

Canadian Director's Report

Personal newsletter featuring ministry and family updates, greetings and more from Bill and Judy Ball.



A MESSAGE FROM BILL & JUDY BALL

Life for us as a couple seems to ride in waves. Some periods of time are fairly quiet then activity picks up with work and family commitments. When we began ministry responsibilities with SGA Canada 6 years ago my coach told me I needed to figure out the rhythm of life and learn to adjust as time continued along. I wondered what he meant at the time but fully grasp this reality each week we live for the Lord.

Summer began with us wondering how Covid 19 would affect our plans. We did a full week of representation for SGA at Elim Lodge near Peterborough, Ontario and it was good to be back with groups of people. While strict protocols were in place, we still managed a healthy connection with numbers of families. Many thanks to the staff at Elim Lodge for a job well done. We are booked for next year already. We continued on to Quebec for a quick visit seeing family.

Our son Chris, Karyn and the 3 grandchildren arrived July 31st from South Sudan. After a quarantine period we are now enjoying time with them until they return to the mission field January 2022. They are just a few minutes drive from our place which makes it most convenient. Our daughter Kim and her husband Dan live in Kitchener and come over on a regular basis for some good times together. Dan has returned to school studying to become a hydro lineman which is really exciting.

We have been doing some speaking engagements locally in Ontario and only recently did an extended trip to Alberta visiting donors and churches. Bill traveled with a new part time staff member (Andy Beckman) who had served as a board member. Another trip is scheduled for eastern Ontario. The ministry has done well through the pandemic for which we are grateful. Children's programs such as summer camps and Immanuel's Child Christmas Stars have exploded with growth after functioning with a limited capacity for a year.

The plan is to travel south to Florida for the month of January 2022 now that the border is open once again. We have made some wonderful friendships for ourselves and the mission at Sunnybreeze Christian Fellowship just north of Punta Gorda. It is a combination of preaching, representing SGA and enjoying the warm sunshine. We are still unable to secure a new Visa for entry into Russia so overseas travel is halted for the next few months.

A trip to Quebec before Christmas will happen as well. We always enjoy visiting Judy's family and seeing her mom who is doing well in the nursing home. There is a great supporting church in the Eastern Townships that we get to visit as well. For us it is familiar territory because this is where we came from. While much has changed, we have a certain comfort going back home.

Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you receiving this personal note during this time of the year. You are special to us, and we enjoy times with as many as possible. With all the restrictions during the last two years this hasn't always been possible but trust we can ramp up the visits in the days ahead.

May you enjoy a wonderful Christmas with family and friends trusting God for a fantastic New Year.

Bill + Judy