 15, 2025.

Brewster, Woody (BC'55)



Woody spent this past Christmas with Jesus, having passed away on December 11, 2024, in Ormond Beach, FL. His wife Evie tells how Prairie was such an important part of his life, including the summer mission work. He had grown up so poor that the school, which was free at that time, was perfect for him. They met as camp counsellors in 1956 and in their 67 years of marriage, both were active in their local churches. They were the first long-term volunteers when Wycliffe Bible Translators moved from California to Florida 25 years ago. There, Woody worked hard on construction, including driving a gigantic off-road dump truck to dig ponds for Wycliffe and Cru.

Taylor, Renella (HS'57)



Renella was called to her heavenly home on November 8, 2024. She had been living with seizures for a few years and her only desire was to "go Home to be with Jesus." While she is missed by her siblings, they are thankful to know that she is with the Lord.

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Gradin, Sharon (BC'61)



Sharon passed away on November 19, 2024, in Gresham, OR. She worked in a children's ministry in Bolivia before earning a degree at Seattle Pacific University and then became pastor of a Hispanic church in Redmond, WA, where she served for many years. Due to her proficiency in Spanish, she also worked for the Bellevue School District as a translator for parent-teacher conferences. Sharon began to experience a cognitive decline in 2010 and spent her last years in loving care back in Gresham. Despite her inability to communicate, her family could sense her peaceful spirit.

Risley, Marcella (BC'62)



Marcella, a resident of Pretty Prairie, KS, was also a graduate of Wichita Business School and had taught Child Evangelism classes, worked at Back to the Bible Broadcast in Lincoln, NE, and did mission work in Bogota, Columbia, with New Tribes Mission. Marcy also owned and operated Marcy's Alterations for thirty years before retiring at the age of 80. She went home to be with her Lord on April 26, 2025.

Smithers, David (HS'61, BC u'63)



David and Nancy, his wife of 63 years, raised four children on the family farm outside of Three Hills, AB. They were actively involved with Mount Olive Evangelical Free Church and Dave served in leadership on EFC local, district and national boards. In later years he and Nancy enjoyed travelling and encouraging the church in Belize. He was a dedicated teacher of God's Word and he loved the farm, his family, his community, and his Saviour. Dave went home to be with Jesus on March 16, 2025.

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McMahan, Jerry (BC'63)



Jerry McMahan, Gig Harbor, WA, met his wife Lois (Norbo, BC '63) at Prairie and together they pastored congregations in Ontario before taking a church in Nebraska where he also served as a firefighter. In 1980 they moved to pastorates in Washington State and Jerry founded the Family Bible Church in Olalla. He retired in 2012 after 49 years of ministry. Jerry was also an electrician and builder, an excellent baseball player, and a photographer. A severe stroke in 2016 left him disabled but joyful and on July 20, 2024, Jerry passed into his Saviour's presence at the age of 86.

Hanson, Sharon (Strom, HS'64, BC'68)



Sharon was raised and took her schooling in the Prairie community. In 1968 she married her longtime friend Selmer Hanson (BC'68) and together they served in the Philippines under OMF. Returning to Prairie, they served on staff from 1974 to 1992 and then moved to Edmonton where Sharon found many opportunities to teach and mentor women. Pouring into her students as a piano teacher and mentor also gave her great fulfillment and in later years she enjoyed ministering to seniors in need. Sharon was a prayer warrior, especially for her four children and their families who are grateful to God for her impact on their lives. She passed away in Edmonton, AB, on December 19, 2024.

Cousley, Charlotte (Seutter, HS'64, BC'71)



Charlotte went to be with the Lord on March 11, 2025, after a courageous year-long battle with cancer. She trained and worked as a nursing aide before attending Prairie, and was married to her husband John in 1972. They raised three children and made their homes in Calgary, Medicine Hat, and finally Airdrie, AB. Charlotte worked as an LPN for many years, was a longstanding member of Daybreak Community Church, and served as a volunteer and board member for both Alberta Camp Cherith and the Central Mexico Mission Society of Canada. She is remembered for her selfless life of service and her passion for helping others.

With the LORD

Sullivan, David (BC '85)



David graduated Prairie College in 1985 with a Bachelor's degree in Theology. He was called home to his Heavenly Father on March 8, 2025 after a fight with cancer. He will be dearly missed by his friends and family.

Kyle, Francis (BC'96)



Francis Kyle of Halifax, NC, succumbed to injuries sustained in a vehicle accident on November 5, 2024. He pastored for over 30 years and was the active minister of Weldon Baptist Church. He loved travelling the world and learning the history of the places to which he went, with a special interest in church history. Francis was the founder of Uncommon Christian Ministries, a writing ministry based on the life of James Brainard Taylor of whom he wrote two biographies. Following studies at Prairie, he earned an MDiv and MTh at Toronto Baptist Seminary and his DMin at Western Seminary in Oregon.

Komorowski, Rick (Staff 1997-2005)



Rick was born in Montreal, QC, where, after graduating from High School, he studied to be a Chartered Accountant. He was articled to an accounting firm in Hamilton, ON, where he met Joan and they were married in Wales in 1966. Rick's work gave him the opportunity to travel and work in different countries including Wales where he became part of Joan's large extended family. He spent most of his professional life in the Trust Industry and in 1997 they moved to Three Hills, AB, where Rick worked in the Finance Department of Prairie Bible Institute and served as Vice President of Finance and Operations. He passed away on December 8, 2024, in Red Deer, AB.

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Olver, Shirley (Staff)



Shirley passed away peacefully in Innisfail, AB, on January 31, 2025, at the age of 89. Her diverse interests as a young woman led her to train as a hairdresser and airline hostess, but at Bible school in Kansas City, MO, she discovered a calling to overseas missions. While studying French in Switzerland, she met Arnold Olver, the love of her life, and together they served for nine years under AIM in Zaire where their two children were born. They also ministered in Colorado, Saskatchewan and the Philippines before moving to Three Hills, AB, in 1976. Arnold served in numerous roles at Prairie and Shirley was very involved with married student wives as well as hosting hundreds of students who needed a home away from home.

Blair, Emily (Budwill, BC '08)



Emily attended Prairie until 2008, when she graduated with 2 degrees. During her years in Prairie's outdoor program, she spent time in Washington and at Camp Bighorn in Montana. She made many close friends through those experiences. Emily was 39 years old when she went to be with the Lord on March 19, 2025.