



David Alan Belsey

June 30, 2024

November 28, 1945 – June 30, 2024

David Alan Belsey, a devoted pastor, educator, and mentor, passed away on June 30, 2024, in Toronto, Ontario, at the age of 78 due to complications from chronic lung disease. Born on November 28, 1945, in Midland, Ontario, David spent his life dedicated to his faith, family, and community.

David spent his early years in Midland, where he developed a love for carpentry under the guidance of his father. He displayed his athletic prowess early on, winning a high jump competition in Grade 8 and securing the Jr Track and Field Cup in Grades 9 and 10. Between Grades 10 and 11, David embraced his Christian faith, a decision that shaped the course of his life. His commitment was solidified with his baptism in Grade 11, an event he fondly recalled as marking the experience of his first miracle.

His life in ministry was launched with the preaching of his first sermon at the age of 19. He pursued a Bachelor of Theology degree from Canadian Bible College in Regina, Saskatchewan, graduating in 1968. In 1969, he married the love of his life, Pamela Dolce (nee Klemke), with whom he shared 55 good years. Together, they raised three daughters, Susan, Maryruth, and Heather, each finding success and happiness in their relationships and career paths.

Continuing his academic pursuits, David graduated Cum Laude with a Master of Divinity degree from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in 1972 and later earned a Master's of Theology from the University of Toronto in 1976. His dedication to learning culminated in completing his second dissertation in fulfillment of a Doctorate of Ministry degree from Fuller Seminary in 1998.

David's career was marked by significant contributions to various Christian ministries and educational institutions. David served as a pastor with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Hamilton, Ontario, and Edmonton, Alberta, mentoring many young people and encouraging over 17 to enter ministry. He established "The Inside Story" Christian Books and Music Store in Edmonton in 1976, and started the first small group in Canada while at Millbourne Alliance Church around 1978.

David's legacy of Christian leadership continued as he became an Associate Pastor at Beulah Alliance Church and oversaw the construction of their new facility on 178th street. He later took on roles as Vice President at Canadian Bible College / Canadian Theological Seminary in Regina, Saskatchewan, and Director of Advancement at Rocky Mountain College. He also served as a member of the Board of Canadian Council of Christian Charities. At the culmination of his influential career, he shared his expertise as a faith-based fundraising consultant helping dozens of churches, camps, and schools expand their work.

David's thoughtful and playful life included encouraging his daughters to stretch their minds and experience new things, passing on his wisdom, taking his family on adventures across Europe, Canada, and the US, embarking on many travel excursions with Pam and their friends, playing golf, puttering with various projects like bee keeping, and sharing his goofy sense of humour and passion for learning. He was a true "Jack of all trades," taking pleasure in repairs and builds—evident in constructing an energy-efficient home outside

Stony Plain, contributing to renovations in his daughters' homes, and building a butcherblock countertop for Heather. He also dabbled in technology and writing stories about his ancestors.

David's faith was his anchor, embodied in his favorite scripture, Isaiah 44:8 : "Do not tremble; do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim my purposes for you long ago? You are my witnesses—is there any other God? No! There is no other Rock—not one!" His life was a reflection of his belief in the strength and steadfastness of God, whom he served diligently throughout his life.

David is survived by his beloved wife, Pamela Dolce Belsey (nee Klemke), his three daughters—Susan Deering (and her husband Wayne Deering and their three sons, Bryn, Luke, and Joshua), Maryruth Elizabeth Belsey Priebe (and her husband Jeffrey Priebe), and Heather Rae Belsey (and her partner, Carl Funk)—as well as his siblings Laurie Belsey (and his wife Annalise Belsey and their three children and grandchildren) and Lois Belsey.

David's dedication to faith, family, and community left an indelible mark on all who knew him. He will be deeply missed, leaving behind a heritage of faith, love, and service.

The Celebration of David's life will take place on July 25, 2024 at 1:30 pm Eastern Time in person at First Alliance Church (3250 Finch Ave E, Toronto, ON M1W 2Y1) and will be webcast for those unable to come in person <https://youtube.com/live/MveaRn6rPEw> .

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in David's name to Samaritan's Purse (<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/>) or The Salvation Army (<https://salvationarmy.ca/donations/>).

Tribute Wall

CM

“ *I just found out of David's passing today and I am deeply sorry. Definitely not a lot of time but it brings my family comfort that our beloved Brian's lung donation gave you an additional 2.5 years with David. I prayed that it would be a lot longer. My deepest condolences.*

cindy steinman (Brian's mom) - January 03, 2025 at 03:56 PM

MM

“ A tribute to the family of David Belsey by Murray Moore

When David and Pam first came into our lives at RockPointe Church they very quickly became involved in ministry there, and so began our friendship. David had many years of education and training from theology to serving on Church and para-church boards. David and I spent many hours discussing what was the appropriate approach in resolving various governance and communication issues relating to appropriate handling of these administrative areas (many of which certainly were not theological issues!!). Drawing on his many years of experience through which he had seen most issues about which I was concerned, he provided wise and expedient direction.

David was soon the Treasurer of the Church and I along with others served as his advisors on the Finance Committee. He and I agreed on most matters we faced in the church finance world. He supported me when I suggested we needed to set up a “Capital Replacement Reserve” to fund the replacement of worn out capital items so that we had the resources to be able to fund the replacement when the time came.

When the Church decided that we needed to undertake a fundraising campaign as part of a capital expansion, the natural choice to lead the effort was David. Not only was he our point person, but David also had professional expertise in training church leaders to raise funds. So David walked us through his own personal training program which had been tested over time to achieve successful results. From the start, he admonished us to bath the campaign in prayer and spend time in scripture meditation in order to come to a compelling vision. He also insisted we recruit volunteers to carry out the steps needed to ensure we reached out to all potential donors in the congregation, and encouraged us to act with complete transparency for the church members to have the maximum impact. I will never forget feeling the pressure of completing the potential donor visitations I had been assigned, each

of which ended with a request to support the campaign. When the pledges were counted, the pledged amounts exceeded all of our reasonable estimates. I attribute the success of the campaign to David's leading us to be dependent on God and to be willing to encourage people to get on board. What an exciting time it was.

David continued to work with churches, camps and other organizations in the area of "fund development," and even launched his own Faith-Based Fundraising Consultancy. While his talent was in fundraising, mine was in finance, and so he invited me to be his accountant and tax advisor for the new company. I also advised David on his and Pam's personal finances, and while they lived in Calgary, it was easy to arrange a meeting before the end of February each year to optimize the tax planning. After agreeing on a strategy, I would leave David to ensure his books matched what we had decided, though sometimes this process didn't go as smoothly as we'd planned. It was easy enough to visit to determine what entries needed to be corrected. Over the years, David also asked me to help with daughter Maryruth's complex cross-border personal and corporate taxes for her and her husband. I also sometimes counselled David against making dubious financial decisions like trusting his tax returns to a fraudulent accountant. It was a good thing that his work took him into the theological rather than primarily finance.

On a personal level, I counted David as a good friend. I found him very easy to talk to, albeit he was a bit of a non-conformist when it came to his political leanings. Pam and David's home was filled with hospitality and David ensured that those around him knew of his assurance for his eternity. I look forward to meeting David in Heaven and seeing what kind of projects he's up to (fundraising or finance?) and whether his political perspectives have changed.

David left a large mark on my life, and I know I am better because of him.

Murray Moore - July 25, 2024 at 12:33 AM

KW

“ I remember Dave as an empowering and caring leader. In a time in my life when there seemed like little opportunity was available to me as a university graduate with no experience, Dave saw potential in me. He gave me a job opportunity and even set me up to work from home. This type of innovative thinking was way beyond his time. He gave me the space to be creative and use my gifts. He embraced me as a member of his team. I learned from his steady presence and kind demeanour. His actions spoke louder than his words and I knew he was behind me even when there was criticism from other places. His belief in me was a gift that I will forever cherish. That impact has remained with me for over 30 years. What a honourable legacy he leaves.

Kerry Wiens - July 25, 2024 at 12:01 AM

DG

“ Dave Belsey was the Associate Pastor at Delta Tabernacle in Hamilton when I was part of that church and attending university. It was his counsel that made me consider becoming a pastor instead of a geography teacher. His counsel 50 years ago redirected my life significantly and I am very grateful. I honour Dave for the way God spoke through him to me.
Doug Gerrard.

Doug Gerrard - July 24, 2024 at 10:20 PM

ES

“ Dave was a great man of faith and servant at heart. He had a positive impact on my life as a youth and young man for which I am grateful. His didcation to the Lord was only matched by his love for his family. His humour brought a smile to many faces, and his wisdom has left behind a path of blessing.

Evan Schaefer - July 22, 2024 at 05:15 PM

BM

“ We are glad we got to know Dave at RockPointe church. He was an engaging fellow who often asked questions relating to faith. We will miss Dave and all his unique mannerisms. Praise God He is with His Saviour.

Bob and Ruth Marescaux - July 15, 2024 at 09:11 PM



“ David was my boss from 2000-2002 and I'm so thankful he took a chance by giving me a lot of responsibility for my young age. He was kind and warm to others, always showing care and seeking to stay connected. He played a key role in the formation of what is now known as Ambrose University in Calgary. I've recently been advising my church through a successful capital campaign and some of what I knew to share came from my two years working with David. I have fond memories from those years and wish his extended family peace and love.

Loren Hagerty - July 11, 2024 at 11:51 AM

LG

“ Dear Pam and family,
I'm SO sorry to read about Dave's passing and yet he's now face to face with our Saviour. Such a comfort.
I will always remember him with fondness as my all time favourite boss of any job I ever had when I worked at Inside Story. He was fun and also a great teacher - very kind and helpful to all who entered the store.
I cherished the few times we 'chatted' on Facebook and his optimistic outlook and love for Jesus.
I will be watching his memorial service and pray for you all and also send my love.
In Christ's Love,
Lois Gitzel

Lois (Derman) Gitzel - July 09, 2024 at 04:43 PM

PW

Dear Pam and family

Our contact goes back a long ways to CBC in 1966. Our journeys have been quite different as we served our Lord but very similar in that God has always been our protector and provider. May you find the provision of His Grace to be sufficient during this time of grieving and mourning.

With our love and prayers

Pat and Ardyce Worsley

Patrick Worsley - July 11, 2024 at 07:39 PM

GD

I had the privilege of working with Dave in roles at Beulah Alliance, Rocky Mountain College, and Ambrose University. Dave was a gem of a guy. A devoted follower of Jesus, a great family man, a stellar team member, and always a committed churchman. His life was a blessing, his memory is an inspiration.

Love to his family.

Gordon Dirks

Gordon Dirks - July 24, 2024 at 11:37 PM