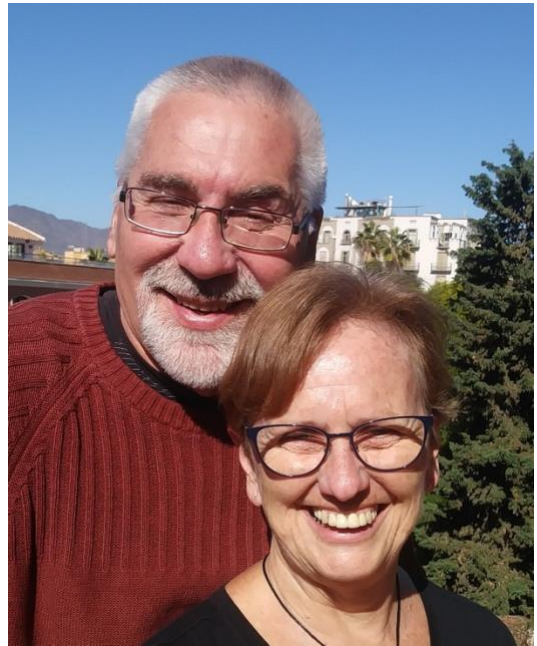


## 40 Year Service Award Winners Biography – Ernie Klassen

Ernie & Marilyn met at Canadian Bible College in 1973, 50 years ago!

They were both in school because of a conviction to serve the Lord, Marilyn with a strong missionary call, and Ernie with a strong sense of call to ministry anywhere, that grew into missions with such powerful preaching as LL King and others and a strong missions focus.

We share a similar conservative background with both sets of parents willing and eager for their kids to pursue their dreams, and content to have one or more of their kids serve in ministry.



What is important to us is to be obedient to God. To fulfill our call. To serve the Lord with the gifts, talents, experiences, and personality that God has given us. Marilyn's life was turned around when the Asbury revival of 1970 spilled over to CBC campus in Regina. Ernie's experience of revival came a little later through the Sutera twins. Revival and awakening are super important to both of them.

Welcome to our family: The joy of our lives is our two sons and their wives (Daniel / Jessica and David / Boyda) and their children, our 3 grandkids. (Kaden 10, Owen 7) (sons of Daniel and Jessica) and Harlan (6 months) son of David and Boyda. (See picture attached).

We have served the Lord together for 47 years. We started off in our home service in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Then, after grad work for Ernie, we headed off to Costa Rica to learn Spanish. We finally arrived on the field of Peru, which was experiencing a vibrant and powerful revival and church growth movement called LED (Lima towards an Encounter with God). (This year, 2023, they celebrate their 50th anniversary of this remarkable move of God). What a joy to be a part of this.

After 22 years, we were redeployed to Mexico City. We had successfully worked ourselves out of a job, an important part of our job description. Mexico was a very different and very difficult chapter in our lives. We both resigned from the mission and returned to Canada. Ernie pastored a church in Belleville and Marilyn surrendered her credentials but continued to serve as an active volunteer in the church of Belleville, Ontario and with Life and Leadership Development at the District level.

After 7 years, the call to the mission field compelled us to resign and re-apply as missionaries, this time to Spain. Marilyn helped start a Bible School and Ernie was heavily involved in teaching. Then our focus shifted to lay the foundations for a school of discipleship near Alicante, Spain. Ernie pastored an International Church and continued in teaching. We saw the church blossom as well as the School of Discipleship take shape.

We finished our career back at Ambrose University and, serving in teaching and connecting as Missionaries in Residence, retiring officially at the end of December 2021.

Since retirement both Ernie and Marilyn have volunteered with an NGO (Jack Neufeld) out of Calgary called "Communities for Life" which focuses on a series of projects aimed at creating self-sustainability in a very poor section on the outskirts of Lima called Manchay. This is proving to be very rewarding as it gives them both opportunities to return to a country they love, reconnect with colleagues, and have some input into a project in Manchay. Ernie continues to preach, teach, and write as doors open.

Interesting facts: Marilyn loves to work in projects involving design and construction, as well as mentoring and discipling individuals along the way.

Ernie has published two books in Spanish related to preaching, revival, and Jonathan Edwards.

Difficult Memory: We lived and served in Peru during a period of intense terrorism. While this was what God used to open the hearts of many people, it also was stressful to live under a "military coup" with a 10 o'clock curfew. Car bombs going off. It created stress but was worth it all to see people turn to the Lord in huge numbers.

Funny Memory: A special happy memory was to have our firstborn son and his wife, and their two children visit us in Spain and help Marilyn celebrate her 65th birthday.

Final words: We have served the Lord together for 47 years. Technically, because Marilyn surrendered her credentials during my 7 years in the pastorate, our years of service do not coincide, but certainly we have been and continue to be a team.