

CONNECTOR

#35 November 2019

POWERteam

Thanksgiving and then Christmas



The Seasons are quickly passing as summer has sped by, fall is here, harvesting is taking place and soon winter will be upon on.

God's word says, "in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God concerning you" It is hard sometimes when winter conditions come in early October so that crops are ruined. There are times in this season of our lives when it is not easy to be thankful "in" all things when parts of our body are not functioning at peak capacity. There are members of our family who, at this season are not following the Lord like they once did, and that gives us

concern. We can always be thankful for the Father who walks with us through all these changes and strengthens us at every new turn. We are so thankful to the Spirit of God who helps us to stand firm in our faith and guides is in truth and gives us the power for holy living in this season of our lives.

Yes, the Christmas season is coming. A reminder to us of Emmanuel. We trust that you will be encouraged and challenged to be a reflectors of Christ in your communities, by your affirming presence. Nelson Annan (former pastor at Bayview Glen in Toronto, Harvest Hills & River of Life - Filipino- in Calgary and Hanoi International Church, now retired in London Ont) has submitted the following **SIMEON, ANNA & YOU**.

That is followed by Stuart Lightbody's submission of **A New Heaven / A New Earth / A New Jerusalem**. Stuart pastored in the CCD, E&CCD and the CMD before he and Joanne ministered as IWs in Colombia. Stuart was our Vice President of Canadian Ministries from which he retired over 1 decade ago. Read these two articles and may they enrich this season of your lives. -Wayne & Betty Kerr (National POWER Team Volunteer Coordinators)

Simeon, Anna and You (Nelson Annan)

I remember few words of affirmation from my years of high school sports. In one basketball game I made an unusual (now very common) pass to allow a teammate to score. After the game, the opposing coach spoke to me and complimented my “great” pass. That compliment still lingers in my memory. Words are powerful and all of us appreciate words of affirmation; perhaps especially when they are unexpected.



Right after last week's service I hugged and affirmed a young worship leader who had been absent from the worship team for two years. As we began to drive away from the service, we were stuck in a left turn lane. A young woman walked on the sidewalk with her head down. She had played on the worship team. I rolled down my window and shouted across two lanes of traffic. “Hey”. When she looked over, I smiled and shouted “Thanks for playing for us today.”

For 48 years of full-time ministry I was always actively serving; often leading and preaching. Now in my mid-70's – not very often. But I am better at affirming people and I can pay more attention to how others are serving.

I want to make younger Christians feel valued and encouraged in God's work. As life has slowed down in retirement, Jan and I have more time to focus on others and what they are doing. Of course, this means we could be more critical of younger Christians! Negative comments can come so easily to mind. But we choose instead to be active encouragers for God's Kingdom.

During the days following his birth, Jesus was taken to the Temple (Luke 2:21 – 38).

Luke tells us two “seniors” met the young couple at the Temple. Simeon rejoiced that (as promised) he lived to see the Messiah. Anna was prompted by the Spirit to recognize this baby boy was the Promised One.

Pause for a moment in this familiar story: Mary gave birth alone with Joseph. After the shepherds shocking visit, they were alone again and far from home. I think these custodians of God's Son, the Messiah were likely overwhelmed with responsibility as they walked into the Temple that day? How desperately did Mary and Joseph need the encouragement and affirmation that came from Simeon and Anna? Two Seniors who did not know them but knew how God was using them. Are we affirming the young men and women with Kingdom potential in our churches? Some do so well; they still need affirmation. Others stumble as they serve; they especially need us to see and affirm their ability, potential and spiritual interest.

Today I emailed an encouraging note to a 40 year old missionary. He does not need my help or advice. I know that words of affirmation and appreciation are never wasted.

A New Heaven / A New Earth / A New Jerusalem: Stuart Lightbody

Rev 21 / 2 Peter 3 / Isaiah 65

My current thinking on life after death, on heaven, has been life-altering. It has changed me as much as did the writings of Francis Schaeffer while in college and the study of Old Testament chronology in Colombia. I began to think seriously about death and dying in the fall of 2014 after having double bypass surgery. As I began to read and think about heaven, I found myself anticipating it more.

My views on heaven have changed:

- From an eternal church service and hymn sing
- From a mansion just over the hilltop
- From heavenly beings in white robes with harps and halos
- From friendships with cherubs on fluffy white clouds, floating in heavenly space
- From long discussions on pre, post and amillennialism and pre, mid and post tribulation theories

To a more Biblical view of the after-life:

- A new heaven
- A new earth
- A new Jerusalem, and even perhaps
- A new universe



The New Heaven

What caught my attention first, with lasting impact, is the idea of a new heaven. Really? A new heaven? Why? It is an old idea that I have recently taken seriously for the first time. It has radicalized my thinking. A new heaven, by simple deduction, means the present heaven will pass away. Why? I hardly think a new heaven is necessary? I imagine it to be perfect. End of story.

The New Earth

What follows is also startling – but not as startling perhaps as the concept of a new heaven. The Bible says, ‘the first earth passed away’ i.e. the present earth, this earth as we know it. Perhaps the concept of the first earth passing away or the recreation of a new earth is not as surprising as a new heaven because of the curse or the fall and all that came with it, but it is still quite amazing to consider.

“... and there was no longer any sea.” (Rev 21:1). While this thought in no way eliminates all bodies of water in heaven such as in lakes and rivers it does allow for considerably more space on the new earth if we assume the new earth were to remain the size of the present earth. I hear that the South Pacific Ocean alone is greater than all existing land on planet earth.

Then the Bible shocks us again. It says, ‘**heaven came down to the new earth**’.

The New Jerusalem

Paul saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem,

- coming down out of heaven from God (Rev 21:2)
- coming down to earth
- coming down from God, from the present heaven, where God dwells – as stated in the Lord’s Prayer



“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, now the dwelling place of God is with men and he (God) will live with them.” – on the new earth (Rev 21:3). I love this statement of heart-thumping reality. The dwelling place of God has changed. Now it is with men. In the new heaven, which is on the new earth, in the new Jerusalem.

In Rev 3:12 the same idea is repeated as follows, **“the new Jerusalem is coming down out of heaven from my God”**. I find this to be remarkable and very exciting.

The idea of a new heaven, a new earth and a new Jerusalem is interpreted as the same in Isaiah 65:17 and Isaiah 66:22.

What else do we learn from these passages of scripture?

“There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” All in exchange for the new heaven, the new earth and the new Jerusalem. (Rev 21:4)

Still, let's not forget, outside the gates of the heavenly city, **“are the dogs, those that practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”** Rev. 22:5. A sobering reminder.

For a final word on this topic the writer says in Rev. 21:5 **“I am making everything new! Write it down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”** Everything will be new. Could this possibly include a new universe?

If death and dying have caught my attention in this second decade of retirement so has heaven as described above – perhaps more so.

But there is more.

2 Peter 3 “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and Godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.

That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements (earth, air, fire and water) will melt in the heat.

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”

A final consideration

Some authors have grasped the wonder of a new earth and a new heaven in their works of fantasy. C S Lewis wrote about them in *The Great Divorce*, in *Narnia*, in *Shadowlands* and in his space trilogy. The other great trilogy, *‘The Lord of the Rings’* by Tolkien, helps us envision a fantastic (a fantasy-like) new earth.

Imagine a new earth, this earth, as we know it now, without the effects of the curse (Genesis 3:14 to 19) – without thorns and thistles, without sickness or suffering or death and dying or anything related to the curse on this earth as we know it now. Imagine this earth without devastating climate disasters. It would be like heaven on earth – just without the effects of the curse.

How much greater and fantastic will the new earth be with heaven on it. The ‘fantasies’ of Tolkien, Lewis and others may actually be closer to the truth than we may think?

On this topic I also highly recommend that those interested in this topic read Randy Alcorn’s book on ‘Heaven’. Further, please consider reading Mark Buchanan’s book ‘Things Unseen’.

I sincerely look forward to interacting with others on this topic, especially if you have experienced similar transformative thinking on HEAVEN. Stuart: lightbodysj@rogers.com



Retirement or Realignment/re-assignment/repositioning -Call it what you are comfortable with

We have two families or maybe three (to our knowledge) that are in that process.

1. **Tim & Nancy Moore not “retiring” but being repositioned from Canada to Thailand**
2. **Lisa Roark completed ministry in Niger and transitioned to Canada**
3. **Ray & Dee Matheson making an announcement**

Tim & Nancy Moore:

In June Tim “retired” along with his buddies Bill McAlpine and Bernie Van De Walle (who is now the DS for the Canadian Midwest District) from Ambrose.

Tim finishes up his ministry at Ambrose in December and will be starting ministry in Thailand the first of the year, so they are presently in process. They write:

“It was as though we were sitting on pins and needles awaiting the good news of this announcement. This “welcome” was humbly received September 24, 2019. We officially heard from our C&MA Board of Directors that we are officially International Workers. The Lord Jesus continues His miracle work in our lives! Several of your friends have been praying for us while we have been on this journey. Many prayers have been answered as a result of your prayer and the Lord’s grace. Thank you for remembering us!

Here’s what’s up. We will be moving to serve as International Workers with Christian and Missionary Alliance in Phuket Thailand. We are asking you to partner with us in this ministry. How We Will Be Serving...

Envision Canada is a resource within the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada that serves as an on-ramp for people to engage in God’s mission. We design intentional and missional opportunities that focus on gospel influence among people.

Our particular missional project is called the Justice Semester—Thailand. Justice Semester; “JSEM” offers a 12 week gap semester program that seeks to educate through global perspective, Christ-centered mission mindset, and the real life challenges of overseas justice and compassion ministries. Nancy will be providing medical assistance to exploited women, teach English, and disciple North American JSEM Gap Year Students. Tim will carry on with teaching Gap Year Students in Bible, Christian Spirituality, and Disciple-making. Curriculum development will also be a responsibility.

Together we will disciple Gap Year Students and Interns as well as welcome and host vision trip teams from North America.

We plan to be “boots on the ground” in Phuket Thailand by January 4th, 2020. So much will be undertaken by that time it makes our head spin. This “transition” is a little more wearing than we first



imagined. We knew it would be difficult saying “see you later” to family and friends...but goodness we get emotional thinking about deploying. Our family and church family is confident of God’s call in our life to move to this international work, which is very comforting.

We join a very dynamic team in Phuket and look forward to serving with the crew. Check out <https://www.justicesemester.com/> for more information.

Bold Ask

This is our bold ask: Will you partner with us in prayer and financial support? We are building a team of Phuket Partners who will receive regular updates from us, hearing of our ministry and about the changed lives of our guests and students.

We are inviting you to join us in this adventure. Many have already been praying and are Prayer Partners and we ask you to continue praying for us. We are also asking you to consider supporting our ministry financially. Would you consider a regular monthly or yearly financial commitment? One time gifts to any of these funds are also appreciated. All donations are tax-deductible

You may use the secure website listed here to make your monthly or one-time donation to any of needs we have described for you. cmacan.org/tnm -click on donate and then you get the drop down of the various Funds for their ministry

Please Pray Nancy and Tim

Asian Spice

1. Pray that “see you later” would...sigh...
2. Pray for details of packing and storing.
3. Pray visa and travel logistics will go smoothly.
4. Pray for discernment regarding accepting JSEM Students for the semester.
5. Pray for accommodations for Students and the Moores.
6. Pray for JSEM students beginning their Semester January 7th.
7. Pray that Partners would join us in prayer and financial support

They leave behind their children and a dear grandchild. Here is one of our POWER Team member couples transitioning from training IWs and pastors to being an IW couple. Let us let them know we are partnering with them.

Lisa Roark has repositioned from Niger to Canada

Lisa Miriam Rohrick lisa.miriam@gmail.com

May24th Lisa wrote

Dear praying friends,

The question I’ve been asked most frequently in the last few months is, “When are you going back to Niger?” And my answer has been, “I don’t know yet.”

As I have been asking the Lord this question, two big factors are in the forefront of my thinking. My parents are in their mid-80s and, wanting to honour them at this stage in life, I have been wondering for some months if it’s time for me to stay in Canada. Add to this that the security situation in Niger has changed since I left, and the local police will no longer allow Westerners to be in the area in which I have been working. (Yes, I COULD return to Niger and live and work in the capital city, where all my teammates are. They continue to feel very secure in Niamey. But that, for me, would mean starting over ministry-wise.)

In the midst of a period of discernment, asking the Lord what He would have me do, I was asked to consider applying for the role of Mission Mobilizer for the Canadian Pacific District of the Alliance. After much prayer, as well as input and affirmation from wise and praying friends, it has become clear to me that this is, in fact, God's will for the next stage of my life. While a starting date has yet to be tied down, it will likely be sometime in the fall of 2019.

I will fill you in more on this transition as details become clear in the weeks ahead. For now, I want to say a huge **THANK YOU** for your encouragement, prayers and financial support for these 21 years that I have been with Global Ministries of the Canadian Alliance. I am grateful that my new role will allow me to continue working closely with many of my overseas colleagues as well as with many of your churches.



With much gratitude,
Lisa

October 11th she shared more of her journey

I am safely back in BC where I'll be spending Thanksgiving with my family, with much to be **thankful** for.

I am **thankful** for a rich and beautiful month in Niger. I reduced my household to what fits in three



suitcases, saw most of the people I really hoped to see, spoke at Sahel Academy's "spiritual emphasis week," preached twice in a little Fulani church, visited with special people and said lots of hard goodbyes.

I am **thankful** for my team (pictured), a wonderful bunch who are like family to me. They have loved me so well and sent me off with their blessing and prayers.

I am **thankful** that, as the Lord was with me, guiding and protecting for 20 years in Africa, he is with me as I begin a new chapter. After Thanksgiving, I will drive to Surrey, BC (about 10 hours from here), and start my new job in the district office October 17th.

Friday Oct 18th she wrote: Hello again!

Thanksgiving has passed, but I am still in thankful mode! I had a safe trip to Surrey, and yesterday was my first day in my new role as Assistant District Superintendent for Mission Mobilization in the Canadian Pacific District of the Alliance. Quite a change from my former "office" under a mango tree!



Day 1 was a bit like trying to sip from a fire hose, with so many things to learn! But I am grateful for patient colleagues who welcome my questions as we get into this orientation process.

Please **pray** that the Lord will give me *his* vision for this role and that he'll use me to make a difference for his kingdom, both in this province and around the world.

Thank you! Lisa

We of POWER Team want to pass on our blessing to Lisa. She still has lots of tread on her tires for service

and so is not "retiring". Our first step in **POWER Team** is Preparing Our Workers Entering Retirement so we have ones like Lisa in the cross hairs. This could be the last lap of full-time ministry and like many of us, there could be many more years beyond the next decade. lisa.miriam@gmail.com

Ray & Dee Matheson -is this a transition or an announcement?



This picture appeared on social media with the caption: Our last District Prayer Retreat...wore my 45 year old 'Going-Away' outfit with the one I went away with! ❤️

At the most recent Prayer Retreat of the WCD, people were asked to dress up in the decade of their choice, so Ray & Dee dressed in their wedding day go-away duds.

By the caption, it looks like Ray might be taking down his shingle and officially retiring from his pastoral staff position at First Alliance in Calgary where he gets paid to attend church. Next issue of **CONNECTOR** may reveal what this ¾ century old guy will be doing in this new season of life.

POWER Team members connecting



Miriam Charter has returned to her ministering country of Romania, connecting and researching about her years of ministry there. Oct15th she wrote in Facebook, “I had to look long and hard today to find this monument on Eroilor Square as it was all covered with construction fences! This place was on my list of “must find” as it was here I waited in 1983 for several hours in December cold for a contact that never showed up to lead us to where the group was meeting— he told us later he had been followed by the Secret Police from his home and observing us from afar. He was quite sure we were being followed as well!



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Those were the days. These three ladies reminisced about the days at CBC/CTS where they got their BRE's (plus) and just happened to meet their future spouses.

Betty Kerr (in the middle) and Wayne had some input into the marriages of Richard & **Hope Reichert** (far left) and Bob & **Carol Rose** (far right).

They shared stories of their individual ministries and their continued connectedness over the past 50 years. Here they connected in St. Thomas Ontario

Janice Anderson was a recent attendee at a POWER Team regional gathering in Kitchener Ontario. Janice served a number of years in the Philippines as an IW before being re-deployed to Canada. Recently she retired from the staff of Emmanuel Bible College in Kitchener Ontario.



CBC/CTS Buildings no more?

Many of our POWER Team members had the opportunity to attend CBC/CTS (Canadian Bible College/Canadian Theological Seminary) in Regina before it became Ambrose University College in Calgary.

There are great memories of those days. There are many friendships and relationship that have been formed and have lasted a lifetime. Now we find ourselves in the “retiral” season of their lives.

Doug & Judith Wiebe put us onto this as they were visiting Regina and took pictures of not only the “retirement” of the buildings but in fact their demolition. We thank them along with John & Wenda Persson for some pictures of what is taking place now.



The men's dorm is gone and there is rumour that the auditorium and tower will be taken down as well. It has been called the George Brown Auditorium (of the Saskatchewan Rough Riders).



Women's Dorm is Gone. The photo with the three pine trees in the back was the location of the women's dorm. Only the office part of the old central building remains. All the new dorms are gone as well. So far, the only rumor is for a strip mall. The old houses are all still there. Doug



Only the administration wing is left along with the Chapel, gym and Seminary Building

Here is a CTV clip that still may be working



<https://regina.ctvnews.ca/demolition-begins-on-orr-centre-1.4571217> “Crews have begun demolition on the Orr Centre. The former Bible College, located at Fourth Avenue and Lewvan Drive, will make way for a 100,000 square foot commercial

development”.

The 1,000 seat George Reed auditorium will go, and the University of Saskatchewan's Nursing College will remain.



One building that is remaining for at least one year is the old CTS building. It houses a nurse training program.

This has some nostalgia for me (Wayne). While I was pastoring in Regina for 15 years at Glencairn, I took



on the contract to do all the steel erection for the CTS building. A lot of it was done in January with -40 degree weather.



This was the location of the **Alliance Tabernacle** (Osler & 13th Ave.), and later Regina Chinese Alliance. Doug Wiebe met Tien Pon and his wife at the Chinese Church in Regina recently. He told Doug about Ruby Johnston and how she picked him up as a kid to take him to Sunday school. And now, "They paved paradise, and put in a parking lot."

Formerly **Westside Alliance Church** in Regina is now Western College of Remedial **Massage Therapies Inc.**

This college is a two-year, full time program dedicated to the study of **Massage** for both Relaxation and Therapeutic purposes





An elderly man hurried to his 8:00 am doctor appointment, he wanted to finish quickly so he could get to another appointment. The doctor asked what it was and he proudly said that every morning at a 9:00 am at the hospital he had breakfast with his wife. The doctor asked what her condition was and he replied that for 5 years she has had Alzheimer's and hasn't known who he is. The doctor asked why he continues if she has no idea who he is and the old man replied "because I still know who she is."

We all get heavier as we get older because there's lot more information in our heads. So I'm not fat, i'm just really intelligent and my head couldn't hold any more so it started filling up the rest of me. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.



BENEFITS OF A GOOD VOCABULARY!

I recently called an old Engineering buddy of mine and asked what he was working on these days.

He replied that he was working on "Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum and steel under a constrained environment."

I was impressed until, upon further inquiry, I learned that he was washing dishes with hot water under his wife's supervision.

"Sometimes when you're in a dark place you think you've been buried, but you've actually been planted." — Christine Caine



Reminder: General Assembly is June 16-19 in Bramalea Ontario
 -video site Edmonton Alberta
 -Plan to attend if possible

Don't listen to them



You are not fat
 you are just fluffy!

The **National POWER Team** leadership want you to be blessed and be a blessing this Christmas season as you put Christ on Display.

CPD -Ray & Vi Downey
WCD -Sharon Ralph
CMD/CCD -interim Wayne & Betty Kerr
ECD -Ron & June MacKinnon, Laurie & Nancy McLean
SLD -Allan & Judy Hack

Remember This is why we call ourselves the **POWER Team**

1. The Gospel is the **POWER** of God unto Salvation - we have experienced the Christ child coming to save us
2. Jesus commissioned us to “go”, but then “not to go” until we are endued with **POWER** from above - we trust each one of us have experienced that.
3. We have chosen to serve with the C&MA and its Doctrinal Emphasis of Christ our Sanctifier is **POWER** for holy living and service -we have years of ministry scars/trophies to show for this.

Check out our video resources at <https://www.cmacan.org/ministries/ministry-networks/>
-go to **POWER Team** and scroll down



**This Christmas time is our opportunity to put that
POWER on display**



Wayne & Betty Kerr -National POWER Team Volunteer Coordinators
-producers of the CONNECTOR -we would love to hear from you and receive your contributions
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