

# ONWARD

NEWS, STORIES

AMERICAN BAPTIST FAMILY

## PRAYER

*in the NAB family*

Remembering  
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Real relationships with God  
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# direction *through* PRAYER

**I**'m fairly convinced that I have a weak case of geographical dyslexia. Briefly stated, I easily lose my direction. Especially in large parking lots, I take intentional care to note the position of my parked car in relation to a specific landmark or doorway lest I later spend hours walking the aisles searching for my vehicle. You may chuckle, but topographical disorientation can be a serious inability to orient oneself geographically due to brain damage or deterioration—though mine really isn't that serious.



In life, finding our right direction, our right path forward, is critical. And in this process, God's guidance is necessary. Over the last number of weeks, I have re-read a number of scholarly articles on how a small group of leaders launched our conference of churches. These leaders were committed to planting new churches, communicating scriptural truth, training younger pastors, and bringing the presence of Christ to a burgeoning immigrant community. But more than leaders asking God to simply bless their work, these leaders sought God's guidance.

In Exodus 33, God's infallible Word reminds us that Moses, under God's good and powerful hand, had led the people of God out of their long and arduous enslavement by the Egyptians. Now in the wilderness terrain and anxious for the next directional steps, Moses experienced a bit of directional disorientation. What direction is the best next route? How do I lead people who don't always want to follow? What enemies are on the horizon? In this spiritual confusion, Moses cried in desperation to God:

If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with . . . your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish . . . your people from all the other people on the face of the earth? (Exodus 33:15–16 NIV).

Our prayers as the church, leaders, parents, spouses, and students are cries—deep inner yearnings—for God's presence. As true communities of faithful followers, our prayers are that God's presence—replete with His Kingdom's authority, power, and peace—would move before us and with us.

**Starting in 2017, I am calling our conference of churches again to a season of prayer. We have launched our REACH capital campaign to fund significant and God-honoring projects in North America and around the world, and now we must REACH spiritually inward to stretch, strain, and tune our hearts and minds to discern the Spirit's leading and incredible empowering for the years ahead. I know of no better way to accomplish this than through prayer—especially the prayer of our entire conference of churches.**

I'm convinced we must gather together through prayer in intercession, quietness, and courage to REACH with revolutionary force, to pray without ceasing, for God's presence to provide direction and delight.

In his book, *Prayer*, Philip Yancey writes, "The main purpose of prayer is not to make life easier, nor to gain magical powers, but to know God. I need God more than anything I might get from God."

Would you covenant with me to begin to pray now and plan to pray more often and more intentionally in 2017, that as a conference of churches we would know God and that His presence would go before and with us as we journey with courage into new directions?



*Dan Hamil*


Dan Hamil  
Executive Director, NAB

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Sometimes I go to God and say, "God, if Thou dost never answer another prayer while I live on this earth, I will still worship Thee as long as I live and in the ages to come for what Thou hast done already." God's already put me so far in debt that if I were to live one million millenniums I couldn't pay Him for what He's done for me. —A. W. Tozer


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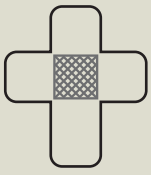
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*If the heart wanders or is distracted, bring it back to the point quite gently and replace it tenderly in its Master's presence. And even if you did nothing during the whole of your hour but bring your heart back and place it again in our Lord's presence, though it went away every time you brought it back, your hour will be very well employed.*

—St. Francis de Sales

# Making Connections through Prayer



**Keir Hammer**

Director, White Cross Canada

**T**his year, by the grace of God, my wife and I are celebrating twenty-five years of marriage. As I reflect on this milestone, I think about the blessing of having someone who understands and supports me. It is amazing to be so connected to another person. Daily communication is one of the ways in which we become more connected. We talk about our day, about the highs and lows, about mostly little things, but sometimes big things.

Prayer is simply a conversation with God that involves talking and listening. We need to learn to connect in our spirits. It takes practice to hear the voice of God, but prayer begins just by talking. We tell God about our day and express our concerns about ourselves and about others. It's what connects us to God. It also connects us to each other.

Have you heard stories about people who—inexplicably—are connected despite physical separation? I have. Some might be urban legends. Some are undoubtedly true. As someone who believes in God, I shouldn't be surprised. Have you ever experienced a sudden call to pray for a person only to find out that they needed help at that exact moment? There is more to our world than what we can currently measure. Prayer can accomplish amazing things.

The lives of the young people in these two pictures are dynamically different, but through prayer they can be connected even across the globe.







The young ladies in this picture are making White Cross supplies that will be sent to West African hospitals to help doctors better serve their patients.

The friends in these pictures—two friends from North America and two friends from West Africa—are connected in ways they can't even imagine. Through prayer we can be connected to people around the world. We can encourage and support one another. Of course, we are also connected through the work that we do for White Cross. Prayer increases that connection and makes it more substantial.

When you pray for White Cross, you connect yourselves to God, to each other, to me. Through prayer, J. J. Williams, director of White Cross USA, and I are encouraged. Through prayer, the work in Cameroon is expanded. Through prayer, your relationship with God is deepened. Strangers become brothers and sisters, and God's work in our lives is strengthened.

Pray for those in your group and community. Pray for Taylor College and Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta, and the Quest Church in Royse City, Texas, both of whom warehouse White Cross gifts before they are sent to Cameroon. Pray for all who support this ministry. Pray for the many workers in the Cameroon Baptist Convention. Pray that those in need will experience the love of God in real ways.

Together our prayers will connect us to God, to each other, and to a world in need. Thank you for praying. ☩

For more information about the work of White Cross in Canada and the United States, visit:

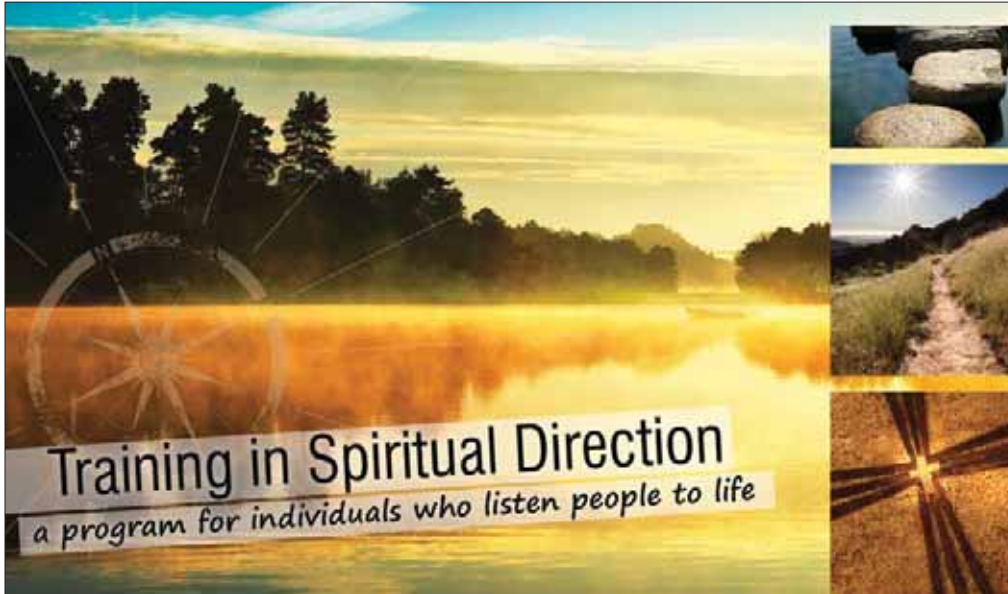
Canada: [www.taylor-edu.ca/wahlcentre/whitecross](http://www.taylor-edu.ca/wahlcentre/whitecross) | United States: [www.nabconference.org/missions/white-cross](http://www.nabconference.org/missions/white-cross)



# Listening People to Life

Susan Reese

Professor of Spiritual Formation, Sioux Falls Seminary



for this unique training experience. Several of them had never thought of attending seminary but simply knew they needed to be trained as a spiritual director. Once in the program, many of the students realized that people sought them out because they were prayerful and good listeners. One young man knew he was called to minister to the “under 25, unjailed, and unfathered.” What a privilege it was to be a part of shaping the ministry that

**I** have spent much of my vocation listening to and praying with people who are listening from the depths of their souls for God’s voice and direction to be made known in their lives. Years ago, I encountered the book *Holy Listening* by Margaret Guenther. Through Guenther’s writings, I came to understand the ministry of spiritual direction, which is the ministry of presence and prayer. It is a ministry of listening to and offering space for individuals to pay attention to the Holy Spirit and discern God’s movement and direction in their lives as they walk their journey of discipleship.

As students embark on the journey of theological education at Sioux Falls Seminary, they soon realize through coursework, mentoring, and community that prayer leads to understanding God’s purposes for their lives. My spiritual director inspired my work as a professor at Sioux Falls Seminary. She was a woman who “listened people to life,” whether in retreat or in individual sessions. In 2013, a team of teachers, myself included, gathered to pray, discern, and design a spiritual direction program. The Training in Spiritual Direction program, which also focuses on listening people to life, was launched in the months that followed!

Within three months, eighteen students had registered

God gave him! One woman was a baker called on by co-workers to listen to their lives. A mother of four children and military wife found herself listening to many women while their husbands were deployed. Several trained pastors and therapists have renewed their ministries by understanding barriers to the spiritual life, and they have been inspired with new insights in teaching, preaching, and counseling.

As we develop servants for their participation in the Kingdom mission, prayer and discernment are critical, not only to our work with students but also for our students as they listen to life the individuals God places in their care. 🙌



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Pray for our ongoing REACH campaign. I am encouraged to see the progress of our NAB family's REACH initiative thus far. Since announcing the intentions to raise resources together as a family of ministries, much progress has been made. We have come so far, and yet, there are many miles still to journey before we can rejoice fully in God's provision for these important projects.

- Church Planting Initiatives, North America
- Mbingo Hospital Hydroelectric Dam, Cameroon
- Bango Baptist Hospital Expansion, Cameroon
- Camp Falcon Rock, Romania
- Bicol Center for Christian Leadership Expansion, Philippines
- Global Theological Educational Projects, Cameroon
- Sioux Falls Program Expansions, U.S.
- Taylor Seminary Facility Expansions, Canada
- Pastoral Formation & Missional Initiatives, North America
- NAB Heritage Commission Improved Technology, North America

By now you should have received a REACH initiative magazine and I trust you've had time to consider your part in this global work. But maybe you are still needing more information; a City Hub might be just the thing for you!

City Hubs are regional gatherings hosted in NAB churches and led by REACH leaders eager to share the vision for the initiative and help you take your next steps of investment in these Kingdom efforts.

For more information on a City Hub near you, visit [www.nabonmission.org/reach](http://www.nabonmission.org/reach).

If you would like additional REACH materials for yourself or your church (or if you have not received one yet), please contact Amber Pedroni, [apedroni@nabconf.org](mailto:apedroni@nabconf.org) or (916) 797-6222.

For His fame,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stu".

Stu Streeter  
Vice President of Ministry Advancement, NAB





# love *shaped* by prayer

Jean Ewing  
Chairwoman, Women's Ministry

*“God wants to open the door and let you in on what He is up to in your neighborhood! He has a plan, He is already at work, but we have to decide if we want to be involved or not. Prayer won’t change God’s heart toward your neighbors (He’s already crazy about them!), but it will change you.”*

Amy Lively

**S**ince the beginning of 2016, I have committed myself to connecting with the neighbors who surround me in our 55-and-older community. I greet people by the mailboxes and as I ride the bike in the fitness center. As my next door neighbor peeks his head out of the door to get his paper or the upstairs woman drives out of her garage, we exchange smiles and wave. However, it became a challenge during the winter months with snow on the ground and the temperature at freezing and below.

In early January I found a new way to meet a neighbor. I had just completed my morning walk and was anxiously thinking of the warm cup of coffee waiting for me in our apartment. I moved over to the side of the road to let a slow-moving car pass,



extending my arm in a friendly wave. Little did I know that underneath that innocent looking patch of snow that I had stepped on was a deadly patch of ice. Down I went, flat on my back. (I was thankful for the four layers of clothes I had on). The car door quickly opened, and a woman apologetically offered to help me up. She insisted I recover by sitting in her car until I was warm. That's when I met Mary. As I sat trying to clear my head, she shared about the struggle she was having with the need to relocate to a less expensive apartment and about the health issues she was going through. I asked if I could pray with her and then promised to continue praying.

Later that day I reread chapter 1 of Amy Lively's book, *How to Love Your Neighbor Without Being Weird*, and then went to her website ([www.howtoloveyourneighbor.com](http://www.howtoloveyourneighbor.com)) to look at the Participant's Study Guide pages that she and Sara Edwards developed to give direction and depth to the study. In those pages, Amy and Sara urged me to begin to love my neighbors by praying for them. I had committed to praying for Mary. Why not for the rest of my community?

But how could I pray for my neighbors by name? I registered on Pray for Every Home ([www.pray4everyhome.com](http://www.pray4everyhome.com)) to receive a free, detailed map of my neighborhood with the names and addresses of my one hundred closest neighbors. Now, everyday five names appear in my email inbox with a suggested prayer. As I walk, I match the names with the addresses and pray for the people behind the doors.

Paul tells us, "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains" (Colossians 4:2-3 NIV).

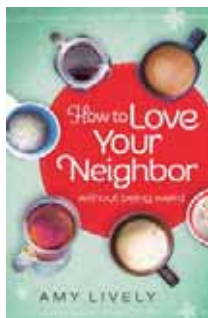
I am praying that just as I had an unexpected opportunity to meet Mary, I would take opportunities to meet the rest of the neighbors in my community. And until I meet them face-to-face, I will pray for them. ✦

### Interested in more from NAB Women's Ministry?

Please send your name, address, phone number, and email address to [wm.nabc@gmail.com](mailto:wm.nabc@gmail.com) to receive the e-Java Moments newsletter.

# Resources

## 2016 Women's Ministry Theme Book



*How to Love Your Neighbor Without Being Weird* is a challenge and an encouragement to those who want to take the command in Mark 12:31 to "love thy neighbor seriously." Amy Lively shares a practical and honest approach to living out the Gospel in our modern context.

[www.howtoloveyourneighbor.com](http://www.howtoloveyourneighbor.com)

## Pray for Every Home



**PRAY4 EVERY HOME.COM** Pray for Every Home is an online resource that enables users to pray for their neighbors by name. A map is provided that shows the homes within

a nearby radius and the names of those who live in them. Users can also elect to receive email notifications with the names of five neighbors to pray for each day.

[www.pray4everyhome.com](http://www.pray4everyhome.com)

## Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer



Join women around the world in the Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer on November 7, 2016. All of the information and a prayer guide can be found at their website [www.bwawd.org](http://www.bwawd.org).



[www.nabconference.org/ministries/womens-ministry](http://www.nabconference.org/ministries/womens-ministry)

# INTERCESSOR

## OCTOBER 2016

**2** Our conference vision is accomplished through missional engagement, international missions, leadership development and formation, and ethnic partnerships. Pray that God would bless these ends with fruit.

**3** Pray for the Blue Ocean Group, which begins three days of meetings today in Vancouver, BC, discussing how to best be a sign, servant, and foretaste of the Kingdom in an ever-increasingly post-Christian culture.

**4** Pray for the continued plans, preparations, and fundraising for the NAB on Mission Together campaign as it gains momentum.

**5** Pray for your community—those in your town or city who you consider to be your neighbors. Ask God how you can best serve them.

**9** Pray for Gateway, specifically for Director Randy Schmor and the important work he does training churches and missions teams for missional engagement through long-term partnerships with mission fields around the world.

**10** Pray for NAB work in Cameroon. Pray for the Cameroon Baptist Convention leadership and our partnerships there. Pray, too, for the Hohn family as they are busy visiting churches and supporters this year on home assignment.

**11** Praise God for Ken and Rachele Johnson, new NAB missionaries to Japan who are stepping in for the Ewings while they are on home assignment. Pray for their funding, and pray for their family as they continue to settle in to life in Japan.

**12** Pray for the NAB work going on in Romania. Pray that God continues to bring in the resources necessary for progress at Camp Falcon Rock. Pray also for preparations underway for Kingdom impact this Christmas season.

**16** Pray for younger leaders in the NAB family who God is developing for spiritual impact today in their ministries. Pray that God surrounds them with Godly mentors who invest in them deeply as spiritual leaders.

**17** Pray for the international church today. Pray for those countries where religious freedoms do not exist and Christians are persecuted. Ask God to protect those who have followed His call to spread His word in these areas of the world.

**18** Pray for regional ministers Rick King (Florida Association), Rev. Rick Weber (Northern California Association), and Rev. Bob Klein (Southern California Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

**19** Pray for regional ministers Rev. Dan Heringer (Central Plains Region), Rev. Terry Holley (Great Lakes Association), and Dr. Bob Krahn (British Columbia Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

**23** Pray for Gary Clatterbuck and the teaching needs of Moscow Theological Seminary. **30** Pray for the NAB's Youth Ministry Leadership Team as they plan for The Gathering in July 2017.

**24** Pray that God would provide more sponsors and house parents for Chain of Love. **31** Pray today for churches holding community events as a way to spread God's love in their neighborhoods.

**25** Pray for those on NAB's Strategy Team who recently read and discussed *Roadmap to Reconciliation* by Brenda Salter McNeil. Pray these truths continue to inspire our leadership to take the next steps in racial righteousness.

**26** Pray for pastors who serve in multi-ethnic churches, that God would give them a special sensitivity and encouragement as they serve people of different languages and cultures in their city.



**1** Pray for the Executive Committee as they finish two days of meetings today. Ask God to provide them with the wisdom to lead the conference well.

**6** Ethos is a two-year journey for leaders and churches to be formed in the image of Christ and be sent into their neighborhoods. The NAB is currently working in three regions teaching churches. Please pray for this work of joining God on mission.

**7** Pray for the regional ministers and search committees who are in the process of searching for new pastors for NAB churches. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance as they seek to fill these open positions.

**8** Pray for the children's ministry pastors and leaders at your church. Pray that God would encourage them and guide them through summer ministry opportunities. Take time to show them your appreciation.

## *Missional* ENGAGEMENT

**13** Pray for new NAB missionaries, Jeff and Sonya Kilmartin, who are currently raising support to go to Cameroon to work at the seminaries and with the Fulbe people.

**14** Praise God for national missionary Marijana Cizmanski's recent acceptance into the Lausanne Movement, which connects evangelical leaders across the world and helps to resource them.

**15** Pray for regional ministers Dr. James Renke (Upper Mississippi Region), Pastor Larry Burd (Atlantic Association), and Dr. David Ewing (Eastern Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

## *International* MISSIONS

**20** Pray for regional ministers Dr. Jim Leverette and associate Dr. Terry Fossen (Alberta Baptist Association) and regional minister Rev. Chris Gorman (Northwest Region). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve their pastors and churches.

**21** Pray for regional ministers Dr. Gordon Stork (Northern Plains Region) and Pastor Ken Solberg (Saskatchewan Baptist Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

**22** Pray for the Nor Cal regional minister, Rick Weber, today as he leads annual associational meetings in Elk Grove, CA. Pray for great favor and deepening unity as Nor Cal makes plans to plant more churches in the year ahead.

## *Leadership* DEVELOPMENT

**27** Pray for the staff of the NAB International Office as they serve the NAB missionaries and churches around the world.

**28** Pray for Executive Director Dan Hamil today as he travels to Taylor Seminary board meetings. Pray also for Seminary President David Williams and his team as they prepare women and men for service in the local church.

**29** Pray for Bud Fuchs as he partners with churches and campus ministries in Utah to reach international students for Christ.

## *Ethnic* PARTNERSHIP

## Missional ENGAGEMENT

**1** Ask God to give VP of Missional Initiatives Cam Roxburgh fresh vision into how to lead the NAB as we continue learning how we are designed by a missionary God to be a sign, servant, and foretaste of the Kingdom in our communities.

## International MISSIONS

**6** Thank God for Geoff Hartt and his work leading Hispanics for Christ. Pray that God continues to use this ministry to encourage Hispanic pastors and establish ministry hubs in underserved areas.

**7** Pray for the small group leaders and Sunday school teachers who serve your church. Pray that God would use them in powerful ways to teach His word with accuracy and integrity as they seek to transform lives.

**8** Pray for Craig and Maureen Moody as Craig fills in as field director in Cameroon while the Hohn family is on home assignment in North American.

## Leadership DEVELOPMENT

**13** Pray for the spread of the Gospel in closed countries around the world, especially the NAB work in East Asia. Pray that God's favor and protection would be rich and His grace abounding.

**14** Pray for Ron and Jeannie Seck. Pray for their work with CHE (Community Health Evangelism), as well as their reach among the Roma people.

**15** The Wagners are some of our newest NAB missionaries, and they are getting close to leaving for the field. Pray that the last of their support would come in very soon and their travel to Romania to help establish Camp Falcon Rock would be smooth.

## Ethnic PARTNERSHIP

**20** Pray for regional ministers Dr. Jim Leverette and associate Dr. Terry Fossen (Alberta Baptist Association) and regional minister Rev. Chris Gorman (Northwest Region). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

**21** Pray for the churches in Canada who are working to reach first nations people with the joy of Jesus.

**22** Pray for regional ministers Dr. Gordon Stork (Northern Plains Region) and Pastor Ken Solberg (Saskatchewan Baptist Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

**27** Pray for the pastors in your church today. Pray their ministries would be fruitful and would call people to a deeper engagement with God's love, mission, and plan in your neighborhood.

**28** Pray that our NAB churches and cooperating organizations would continue to grow in Christ-likeness and encourage one another.

**29** Pray for VP of Ministry Outreach Norm Poehlke as he continues to develop our North American church planting strategies and systems with the intention to help us start new churches that join God on mission in their neighborhoods.



## WEDNESDAY

**2** Pray for your regional minister today. Pray he is encouraged and challenged as he talks today with all of the other RMs on their monthly conference call. Thank God for the unity He has created among our regional minister team.

## THURSDAY

**3** Pray for the youth pastor and youth workers at your church. Pray that God would encourage them and guide them through this school year as they plan new ministry opportunities. Take time to show them your appreciation.

## FRIDAY

**4** Pray for Canadian pastors gathered in Banff, Alberta, at their pastors' retreat. Pray for a weekend of rest as they receive teaching on church planting from Stu Streeter, VP of Ministry Advancement.

## SATURDAY

**5** Pray for a greater depth of understanding and love today in your own life for the call of God to join Him on mission in your neighborhood and city.

**9** Pray for the NAB ministries in Japan. Pray especially for the Johnson family as they continue to build connections in the community. Pray also for the Ewing family as they are busy in the states on home assignment.

**10** Pray for the work being done in Brazil by Lyndell Campbell-Réquia and others training ministers of the Gospel through theological education.

**11** Pray for NAB missionary Elsie Lewandowski as she works with the homeschooling families in Cameroon. Ask God to supply her with all she needs.

**12** Tamas and Tunde Modi are national missionaries in Romania who are working with the Gerickes and Wagners to help establish Camp Falcon Rock. Lift up their ministry in prayer today.

**16** Pray for the NAB Executive Team as they are together today in Roseville, CA, to plan, pray, and strategize for continued direction and impact in the NAB family.

**17** Pray for the development of young leaders in the NAB family. Pray that their gifts are used in your church and their spiritual development grows as they serve God and His Kingdom.

**18** Pray for regional ministers Rick King (Florida Association), Rev. Rick Weber (Northern California Association), and Rev. Bob Klein (Southern California Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

**19** Pray for regional ministers Rev. Dan Heringer (Central Plains Region), Rev. Terry Holley (Great Lakes Association), and Dr. Bob Krahn (British Columbia Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

**23** Pray for regional ministers Dr. James Renke (Upper Mississippi Region), Pastor Larry Burd (Atlantic Association), and Dr. David Ewing (Eastern Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

**24** Pray that the children in Chain of Love's care would become more open to the Gospel and make their relationship with God a priority. Ask God to continue to bless each of them every day of their lives.

**25** Pray for NAB pastors who serve in the inner city of Philadelphia. Pray they are encouraged and inspired as they look to Sunday's impact on lives and encounters with God.

**26** Pray for VP of Leadership Formation Kent Carlson today as he serves in British Columbia with pastors from the BC region. Pray his training and investment into their lives bears much fruit for the Kingdom!

**30** Pray today for Dan Hamil as he gathers with other leaders from the National Association of Evangelicals in Kansas City, MO, to ensure the greatest impact in the United States through the life-giving Gospel of Jesus.

# INTERCESSOR NOVEMBER 2016

“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

Proverbs 11:25



“Teach me, Lord, to be generous!”

**Ron Norman**  
President, NAB Foundation

**A**s God responds to our prayer, we understand more clearly what it's like to be generous. Generosity includes the following principles:

**Respond to need, not to pressure:** The generous giver is prompted to give by seeing a need and being touched by it. The primary element is spiritual in nature. Giving is never to be done out of pressure or compulsion; it's a matter of grace, not law.

**Have an open heart and hand:** Nothing pleases God more than a heart that willingly yields to Him and a hand that willingly gives to Him.

**Be a river, not a reservoir:** Believers are channels, not containers. God's love and grace are to flow through us, not be held in us.

**Focus on your spirit, not the size of the gift:** The Macedonians had a joyful spirit that transcended their severe circumstances. They were poor yet rich, pressed down yet rising up, humbled yet exalted. What a beautiful picture they were of the way believers should be. Their generosity was exceptional, and the impact was widespread. “In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity” (2 Corinthians 8:2 NIV). \*

A prayer based on 1 Timothy 6:17-19

“O God, You have blessed me in such a way that in comparison to the vast majority of people in this world, I am rich! Help me not to be proud about that and not to put my trust in my possessions or my finances. Rather, help me to put all of my faith and hope in You and You alone! Help me to use my possessions and resources to do good and to be generous with those in need. You've made it clear that we should store treasure in Heaven, for it is the only safe investment for eternity. Thank You for Your generosity in sending Your Son to die for me. As a result, I want to live a life that bears fruit during my time on Earth and bring honor and glory to You for all eternity. Amen.”

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# Prayerful plans & Prayerful promises



Phil Yntema  
Stewardship Specialist,  
NAB Foundation

**R**etirement has been more challenging than I imagined. I thought I was well-positioned with income and expense budgets in hand, including my truck and trailer primed and ready. However, I discovered that there were more important priorities beyond budget. Here are three priorities that I have re-established for this chapter of my life.

**Purpose:** Christian counselor Dr. Henry Brandt once declared, “Without purpose, there is no reason to get up in the morning.” Now, I have heard that retirement is nothing more than eating until you get sleepy, then sleeping until you get hungry, but Proverbs 19:21 reveals that God has deeper purposes in mind beyond those that we have for ourselves. My wife, Terry, and I have decided to build a plan to be a spiritual blessing to our children and grandchildren, not to just spoil them but to bless them. We also decided to be a blessing to the local church we attend, serving where we can in between travels. I am energized by the purpose God has given me in retirement. I get up early to attack the day.

**Work:** My wife decided it would be a good idea for me to continue working part-time. As usual, she was right. Opportunities have arisen that were not in our budget. Since debt is out of the question and the work income is not counted in our budget, the additional cash allows us to spend it where we want, including being more generous to God and others. It’s kept me sharper mentally and given me more purpose. I have learned that work is a blessing, not a curse.

**Relationships:** I heard Dr. Brandt once say, “The older we become, the more life becomes about me—my aches, my pains, my needs.” It’s an impulse we have to fight. Relationships demand time and energy. Terry and I are working at giving to our immediate family, our siblings, and others we encounter. The older I get, the more precious these relationships become. As long as you can do so, keep on giving more than you expect to receive! ✨



Connie Salios  
Capital Campaign Specialist,  
NAB Foundation

**T**he timeline seemed almost unbelievable to me. It was seventy-five years ago when I made a public confession of my faith. That day on the way home from church, I told my brother, “Not only am I going to give God my whole life, but I’m also going to give Him my money.” I was not brought up going to church, so I can only assume that God placed those two ideas in my heart. I started to tithe even before I understood this aspect of the Biblical teaching on giving found in Leviticus.

About forty-eight years ago while I was shopping for a wedding anniversary gift for my wife, I determined to buy the best gift possible for her because I loved her so much. That caused me to start thinking, “What about what Matthew 22 says about our love for God?” So based on our love for God, my wife and I made a new commitment to increase our giving by one percent each year until we reached the goal we set for ourselves.

Twenty-eight years ago when my wife and I wrote our will and living trust, we made another commitment to God. Though our four children had reached adulthood, we adopted a fifth “child” that we named Charity. We were led to divide our assets—if any remained at our death—five ways; each child was to receive twenty percent. This included Charity: the churches we served or attended; the organization we worked for, the NAB; and one other Baptist organization we favored.

I was taught from Matthew 6:19–21 that the only thing we will take to heaven is what we have given away, including the time we served God, whatever talents or abilities we dedicated to God, and the money we gave to God, including to family and people in need.

Our personal commitment to give God our money included giving to family and others, which we believe is also a Biblical teaching based on 1 Timothy 5:8. Let me encourage you to consider following our example. ✨



## Walking with God

Dr. Allan Effa

Ray and Edith DeNeui Professor of Intercultural Studies  
Taylor College and Seminary

**T**he Bible is full of references to walking as a spiritual practice. The Israelites were disciplined by a forty-year wilderness walk. Annual pilgrimages kept alive their memory of God, cultivating an awareness of His presence in their national life. The prophet Micah distills the essence of God's requirement using an apt metaphor: "To do justice, love mercy, and *walk humbly with your God*" (5:7, emphasis added).

Prayer walks can be done in a variety of ways and for different purposes. In the spring of 2016, Taylor Seminary's Spiritual Formation course was offered at a retreat centre, and students went on a variety of prayer walks: a Contemplative Prayer Walk, looking at God's creation with a renewed sense of wonder; a Holy Spirit Walk, praying breath prayers of surrender and invitation to the Spirit; an Emmaus Walk, journeying and sharing with a spiritual companion; and a Prayer Garden Walk, with rest points and Scripture passages to ponder.

For many students, the Labyrinth Walk was a new way of walking with God in prayer. This early Christian practice is a mini-pilgrimage, with a slow winding movement toward God, time to rest in God's presence, and then a return to the world to live with new attentiveness to God. Our portable, canvas labyrinth mimics the mosaic labyrinths found on the floor of many cathedrals in Europe. Students are encouraged to take off their shoes and pick up a stone at the entrance, carrying it with them as they inch their way toward the centre. The whole journey takes from forty-five minutes to an hour. As they meander their way, they look back on their lives and seek ways to articulate their aspiration or need of God. When they reach the open space in the middle, they drop the stone and rest in Christ's presence for a period of time. Renewed in spirit, they make their way back out,

returning to the rhythm of daily life. Sometimes the stone symbolizes a particular burden or pain that the pilgrim is bearing. The Labyrinth Walk then becomes a journey of letting go and opening up to God's healing.

A student whose spouse had unexpectedly left him a few months earlier identified his wife with the stone. As he walked the winding path with its twists and turns, he traveled through the many memories of their years together, thanking God for the high and low points of their married life. When he reached the centre, he placed the stone at the feet of Jesus, recognizing that he had come to the end of this phase of the journey and could not carry the stone any further. He confessed his helplessness in the face of his wife's determination to separate from him, and he asked for God's presence and strength to carry him forward into the unknown future. He even found strength to pray for the one symbolized by the stone, that she would somehow find her way back to the Father's arms. Then he began his new phase of the journey, moving outward to the world, confident that life would bring new joys and moments of thankfulness and that God would go with him along the way.

Perhaps it's time for you to get up and go for a walk with God—not a power walk or sprint, but using a slow, deliberate pace, adopting a posture of surrender, opening yourself up to God's presence, and listening for His still, small voice. ■



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# Praying for NAB Youth Ministries



**Joe Broesamle**  
Chair, Youth Ministry Leadership Team

**T**hroughout my years in youth ministry, I have talked to many youth pastors who've shared with me their struggles. Often times they have shared discouragement over the members of their church who don't know what they do as youth pastors, or even what the youth workers do. Even worse, the church members do not seem to come talk to them unless there is an issue that needs resolved.

You can see how this would be a problem. It could seriously impact how our churches grow and how much our youth and youth workers feel like they are a part of the larger church family.

Regardless of the craziness that might happen during youth events or youth group, the entire purpose of everything youth pastors and youth workers do is so that the teenagers in our communities might understand the love Jesus has for them and find a desire in life to serve Him. This might manifest in unique ways—like making a trek to Orange, California, for The Gathering—but the Gospel is at the heart of what we do.

What does it take to be a youth pastor or youth worker? Some of the qualifications are obvious, like time and energy to serve and a passion to see the lives of teenagers change forever. It also takes a deep commitment to our own spiritual

health. If we aren't being filled ourselves, there's no way we can pour into the lives of our teens.

Even if you are not up to the task of working hands-on with the youth at your church, you can be a critical partner in the ministry through prayer.

If you don't have the energy or temperament for working with teens, you can certainly commit to praying for the volunteers and staff, as well as their spouses and children. Pray that they will maintain a good balance between work, home, and ministry; pray for vision; pray for unity between the leaders, volunteers, and church leadership; pray they would fall in love with Jesus more and more every day.

You can also pray for the youth. While the youth staff and volunteers are undoubtedly praying for their students, it is to their benefit and yours to join in. Pray for their spiritual development; pray they would feel loved and cared for by families within the church; pray they would find quality Christian adults who will love them unconditionally.

Most of all, just pray for the youth and the volunteers and staff who work with them. Doing so will shower blessings on them and open your heart to what God is doing in your church. ☺



**The Gathering 2017**—The Gathering is a chance for youth from NAB churches to meet in Orange, California. This mission trip/conference only happens every three years. The Super Early Bird price expires on October 31. Find out more information on our website, [www.wewilloverflow.org](http://www.wewilloverflow.org).

#### Consider praying for the event:

1. Pray for students to sign up. Our goal is to have 650–700 people in attendance.
2. Pray for the Youth Ministry Leadership Team as we plan and coordinate the event. Pray that we will find the speakers God desires for this event.
3. Pray for the NAB churches in Southern California who are planning the service project opportunities.
4. Pray for the youth workers who will help their students raise the funds necessary to drive or fly to Orange.



[www.wewilloverflow.org](http://www.wewilloverflow.org)  
[www.facebook.com/wewilloverflow](https://www.facebook.com/wewilloverflow)  
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# prayer & our heritage

Lucille Lengefeld  
Volunteer, NAB Heritage Commission

**S**ince I began volunteering at the North American Baptist Heritage Commission, located in the lower level of the Sioux Falls Seminary building, I have become increasingly aware of the awesome heritage we have as a conference. We have been raised in churches in which prayer played a huge part in our spiritual formation. Being very shy about public performance as a child, Wednesday night prayer meetings were akin to torture. All of us youngsters met in the church kitchen where two rows of green metal chairs were squeezed between the counters, and we were expected to pray in turn, right down the row! Our church was filled with good old German Baptists, who were convinced that German was the language of prayer, and my! Could they pray! (Not in German, of course; that era was in the past.)

G. A. Schulte, in *Memories from my fifty years of service in the home missionary work of the German Baptist Churches of North America*, wrote about similar meetings: “The prayer meetings every Friday evening were eagerly attended, and a powerful spirit of prayer prevailed in most of them with a spirit of joyful witness. These prayer meetings were a rich source of blessing for strengthening of spiritual life.”

In researching the histories of the North American Baptist churches, we have seen how the early churches were established on a strong foundation as the Lord’s direction and wisdom were earnestly sought through prayer. A heritage of prayer takes on different shapes and meanings depending on childhood influences and experiences, but in all cases a relationship with the Lord Jesus is of utmost importance. Regardless of our past history, NAB churches are striving to maintain this discipline. Is prayer a focus in your church? We must never forget that faith, through prayer, has the power to move mountains—in spite of what we see happening in the world around us.

The Heritage Commission is entering a new era when prayer—both by us and for us—is of vital importance, an era in which we are looking for new leadership due to the home-going of Director Jackie Howell. Her death came very suddenly and unexpectedly on August 21, 2016. Please pray with us that Jackie’s successor will be found and installed so that the work of the commission can proceed with a minimum of interruption. Jackie would want that. The NAB Heritage Commission exists to assist individuals and churches in preserving the story of God at work in our lives—as families, church families, and organizations serve God by serving the churches. ☪



# *In Memoriam*

## Jackie Howell

The entire NAB family is still mourning from the significant earthly loss of Jacquelyn K. Howell. Jackie, 77, passed away in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on August 21, 2016, after a short but courageous bout with cancer. While we are all grieving the loss of our friend, we rejoice together at a life well lived in the image of Christ. We are confident that her life with God—well formed in Christ while here on earth—finds itself very much at home in heaven today.

Jackie served in various capacities within the NAB family for many years, most recently as the director of the NAB Heritage Commission, where she served tirelessly to preserve the NAB history and tell the beautiful story of our conference heritage. She has also been a key contributor to *Onward*; every issue to date she has shared tales of churches, pastors, and faith communities of years gone by. Jackie's enjoyment over sharing these stories stemmed from the knowledge she held in the importance of remembering the past.

She also had a passion for Christian Education and taught many classes at her long-time home, Trinity Baptist Church in Sioux Falls. Jackie is survived by her two sisters, Frances Larson and Phyllis Howell; her brother, Harry Howell; and her long-time friend and co-teacher, Mary Auterman. Jackie is also survived by eight nieces and nephews and several grandnieces and grandnephews. Let us join together as an entire NAB family to pray for comfort and joy for the family during these difficult days of mourning.

## Randy Reese

It is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell for now to our dear friend, Randy Dennis Reese, 54. Randy suddenly and unexpectedly suffered a heart attack and passed away on August 11, 2016, in Abbotsford, British Columbia, while on a jog during a trip for VantagePoint3 Ministries.

Randy was a beloved friend of many within the NAB family and deeply connected with many NAB churches, as well as Sioux Falls Seminary where he received a Master of Divinity and served at various points as director of admissions and as an assistant professor of evangelism. He married his wife, Susan, on July 19, 1986, and their son, Liam, was born in April 2001.

Most recently, Randy was the founder and president of VantagePoint3, a ministry fostering depth and renewal and service in the church through the discipleship of Christian leaders. He was a lover of people and of good coffee. He experienced great joy in seeing people grow into what God made them to be and fulfilling what God called them to do. Randy's legacy continues in his wife, Susan; his son, Liam; his mother, Verna Dobko; his sisters, Cheryl Reese and Cynthia Nelson, and their families; his brother, Allen Dobko; his in-laws, Duane and Verla Heeren; his many other relatives; and the host of friends he's made throughout the years. Please join us in this trying time in praying for his family, as well as the ongoing ministry of VantagePoint3.

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The following is a listing of the home goings that have been reported to the NAB International Office for the *Intercessor* and *Servant Link* from July–August 2016.

*Arnold Roskens*

*Lowell Terveen*

*John W. Lundin*

*Alfred Fiedelleck*

*Hans R. Grob*








## True Friendship

**Les Collins**  
President, Church Investors Fund

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**A** strange thing happened a couple of years back while I was in Shanghai, sitting alongside their beautiful boardwalk called “the Bund.” It was a beautiful sunny day and I was enjoying the magnificence of the completely new city laid out before me.

With the sun shining off the river, I had fallen into that sort of trance one can slowly drift into when you are somewhere you want to remember for the rest of your life.

I was looking to my left when I felt a soft touch on my right cheek, and due to my trance-like state it took me a while to register the sensation. By the time I turned, whatever had caused it was gone. All I saw were two young women walking away with their back to me.

Eva, my wife, was a couple of hundred feet away watching me soak it all in and laughed when she saw what happened. Apparently a young woman had sat down quickly beside me and cuddled up close so she could put her head on my shoulder while her friend quickly took her picture with me. It was all very quick and done in seconds.

It is amusing to wonder who she might have thought I was. Who knows the point of it? We can only speculate that she wanted a picture with me so that she could use it to brag to her friends that she was in a relationship with a foreigner. Maybe that way her friends would see her as more important, all without having to bother actually building a real relationship.

*>>continued on next page >>*

In our culture, we laugh at such a notion because it seems so artificial, but I wonder how many of us do the same thing in our relationship with God.

How often do we use Him to get what we want without bothering to actually take the time to first get to know Him? When we need something, we quickly push our way into His presence, usually without first taking the time to connect with Him, like we would with a real relationship. I have sometimes wondered if this behavior causes God to long to be talked to as a true friend might?

**When I look at the number of times in which God appears to change His mind in the Old Testament, it really doesn't make any sense.**

Of course God is wiser and more powerful than any of us, and we should fear Him as we are told to do. Yet, at the same time, why would a God who knows everything, and created everything, take the advice of mere foolish humans—unless it was to build a sense of community with them?

To me the longing for a relationship seems to be the only reasonable reason that an all-knowing, all-powerful God would ever change His mind. Yet, there are many examples where He appears to do just that.

King David seemed to have that type of relationship with God. It was a relationship that was built on more than requesting things. Moses wrote about such a situation in Exodus 32:14, where it says after Moses and God had

talked, “So the Lord changed His mind.” Jeremiah had it happen as well in the 26th chapter of his book; and Isaiah appears to cause God to change His mind in the 31st chapter of that book.

Does God so desire real relationships with those who are genuine that at times He is willing to give and take in order to maintain that bond?

It is impossible to put ourselves completely into the mind of God, being that we are not Him; yet if we try, it does seem possible to imagine that a God who willingly died for us might also long for this type of relationship with us.

Maybe it is on this basis that we can become like those saints of old who built a true and authentic relationship, where that is not just a repetition of asks and one-way communication, but instead that type which is founded on the honesty of true friendship.

In that type of relationship, we commune with Him, talking over the things that we both care about, so that He also gets something out of the relationship too.

I think when we come to God with such a mindset we end up with even more than we might otherwise imagine. If we are sincere in our desire to bless Him, as much as He does us, we might end up understanding how He works. ■

## Who am I?



I sang first tenor in the Gospel Harmonizers Seminary Quartet. I pastored churches in SD, ND, IA, and OR, and later served as associate director of Church Planting for the NAB. I enjoyed

woodworking, gardening, and raising fruit trees. I lived in Oregon before God recently called me home.

Do you think you know who I am? Find out by visiting [www.CeIF.org](http://www.CeIF.org), emailing ([epond@cifnc.org](mailto:epond@cifnc.org)) or calling Ellie Pond at 800-543-2343, ext 233. ■

## Living H<sub>2</sub>O

***“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” —Romans 12:2***





# 7 Questions

with Pastor Chris Gorman  
NABNW Regional Minister

**Q:** Would you tell us about your family?

**CG:** I was married at age 19 and have been married to Kristi for almost twenty-four years now. I have a 14-year-old son, a 13-year-old daughter, and a 10-year-old son. Tuesday is family devotion night. We also love sports and spend a lot of time on the various ball fields, fishing, and hiking. One crucial feature of our family is, for the last eleven years, we have ministered together twice a year on a Native American reservation.

**Q:** What led you to becoming a pastor?

**CG:** In my hometown I had a reputation of being a “bad boy,” but after going to church with Kristi, I became a Christian at 18 years of age. In my senior year of high school, I had a hunger for the Bible and my youth pastor just poured into me. Before I knew it I was sharing my testimony at various churches throughout the community. Then, I was at a prayer breakfast, we bowed in prayer and when I looked down I saw a note my youth pastor put on my chair that simply read “surrender.” It was at that moment I knew this is what I needed to pursue. Over the years, the men that mentored me were the difference.

**Q:** What is the most challenging part of church planting?

**CG:** Initially it was transitioning from youth pastor to church planter. A lot of eyes were on me and I felt great pressure to succeed. Also, we did not have a ton of finances, and the overwhelming messiness of people’s lives we were working with was a challenge. Having the joys of evangelism was easy, but saying goodbye to people we have done life with and discipled that have left the church for various reasons was difficult. It affected my entire family.

**Q:** What is your life verse?

**CG:** Romans 5:6–8 has been with me since I first became a Christian. “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Also, 1 and 2 Thessalonians is an incredible picture of discipleship.

**Q:** How did God lead you to serve as regional minister?

**CG:** Nowhere was it in our plans—at least not at this stage of our lives, and definitely not in the Northwest. All of our family

lives in the Midwest. After much resistance, we realized maybe we were being disobedient by not at least praying about it. We finally prayed about it during family devotions, asking for God’s will to be done. This led to a trip by our entire family to the Northwest where we could again pray about it. One big factor was that I wouldn’t take the position unless another shepherd was in place who could take over the reigns at our church in Hartford, South Dakota. God answered all our prayers.

**Q:** What do you most look forward to as regional minister?

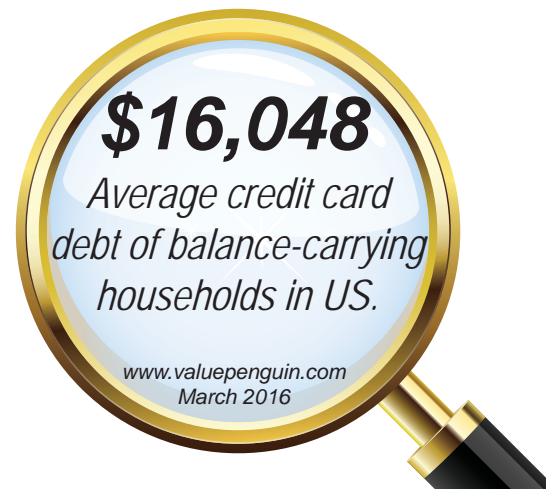
**CG:** I love the local church! I have a heart to care for pastors and leadership of the local churches. Are they surviving? How are their marriages? Beyond that, discipleship is messy, but we make things a lot harder than they should be. What God calls us to is actually quite simple—to make disciples and be committed to the body of Christ. We need good theological education in our churches—it fuels ministry.

**Q:** How can we pray for you?

**CG:** First and foremost is our family and their adjustments; and quality friendships. Also, that I will be patient. I get excited. I see what they can do, but what needs to be focused on now is to help build a strong foundation. ■



## Uncover the Facts







# Stop Thief!

**Bob Glim**  
Church Investors Fund

**I**dentify Theft. These two words together were not as scary twenty years ago as they are today. It seems everywhere we turn we hear of someone falling victim to identity theft. It is a concern for many of us but only becomes real when it happens to us. The truth is identity theft is one of the fastest-growing financial frauds. In fact, it was one of the top complaints reported to the Federal Trade Commission in 2015, increasing more than 47% from 2014.

Criminals can get the information they need to assume your identity from a variety of sources. Probably the most obvious way is when we have our wallet stolen. Often, by the time we realize it was stolen and not simply misplaced, we have already been compromised. Unfortunately, there are other ways they are obtaining our personal information.

They may “trash dive” through our garbage, and if we are not careful, our garbage may end up being their windfall. One of the best things we can do here is to shred all ATM receipts, credit card statements, and bank statements before throwing them out.

Criminals may even approach us in person or by telephone. Personally, I recently received a voicemail from someone claiming to be with the IRS. They claimed I owed money and that it was urgent that I called them back as soon as possible. Uhh...Noooo! This, and other similar phishing techniques, are simply an attempt to scare you into sharing your personal information. One simple effort we can do is to not answer phone calls we don't recognize. Let it go to voicemail. Then, listen to the voicemail, and if it is an obvious scam, block the number so as to not receive future calls from the number. If someone does get in touch with you, NEVER give any personal information over the phone. If you must provide this information, a good practice would be to hang up and call them back at a number you know is associated with the reputable company with which you are sharing your personal information.

Most credit and debit cards now have “convenient chips”

embedded in the card. More and more retailers are recommending the use of chip readers in their stores—which is fine, but there are cases showing that these chips now make it easier for a thief to steal our information. For example, I read recently where a scanner capable of reading the information on these cards was being kept in a laptop bag. Then, the thief would simply walk by the bag containing your credit card, and your information would be swiped. It's a scary thought, but also very real. How do we combat this threat? If we don't want the chip in our card, often times we can ask the bank or credit card company to issue a credit card without the chip. A second option might be to obtain an RFID wallet. This theft prevention technology is sewn right into the wallet. Remember, convenience for you can sometimes mean convenience for thieves.

Today, the sources containing personal information that thieves could use are so numerous that it is extremely difficult to prevent identity theft. However, we can minimize the chances of becoming a victim. Thieves are looking to prey on the gullible ones. Don't become paranoid, but do make yourself aware of the possibilities, and do everything in your power not to be their next victim. If you think someone might be scamming you, take a deep breath and slow things down. Don't answer questions, no matter how hard they pressure you. Always allow yourself the chance to process things before giving out information. ■



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