

BILL HALL

President
GCI Canada

Background:

I was born and raised in Wawa, Ontario, Canada, a small mining town located near the North Shore of Lake Superior.

How do you serve in GCI? I have been President of GCI Canada since September 2018. In addition, I have been a pastor of three churches in North West Saskatchewan since 1998. Before that I worked in the Canadian National Office, starting in 1981, and I still continue to edit and write for Canadian GCI publications.

How did you connect with GCI? I was introduced to GCI by my mother, Roberta, and started attending church at the age of seven. Most of my church experience was attending smaller, remote congregations. I grew up with a number of other relatives attending our fellowship. Both my mother and father, Monty, and older sisters played a major role in my spiritual formation, and they showed me the love of Jesus through their actions and love for me and others.

What are some of your reasons for choosing to participate with GCI in ministry? From a very young age, I was encouraged not to be just a “joiner” or a “belonger,” but an active participant. Added to this part of my personal “DNA” was a commitment as a teenager to go wherever Jesus would lead me. As various “doors” or paths have been opened to me, I have always gone in that direction, seeking the will of Jesus in my life.

What is your ministry or calling? I have had a number of different positions within GCI over the years. I love being a pastor and have gained many lessons from those who have allowed me to be a part of their lives. Being Canadian President is one of the greatest challenges and blessings in my life. I have the opportunity to help shape the future of GCI in Canada in partnership with our pastors, membership, and the Holy Spirit.

What is the legacy you hope to leave? I hope to be able to leave a vibrant and Spirit-led GCI in Canada.

Who has invested in you to support you in your ministry? My family, and especially my wife, Averil, have had a huge impact on my ministry. Also, my local congregations have been very supportive of my change of roles over the years.

Who are you teaching and equipping to help with this ministry? My desire is to be a resource and encouragement to enable others, whether in our National Office or in our Canadian ministry, to be the best pastors or employees that they can be.



Get to Know Bill

MY FAVORITE PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE IS REVELATION 21:1-4. IT IS A MESSAGE FULL OF HOPE AND RESTORATION.



1. For what are you most grateful? I'm grateful for my health and the fact that I have family and friends that support me. They also have become a part of my story. Coming from a family of storytellers, this is so incredibly important in my life.

2. What energizes you? I am energized when I see people living out their lives in community. I also am so encouraged when I see growth in others who I have had some influence on.

3. What is one of your greatest accomplishments? Outside of my church work, my participation in setting up a local food bank, my involvement with the Food Banks Saskatchewan (as Executive Director), and being on Network Council of Food Banks Canada stands out as one of my greatest accomplishments – especially when I was recognized for my work in the Food Bank community by receiving Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee medal in 2012.

4. Theme song for your life? “When It Has All Been Said and Done” by Robin Mark. To me, this is how I want to be remembered.

Struggle or life lesson you would like to share: My struggle with depression has been something I have had to deal with over the years. I have been blessed in knowing when a bout is coming and have been taught some good coping skills to help me to weather the storm that depression brings in my life. Suffering from a mental illness has helped me to understand and to be empathetic to others who deal with mental illness. Sometimes it seems like there is no light at the end of the dark tunnel of depression, but I have discovered over the years that there are a lot of people in the same boat, and there is help out there. One doesn't have to suffer in silence.