

40 Year Service Award Winners Biography – Dan Ibsen

Dan grew up in Spruce Grove. He is second oldest in a family of 7 children. His parents were Stuart and Edith Ibsen. Melodie was born in Assiniboia, SK and spent her early years in Medicine Hat and Jr and Sr High school years in Edmonton. She is the oldest of 2. Her parents were Horatio and Hope McCombs.

We both sensed our call to missions at an early age through missions conferences at the C&MA churches we attended. We met at the UofA where we were both taking our BEd degrees in preparation for going overseas. From there we went to CTS to complete our preparation for missions and became the church-planting pastor couple of the Westlock Alliance Church in 1979. In 1985 we applied as IWs with the C&MA and were assigned to Guinea, West Africa.



We worked in Guinea from 1986-2017 where we served in leadership training for the national church, field leadership for the CMA team there, and developed a training program for mission interns and apprentices. During the Ebola threat in 2014, we evacuated to Niger with our team of 2 couples and 5 interns where we all lived together in one house for 9 months. We were still friends by the end of that time—a miracle!!

In 2017, when we returned to Canada, we taught as IWs in residence at Ambrose University. We greatly enjoyed that experience and it helped us re-acclimatize to Canadian culture after being away for most of 31 years. In 2020 we retired and now live in Spruce Grove.

We have 4 children. Our oldest, Corilee, is a middle school math and French teacher at Dakar Academy in Senegal. Our second oldest, Charles with his wife Angela and 3 children, also serves at Dakar Academy as COO. His wife Angela also teaches at the school. Our third, Kyle and his wife Maggie and 2 children, live and work in construction in Newnan GA. Our youngest, Kerriane, is the special needs teacher and assistant administrator of the American Embassy

school in Niamey, Niger. We are thankful that our children all are seeking to follow Jesus even though that means we have to travel to visit our kids and grandkids.

Our kids attended boarding school, first in Cote d'Ivoire then in Dakar, Senegal. They had to be evacuated from their school in Cote d'Ivoire because of a civil war. Rebel soldiers were camped on one side of the campus and the government forces on the other side. They were firing over the school. Our youngest son who was in Grade 8 said he thought he might die in the crossfire, but that he wasn't afraid because he knew where he would spend eternity. That period was a challenging time for all of us.

Today, Dan loves gardening, reading, serving as an elder in our church and seeking ways to help others engage with God in His mission. Melodie is mentoring several women who have had very difficult lives, leads the women's prayer group at the church and she is teaching grade one/two Sunday School.