



# **GORDON'S TRAVELLING SANDALS**

**These shoes were made  
for walking ...**

Gordon Schieck got these simple sandals in India prior to 1967 and wore them on many of his travels. He and Mina witnessed first hand the needs of the people, and dreamed of responding to those needs.



- In 1979, Gordon and Mina Schieck, Norm and Eloise Umbach, and Jack and Jane Ross took action and founded Sahakarini.



The sandals are a symbol of how Sahakarini has walked with partners here and abroad to make a difference.

Sahakarini has helped vulnerable and marginalized people in India, Uganda, Kenya, Haiti, Zimbabwe, Brazil, and Guatemala to meet their basic needs and build better, healthier lives.

The sandals always return, only to set out on a new adventure each year – linking people in Camrose and area to others in need around the world.



Here are a few of the stories they could tell as each year since 2001 they have been “sold” at Loaves and Fishes.





# 2001

- “After I acquired the sandals at auction, a young man of about 12 or 13 came up to me and said,” I can’t believe you paid so much for those old sandals!” But I thought I made a great bargain, because they represented so much of what we hope to do. We don’t try to make headlines. We don’t blow our own horn (maybe that’s a fault). We like to work quietly with our project partners to do good development.

**Alan Fielding**

# Gordon Schieck passes the sandals to Alan Fielding



# 2002



- “We were hosting two Canada World Youth students, one from Sri Lanka and one from Ontario, Lindsay. When the participants left for Sri Lanka, the sandals went with Lindsay. She wore them in a peace march in Sri Lanka. How fitting!”

**Dave and Helen Samm**

# 2003



“The Schieck sandals accompanied us on our honeymoon to Mexico. In this land we saw joy, beauty, and need. As we embark on our careers in the health field, we want to make a difference in the world wherever God leads.”

**Rhett and Lalitha Taylor**

# 2004

“For three weeks, I wore the sandals visiting churches, daycare centres, a hospital and the beach. They journeyed from Sao Paulo to Itaituba, to Manaus, to Rio, and home again.

It has been an honor to “walk a mile” or two in his (Gordon’s) shoes.

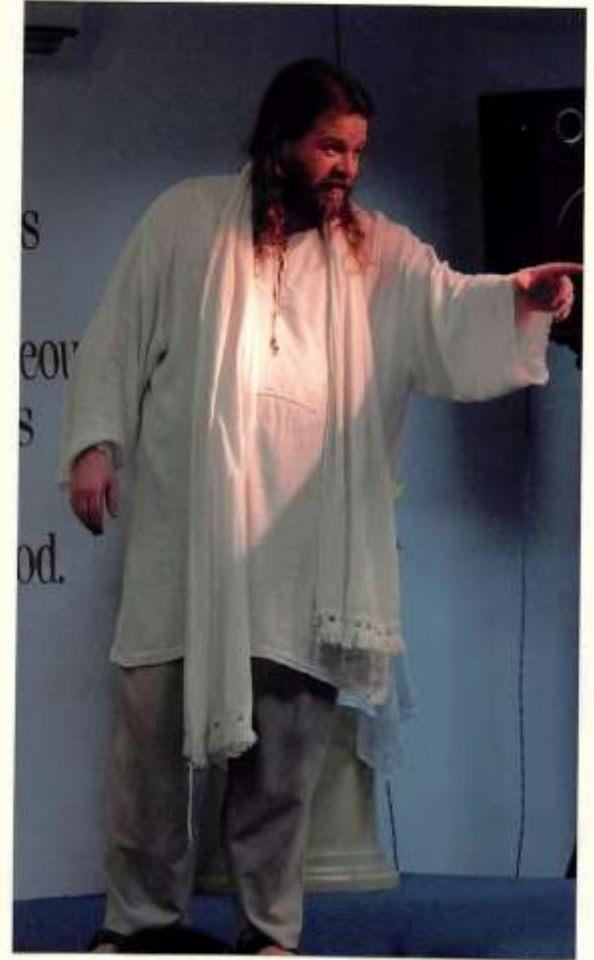
**Ken D. Taylor**



# 2005

“The sandals were my constant companions across Canada and to the other side of the world as I performed a one man passion play Thomas: Confessions of a Doubter... I would like to think Gordon would have been pleased. “

**Randall Wiebe**



# 2006

The suggestion was made that the sandals be worn at the wedding of Margery and I. We intended to ask our guests to give to some charity in lieu of gifts to us. They did and as a result gifts did indeed come in.



**Harry Gaede**

# 2007

One of the reasons I enjoyed my discussions with Uncle Gordon and Aunt Mina was because they understood so well not just the pervasive poverty, but often the happiness in the face of that poverty – among people that a Canadian might observe as just plain poor..”



**Ted Reimchen**



# 2007 Another journey

- “I wanted to take them back to Athabasca, because there, in one of the oldest European settlements in the west, in a place where my own people have been meeting for centuries, Uncle Gordon’s life and work were a kind of testament of the face to face connections that bridged continents, languages, cultures and faith communities.”

• **Carl Urion**



# 2008



“Arrived in Delhi spring of 2008 with the sandals.

One thing I found out – I could never fill my brothers shoes.”

**Stan Schieck**

# 2009

I have come to realize that sometimes it is by improving ourselves that we are enabled to be of the most good to others. I decided to travel to Mexico to participate in a study tour there. It is a privilege to have worn these special sandals.

**Daryl Skaret**

# 2009 Another journey

“Meeting and playing with some of the children of Nepal was a privilege for me. Subletting Gordon’s sandals and supporting the work of Sahakarini is also a privilege.”

**Helen Samm**



# 2009

...like the Incans, the founders of Sahakarini were attuned to ‘the bigger picture’.  
Sahakarini’s founders managed to build something they couldn’t see from above or away.”



**Larry and Margaret Rathnavalu**

# 2010

- The sandals were off for a day at the Falkland Islands. We were fortunate to be guided to a penguin burrow. The other tourists and the park guide watched with curiosity as we carefully pulled the sandals out of the backpack and place them beside the burrow.. This gave us the opportunity to tell the story of the sandals and Sahakarini's mission.
  - Don and Chris Rebus



See tiny baby penguins



# 2011



“The sandals travelled with us to South Korea, Vietnam, and Cambodia. The people we met in those countries reminded us that poverty remains a challenge throughout the world. Our vision remains a work that must be continued.

**Harry and Margery Gaede**

# 2012

Sydney, the sandals, felt the ground of three continents in 2012. In March Sydney, Australia; in summer Sweden and France; and of course they returned home to the familiar ground of Camrose, Alberta.

**Alan Fielding**



- Helping the vulnerable and marginalized to help themselves
- Long term sustainable development
- Responsible partners



**It's a great day for a walk.**

**Thank you for coming with us.**