

Pastor Ken Kvistad



Our family landed in Geneva in 1970 from the U.S. via Kingston Jamaica, brought here by a multinational corporation based in Geneva.

Milli and I had met in Athens in 1963 while we were graduate students in France and Germany. It was love at first sight. One month later we were engaged, one year later married and soon came our first child Kristina, then Kirk, followed by Karin.

Since we were both German and French speakers, keen to return to Europe, the English/Spanish speaking Caribbean lost its hold on us and were happy to accept a chance to come back to Europe in April 1970. By the 1980's the international corporate business lifestyle and intense traveling schedule was taking a heavy toll on our family life and we felt the call to intensify our Christian roots and family participation. In a Christian counselling session, I had a 'Road to Damascus' encounter with God and a clear call to follow Christ.

This 'call' led me to attend Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary for a MA Degree in (Boston USA) and then back to Geneva and Ordination as a Congregational (CCCC) Minister at Crossroads Church in 1995.

At an Ecumenical Cursillo weekend in Geneva, I was asked to join the Cursillo Ministry and was active on the Geneva Cursillo Pastoral Team for 15 years, before moving to Neuchatel in 2016. During these intense biannual weekends, I was called on to teach, lead prayer, and preside in healing, reconciliation and Eucharistic services.

Through Cursillo I met many Geneva area Christians and ministry leaders. In 1997, I was asked by HTC Chaplain Keith Kimber to come to HTC and to serve by leading reconciliation and healing prayers at a difficult time. I continued serving under the next Chaplain Mike French in preaching and facilitating small group study.

This ministry expanded and was formalized into preaching and officiating at Communion services at HTC and La Côte Churches by Extension, with Bishop David Hamid's Letter of Permission under the Ecumenical Canons. Under these 'Letters of Permission' May 2011, I served Chaplain Roy Taylor (Geneva), and both Paul Holley and Carolyn Cooke at La Côte. From 2015 (with Bishop David's Permission renewed) to the present time, I served at All Saints Vevey, St Peters Chateau d'Oex and Neuchatel English Churches.

My ministry passion has always been to share God's living Word in Spirit and Truth just as Christ modelled on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24) and to marvel at how miraculously Christ is able to set our hearts on fire, purifying us and inflaming our passion to continue incessantly sharing this unextinguishable Love, this Living Word and his Shalom Peace with others!

Praise and Prayer: I am blessed as a Congregational ordained Pastor to have been allowed to share you Lord within the Ecumenical community and the Anglican Communion in the Cantons of Geneva, Vaud and Neuchatel for the past 40 years! Thank you!

I pray that you Lord will continue setting our hearts on holy fire, continue calling on us to share your Word in Spirit and Truth, and that we will continue responding faithfully (Romans 10: 9-15)... 'here we are Lord, send us!'. We stand ready and able to walk the dusty, winding road together with you in hand and its crown of thorns and beds of roses along the way so that others may hear and will be blessed by you!

'Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness...in his favour is life: **'weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.'** - Psalm 30 quoted behind the Holy Trinity Church altar in Geneva.