

## **CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS**

During a discussion with the Lord, in my graduating year at the University of Calgary, I sensed He wanted me to join Campus Crusade for Christ. I enjoyed my involvement with CCC as a student, but to join would mean having to raise my own personal financial support. I argued that I wanted a job that gave me a guaranteed income. The Lord then asked, "Can you trust Me?" That hit me. I could not bring myself to tell Him that I could not trust Him. So, in July of 1970, I joined Campus Crusade for Christ.

From 1970 to 1977 I was privileged to serve on the university campuses of the University of British Columbia, University of Calgary, University of Alberta and the University of Saskatchewan. In those years God enabled me to pioneer ministries to university athletic teams and the chapel program of the Edmonton Eskimo Pro Football team.

August of 1977 saw my move to Nairobi, Kenya to coordinate the Campus Crusade (L.I.F.E. Ministry) ministry at the University of Nairobi. A year later I became assistant director of the various ministries in Kenya. In the fall of 1979 I accepted the responsibility of Country Coordinator for L.I.F.E. Ministry in Tanzania. This involved coordinating the translation of the film 'Jesus' (the Gospel of Luke) into Swahili. That year I also met my best friend and life's partner, Carol. We were married the following year.

April of 1981, Carol and I along with three other staff moved from Nairobi to Moshi, Tanzania, located on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro. Here our team used the 'Jesus' film for outreaches in a number of areas of the country, trained pastors and laymen, and ministered in several Secondary Schools. One of the gifts of God's grace was that within 5 months, all of our team were able to minister in the Swahili language. A special highlight in Tanzania was the birth of our first child, Joel.

We returned to North America in March of 1984. Our son Dan was born in Calgary in June. Then it was off to San Bernardino, California to finish my Masters of Divinity degree.

The leadership of Campus Crusade of Canada asked us to move to Edmonton to begin a Provincial Chapter of the Christian Embassy. We arrived the first week of January 1987. Here the Lord gave us many opportunities. We were able to minister to Members of the Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Yukon legislatures along with some Members of the Canadian Parliament. I was also the chaplain of the Edmonton Trapper's AAA baseball team and Edmonton Eskimos football team, along with co leading a weekly Bible study at the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce. Three more blessings came into our lives here with the births of Joanna, Rachel and Matthew.

A major challenge came in 1991 when the President of Campus Crusade for Christ of Canada asked us to coordinate a ministry to leaders in the Soviet Union. It was only God's grace and leading that allowed us to take the Gospel to Members of the Russian, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakh and Lithuanian Parliaments as well as Leningrad City Council. Only the Lord can be credited for allowing us to walk the halls of these places and the Kremlin, telling the Members about the life changing message of our Saviour. We were blessed to take teams of Canadian political and corporate leaders to share their testimonies during most of the twenty plus visits.

1996 was another year of change. We moved to Ottawa to lead the Christian Embassy ministry in the Nation's Capital. Here again by Christ's favour, we were able to initiate a number of ministry outreaches for the Foreign Ambassadors and Members of Parliament.

After serving just over 42 years with Campus Crusade for Christ (Power to Change), and Carol 38 years, it was time to make an organizational change. Our call to be a witness to Members of the Canadian Parliament and Foreign Ambassadors, along with leaders in other nations, is strong. To be in a better position to serve these leaders, we were able in January 2013 to begin Embassy Connections Canada in connection with the Great Commission Foundation. This move enabled us to expand our contacts with influencers and associate with more than 400 Canadian led Christian projects which serve in more than 80 nations.

Looking back to 1970 when God asked, "Can you trust Me?" I am amazed and humbled by His faithfulness. He has led me to visit and share His message of Love and Forgiveness in 105 countries. He has given me the privilege to take teams of Canadian Christian leaders to witness to people of influence in more than 70 nations. He has allowed and enabled me to take ambassadors from 104 nations on business trips to 7 of Canada's Provinces. Through many of these initiatives, a number of leaders have placed their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am very grateful to my godly parents, my family, and the many people like you who have prayed for us, encouraged us and given sacrificially to the ministry. I especially acknowledge four ministry directors: Gordon Volkman, Dr. Bill Bright, Dr. Marvin Kehler and Don Myers who at various times challenged me beyond my comfort zone to grow in my relationship with Christ, take steps of faith and increase my passion and vision for reaching the lost who do not know Christ.

Today, Carol and I as a couple are so blessed. God has provided wonderful Christian life partners for four of our children: Amanda for Dan, Evgeni for Rachel, Will for Joanna, and Marika for Joel. He has also given us nine grandchildren. And, we still sense the Lord's calling to continue reaching leaders with His life changing Gospel.

"Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass" (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

Jerry and Carol Sherman