



## REMEMBERING John Balzer

July 21, 1936 - March 14, 2024



John Balzer, died peacefully in the morning of March 14th , 2024, at Menno Home in Abbotsford, BC at

the age of 87. We thank the staff at Menno Home for the loving care he received these past few months

and his church families at Central Heights MB and Clearbrook MB for their support and love.

John was born on July 21, 1936, in Eyebrow, Saskatchewan to Daniel and Sarah Balzer who were recent

immigrants from Russia. He was the second youngest of 8 children. A few years later the family

relocated to Vauxhall, Alberta. After attending Coaldale Bible School, John, his brother Dan with sister

Margaret moved to BC for work. It was during this time that he met a young lady named Bertha Loewen

who was in nurses training. After 3 long years of courtship while John impatiently waited for Bertha to

finish her training, they married on October 5, 1962.

In many ways their marriage was the ultimate adventure! Choosing to live and do ministry in places like

Ocean Falls, Terrace, Williams Lake, Elm Creek (MB), Courtney, and Armstrong and their travels all over

Canada and around the world. Their marriage also had an extra ingredient - grit. It

not only made them

amazing parents to son Glenn, and daughters Sharon and Marilyn, but it also sustained them through

difficult financial times, the death of a daughter, complicated ministry moments and ultimately Bertha's

passing

God then brought John his second love, Isabelle Cooper-Newall and they married on February 28, 2004.

They began a new journey filled with love, joy and grandchildren old and new. Referring to their new

joined family as Yours, Mine, Ours. With a mutual love of missions and travel, they adventured far and

wide across the globe. On February 11, 2022, Isabelle, after a short battle with cancer went to be with

Jesus.

Through everything John had a passion for people, particularly leading people to a deeper walk with

Jesus. There wasn't a room that he didn't enter that he didn't light up! His ability to make everyone

feel loved and cared for drew people in. His voice, presence, authenticity, humor and laughter was

contagious.

John's passion, positive spirit and resilience through his own loss and heartache inspired and influenced

countless people in their walks of faith. His passion to connect with others, whether it be family or

friends, was a highlight for many with his voice on the other end of the phone praising the Lord and

talking about better days ahead.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 42 years Bertha Balzer (Loewen); their infant daughter

Marilyn Rose; his second beloved wife of 18 years, Isabelle Balzer (Cooper-Newall), son-in-law Gordie

Newall; his parents, Daniel and Sarah Balzer; sisters Dora (John) , Mary and Verna (Peter), brothers

Walter (Marion), Jake (Esther) and Dan.

He is survived by his children, and grandchildren; Glenn (Rita) Balzer, Kyle Balzer, (Monica) their children

Jon and Joel; Quinten (Michaelya) Balzer and Sharon Balzer Pound and her

children Lille, Rocco, Scarlett

and Hayven. Daughter-in-law; Joanne Newall and son Scott (Allysha), and their children Rowan and

Freya.

He leaves behind one sister and many nieces, nephews and their children.

In lieu of flowers, donations in John's memory can be made to Mennonite Central Committee and just

like John lived his life, give of your time, talent and treasures and consider volunteering in your local

community.

Remember, our best days are still ahead!

