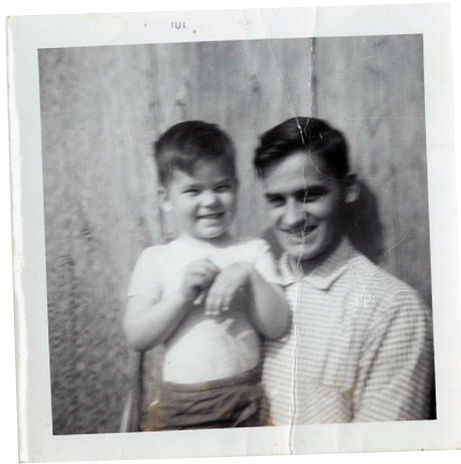


REMEMBERING *THE MAN WE LOVE*



LEON *Joseph* FONTAINE
1962 - 2022



*“One of my favourite verses in the Bible is John 10:10,
which I slightly paraphrase as something like this:*

‘Jesus came so we could get a life!’

*It’s time that we stop living boring, safe little Christian lives and
start thinking differently about God, about life, and about ourselves.”*

– Leon Fontaine

Dad was born in Porcupine Plains, Saskatchewan, on November 25, 1962. His parents, Cameron and Jacquie Fontaine, pastored a church there until 1969, at which time they made the move to lead the Weldon Pentecostal Church.

The Fontaine home was always filled with music and 4-part harmony singing. There, he developed a love for worship and learned to play piano, guitar, and trumpet.

Dad was a natural-born athlete and enjoyed playing many different sports. He had a great arm and excelled at throwing the javelin. In 1980, while attending Birch Hills School in Saskatchewan, Dad set a Senior High Boys Javelin record, which he still holds to this day. This sparked a dream to play in the Olympics, so he began training and competing.



Weldon youth to Summer Games

Sixteen-year-old Leon Fontaine of Weldon is off to the Western Canada Summer games held in Saskatoon August 12 to 19, to compete in the javelin competition.

Leon started on the tough road to the games back in June when he received a gold medal for placing first in the javelin event at the provincial track and field, sponsored by the Department of Education.

He was invited to a training session in Regina the week-

end of June 23rd. The coach there encouraged him to enter the Alberta track and field championships in Edmonton on July 7th. This was an open competition and he placed third, receiving the bronze medal.

Late in July he tried out for the Western Canada Summer games and his second-place finish gave him a berth on the Saskatchewan team.

Best of luck in the Western Canada games, Leon.





In April 1980, Dad's family moved from Weldon, SK, to Selkirk, MB, to pastor New Life Community Church.

A few years later, Dad felt a strong pull in his heart to ministry and decided to withdraw from Olympic training.

At the age of 19, while Dad continued to volunteer as the youth leader for New Life, he became one of Manitoba's first trained paramedics and served as a front-line worker for seven years. He told us that while filling the pulpit for his Dad on a Sunday, he would often be on-call and had to run if the emergency pager went off.



In Selkirk, MB, he met the love of his life, Sally Kesler.

*Mom and Dad were married
on October 6, 1984.*



*The next few years came
with some pretty amazing
family additions – US!*

(Eden, Danielle, Tamara, Michala, and Zachary)



Mom and Dad pastored alongside Grandma and Grandpa in Selkirk until July 1994, at which time they became Senior Pastors of Springs Church in Winnipeg, MB. With the explosive growth of the church, Mom and Dad felt a nudge from God to ask Grandma and Grandpa to join them in 1996.

Little did they know that God had been preparing Grandma and Grandpa's hearts too – and they said yes! Dad loved being in ministry with them again and was thankful for their love and support.



Mom and Dad firmly believed that when the message of Christ is shared in the right way, people can't help but want to know Jesus. Their commitment to never stop dreaming and building God's church has made Springs home for so many! We will never forget our conversations after every service with Dad, giving God all the glory for every life that was touched. You couldn't wipe the smile off his face.

His obedience to God was evident, and with each step he took, more doors of opportunity opened.



The joy he exuded from the stage and in the church halls was the same joy he filled our home with! Family was his greatest passion, and he always ensured we knew and felt his love. You couldn't walk by him without him asking, "Have you hugged me yet today?" Dad loved BIG, and his love for Mom was undeniable.



Every day was a party day when he was around! From "hulk hugs" and thoughtful gifts to treats and dates with Pops, he loved his grandkids and always made the most of each moment with them. Almost every day our kids ask us if we're going to Pops and Gigi's house. He loved being surrounded by his family!



Dad wasn't the only one who loved music. His passion for worshipping God was passed on to us. On every road trip with him, he would tell us to find a harmony, and we would sing together. Once the grandkids arrived, we often heard Dad teaching them his Sunday school songs, the same ones he sang to us as kids.



Dad was the first awake in the house, and we'd always find him talking to God and meditating on the Word. Dad truly had the wisdom of Solomon. No matter the situation, he trusted that Holy Spirit would lead and guide him to the right solution. He was a dedicated learner, and his breadth of knowledge was vast. It became common for boxes of his latest favourite book to show up at the doorstep to hand out to all of us kids. He was our greatest encourager and teacher!

Dad loved people. He took every opportunity to show them the beauty and the love of Jesus. His desire to communicate the Bible in a practical way led him and Mom to coin the term "Spirit Contemporary." He was passionate about teaching and living the Word!

Dad poured more life into his 60 years than most would in three lifetimes (if such a thing existed!). His faith, prayers, teachings, and love have planted seeds that will continue to grow and impact the world for years to come.



Leon,
We give you honour and love for leading the way.
A house not divided grows stronger together in Jesus, and life.
We love you and are in awe of you and what you have passed on to each one of us.
You lived a life full of integrity, and your faithfulness in life was filled with so much wisdom.

You have always led us as a family out of your deep love for our Father God, Jesus, and His Word. You provided a home filled with His love, wisdom, and guidance that you passed on to our incredible five kids. Who now together with our amazing five chosen kids are raising our "Fabulous 9" grandbabies, who are fun-loving, Jesus-loving, church-loving, and full of personality ... the generations in which we are blessed to call ours!

Here's to an extraordinary future watching every act of love you have shown and sown into them.

They say death steals a person, but it can never steal our love that we built because love lasts forever! We will build upon your legacy, and your life will be forever shared for the future generations.

We will miss you so much! Cannot wait for the tears to dry.

Never in a million years did I think that I'd be writing this so soon.

I will always love you,
Sally





THE
Best
IS YET
TO COME!

- Leon Fontaine