

**POWER** | **Team**

“R”

What does the “R” in **POWER Team** mean?  
Retired -Re-assigned -Re-aligned -Retreaded--?

In this Fall issue of **CONNECTOR** you will be introduced to:  
-IW's who “retired/repositioned” August 17<sup>th</sup> -page 2  
-**POWER Team** members “repositioning” -page 10  
-**POWER Team** members “retired” from life on earth -page 14  
-President’s Report -page 20  
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In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” 1Thess. 5:16

In this season of our lives, God is still sovereign. He never leaves us or forsakes us.

In this issue of **CONNECTOR** we are thankful that some of our fellow servants have been honored for their decades of faithful service, others are being repositioned and others have heard “Well done good

and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord.”

**Remember:** Geography and your T4 Slip does not determine your vocational calling  
(Gerald Hogenbirk)

## IWs Honored August 17, 2020 in a Zoom Celebration

We want to officially welcome these new POWER Team members

### Gaileen Warden

Gaileen was born in Cuba when her parents were serving there. Leaving the island in 1961, parts of Gaileen's childhood were spent in the US and Canada with her six siblings. She placed her faith in Jesus at an early age, and at age eleven was so moved during a missions' conference in Burnaby, BC, that she felt God's call on her life to minister cross culturally.

After graduating Bible college in 1976, Gaileen served as an IW in Venezuela with Word of Life Fellowship, and then served in the same country with the C&MA from 1981 to 2009. During her time in Venezuela, Gaileen served in the city of Valencia, as well as in the capital city of Caracas. Her ministries there included church planting, discipleship, and leadership training. She was also involved in Christian education and youth ministries. In her years in Caracas, the emphasis was on church planting among the upper/middle class, a group largely untouched by the gospel. Truly these years in Venezuela saw Gaileen wearing many hats--even taking on the role of field book keeper when needed.



In 2010 Gaileen redeployed back to the island of her birth. The plight of the islanders in bondage to spiritism and the occult, along with the deep wounds that come in a society that collectively lived under atheism, deeply moved Gaileen and she poured her life into ministry there for nearly ten years. Gaileen was passionate about ministry to women. She worked in many areas of women's ministries--both out-reach related and in leadership development, always with the desire to see women emotionally and spiritually healed and living in the freedom that comes from knowing Christ.

Gaileen was known in her community as one who blessed others in tangible ways as well-- through her cooking and baking, sitting with those in pain, and providing an encouraging presence as she spurred others on in their faith in Jesus. She flourished on the soil of her birth and brought God much glory there through her selfless sacrifice and steady presence to those she served.

### Kim Bui

Kim was born in Vietnam in the midst of civil War. Accepting Jesus at a young age, Kim was already teaching other children Bible Stories at age 12. Though she left Vietnam in 1975, the impact of her years there deeply stayed with Kim. Those years have reminded her that one must share one's faith now because life is fleeting. She also developed a deep sense of compassion for those who are

marginalized because of her exposure to those impacted by war--the orphans, the amputees, the widows, and the poor. Evacuated from Vietnam and living in Canada, Kim spent many years studying



and working in the financial world, but all the time wanting to invest in the Vietnamese Alliance Church she attended. It was a trip to visit her sister, Hanh and brother-in-law, Thu, who were IWs working with Vietnamese in Cambodia that began a new journey for Kim. She began asking the Lord how He might have her serve him cross-culturally as well. Upon her return to Canada from that trip, Kim quit her job and enrolled at Tyndale Seminary. She graduated in 2004 with an MDiv in Educational Ministries, and after serving at Rexdale Alliance Church and Vietnamese Alliance Church, she was sent to Cambodia in 2007 to work among the Vietnamese diaspora there. Serving in Phnom Penh and in Siem Reap, Kim's 13 years of ministry in Cambodia focused on both the spiritual and educational needs of children at risk. Many children and their families have been impacted by Kim's loving work among them. Her

childhood compassion for those at risk was transformed by her loving Father into a ministry that still impacts the Vietnamese in Cambodia today.

## Ralph and Ruth Shareski



Ralph and Ruth's lives have been marked by steady obedience, and dynamic faith in God. Ralph from BC, and Ruth from Ontario, both were impacted as children by the lives of visiting International Workers. Both of their calls to serve God overseas came when they separately resided in Europe during formative years, eventually both developing a deep passion for the lost of Europe. The pair met while attending CBC. After graduation, a relationship grew when both were serving in BC, Ruth at Mission Creek Alliance, and Ralph at

Tsawwassen Alliance Church. They married in 1981. In 1987 the pair departed for Mannheim Germany, where many years of faithful service were to follow as the Shareskis obeyed the call of the Lord by discipling, evangelizing, and developing church leaders. Over those years a missional church was planted in Mannheim and grew deep roots. During this time, Ralph and Ruth also served as mentors for younger IWs as well as giving leadership through their role on the Silk Regional Leadership Team. The last season of their ministry in Germany was spent church



planting in Heidelberg, Germany. It was there that their many gifts and passions came to fruition. Their ministry has been marked by intentional investment in a new generation of German and International Students with the goal of raising up worshipers bringing God glory. The Shareskis have also been a family on mission. They have three children, and their family now lives on two continents--a reminder that while Ralph and Ruth's IW journey is concluding after 33 years, their hearts and family will always span North America and Europe. This is a testimony to the lives they have lived both encouraging the church in Canada while building fledgling churches in Germany and bridging the two. If you want to learn more, connect with their website: [rshareski.com](http://rshareski.com)

## Thu and Hanh Nguyen

Thu and Hanh have a lifelong story of God's leading and faithfulness that they have shared with their fellow Vietnamese for more than two decades. Their early life stories began in Vietnam. Both were born and raised in Vietnam, Hanh grew up in a Christian home and came to faith at a young age, while Thu came to know the Lord as a young adult. The two both immigrated to Canada in the 1970s and then met in 1978 and married in 1980. They both obtained degrees and jobs, making a new life in Canada. After a number of years serving as tentmakers in ministry in Toronto, they began to feel the call to serve as missionaries. This took them to CTS where both earned master's degrees. When they heard about the plight of many Vietnamese displaced and living in Cambodia with little knowledge of the gospel, their call became clear.



In 1998 they moved to Cambodia engaging in areas of ministry including church planting, pastoral training, children's schooling, and bible clubs for children. In 2007 they relocated to Taiwan, also to minister to the Vietnamese diaspora there. They established the Vietnamese Gospel Center, now known as Agape Vietnamese Church. Through that ministry during their time in Taiwan, they engaged in ministry through church planting and discipleship, as well as through ministries to prisoners, students, and immigration detainees. The Lord blessed their ministry with much fruit and their work both in Cambodia and Taiwan continues to bring Him Glory. Even after concluded their full-time work, Thu and Hanh remain committed to minister to the Vietnamese, now dividing their time between Canada and Northern Vietnam.

## Lois Belsey

Lois Belsey was born in Midland, Ontario, raised in a Christian family and grew up attending the local Alliance Church. She came to know the Lord at a young age and remembers being interested in missions for as long as she can remember. This interest has never wavered. Lois attended Canadian Bible College after high school, went on



to nurses training in Hamilton, followed by midwifery training in Edmonton and then worked as a nurse in Hearst, Ontario. In 1974, she left for Vietnam to serve with the C&MA; however, within a year Lois was evacuated to Thailand due to the war. In 1976 she was redeployed to Irian Jaya (now called Papua) Indonesia. This became her home until June 2019 when Lois returned to her Canadian home in Midland. Lois has served as a missionary with the Alliance for 46 years! Living in a very remote location accessible only by plane for most of those years, Lois has lived a life of courageous obedience to follow God's leading literally to the ends of the earth! Living among and serving the Moni peoples of the lowlands has brought great glory to our Savior. Throughout Lois' ministry she has also been deeply committed to prayer and partnership. Prayers for healing, anointing, warfare against the enemy were the natural outflow of her walk with Jesus. Lois' commitment to partnership, especially with her churches here in Canada, impacted many people within our Alliance family. While some would have said it is impossible for a short-term team to go to the remote jungles of Papua, Lois saw the partnership of believers from Canada engaging with her beloved Moni people as a critical part of discipling the nations in both directions. Lois, today we bless you. We say thank you. Thank you for declaring God's glory to the peoples of Papua. Alliance Church.



**We are sorry that we do not have the script of the following POWER**

**Team members**

## **Ruth Nilssen**

**(see Stan's write up on page 16)**



Stan and Ruth served in Mexico City 2010-2020. Stan died of Cancer June this year and Ruth is serving on the staff at Grand Prairie Alliance



## **Ming & Cindy Wong**

Ming was born in Hong Kong and Cindy in Winnipeg. Ming was in the IT industry and then pastored in London Ontario 1994-2012 before entering Global Ministries in Mainland China. Presently they are on staff at Westwood Alliance Church Coquitlam,, BC.

## **Gerald and Dorothy Hogenbirk**



Gerald and Dorothy's lives' demonstrate a devout focus to fulfilling the Great Commission. This has been a journey spanning forty years and took them to minister in over 20 countries. Gerald grew up in Quebec and was a linguist even at an early age, a foreshadowing of his future calling. Dorothy, who hailed from Ontario, grew up at Bayview Glen Alliance church, a relationship which remains to the present. The two met at Ontario Bible College and married in 1977. The pair moved to Regina to attend CTS in 1978. After seminary, they transitioned to serve at Surrey Alliance. The Hogenbirks embarked on their IW

journey in 1985, assigned to evangelism, church planting and leadership training in West Africa. They also ministered in three educational institutions in Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire. Never ones to back





**“Dorothy & I have GRATITUDE TO GOD** - to our family, parents, brothers, sisters, 3 sons: Peter, Jon, Tim, their wives and our 8 grandchildren who loved and supported us - Colleagues and friends—learned so much -C&MA members across Canada and our home church, Bayview Glen -



For the opportunity to preach and teach the gospel of Christ for these last 40 years **GOD WAS THERE!**

Through ups and downs of life, through the countless transitions from Montreal, Toronto, Regina, Surrey to Quebec City to Cote d’Ivoire for language and cultural learning to minister as Pastor, Teachers, evangelist -Burkina Faso, then on to Central Europe: Hungary, Poland, Balkans -Germany as Regional Developers for the Silk Road: Europe, Middle East, Central Asia, Arabian Peninsula -Through the surprises you couldn’t anticipate -Through the learning of new skills, languages, cultures, driving habits, cities and neighborhoods -Through the ongoing development of character, new roles and adjustments in life **GOD WAS THERE!** Places and faces -In dusty villages, under mango trees, showing the Jesus film to thousands, visits in hospital rooms or jungle encampments, village or city church, sweltering Middle Eastern heat or bone chilling Russian winters where



many heard **GOD WAS THERE!**

In market places with sights, sounds and smells never previously experienced in Canada, Hotel conference rooms, with students, in small groups or large **GOD WAS THERE!** Dorothy behind a desk, transcribing the Baoule Old Testament or teaching ESL classes, doing admin work, ploughing through thousands of documents, letters or emails over the years, uncounted meals and hospitality in our home wherever we were **GOD WAS THERE!**





In bombed out building in the Balkans in War Zones or refugee camps with people reaching out for hope -In beautiful European cathedrals with the story of the cosmic conflict etched on the magnificent vaulted ceilings -In ultra-modern cities in the Arabian Peninsula, atop sandy dunes as the sun sets silhouetted by a train of camels, where spiritual poverty reigns; along a coastal beach, in the mountains or around a campfire after a fishing trip -People of all colours and cultures, followers of Christ or those seeking or on the journey heard of Christ. **GOD WAS THERE!**

At weddings, simple or elaborate with great joy and laughter or at funerals with crushing loss and tears, as the body of a little baby is lowered to a shallow grave outside an African Village and you are not sure what to say, **GOD WAS THERE!** In work places, in the grind of life, on the Camino, on flat plains, hills or spectacular mountains as you journey with people and try to make sense of complex environments, or help carry a heavy burden, to build courage as disappointments in self and others overwhelm, **GOD WAS THERE!**

Countries and cultures with different faiths, ideologies and world views, physical and spiritual needs -Beauty and squalor, war and peace -You look at the millions of people churning in these vast places, overwhelmed by it all and you sigh—Lord, how do we make a difference? **GOD WAS THERE!**



**Geography nor T4-slips are the determining factors to the vocational calling.**

Determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified!

-You remember: -The sheer joy radiating over the face of a young man who erupted from muddy baptismal waters. -The determined look of new believers old and young who desire to know Christ with all their heart, soul and mind in the African prison -The ones who so desire to know Christ and make Him known— singing and living with reckless abandon in the Serbian fellowship -To the weariness of those caught in the churn and swirl and disappointment of life, yet feebly cry out, Lord Jesus, Hold me! -Those who lost all in war or to addiction, only to find so much more in Christ in a rehab center, **GOD WAS THERE!**



We are asked, "What will you do now?" Geography nor T4 slips are the determining factors to the vocational calling, **GOD IS HERE!** Neighborhood, fitness

center, family, friends, Persian churches, other churches and groups; **Power Team.** Be all God



would want us to be in this new chapter -Thank God for new people, places, wonderful ways to know Christ and make Him known. We are not all sure regarding the future, but **GOD WILL BE THERE!** Living with one foot raised, moving to new opportunities with Christ, the best is yet to come, the rest of life for which the first was made.



**POWER Team "Transitioning" or "retiring"** from their assigned ministry to this new season of service to put "CHRIST ON DISPLAY" in Canada.

## **POWER Team members "repositioning"**

Last issue of **CONNECTOR**, we featured Franklin Irwin who continues to Display Christ. Ron & June MacKinnon, who are veteran IWs themselves, had something further to say about Franklin so we are including it here.

**IW Franklin Irwin**, still has tread on his tires in his late 90s, and is still going strong.

For many of the **POWER Team** family, the name Irwin will bring back memories of a long time ago. The Irwin family were a part of the first wave of C&MA missionaries to go to Viet Nam, French Indo-China at the time. Franklin (Doris), Helen (Dave Douglas) and brother, George (Harriet) all later followed their parents to serve in Viet Nam.

Franklin recently celebrated his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. And although he has slowed a bit – using a cane because “I am more comfortable with it” - he continues to serve. It has been a way of life for a long time and still lingers; he prepares a message for each Sunday which is interpreted by his good friend, Michael Zhang. Even now, with COVID 19 restrictions, Michael goes to his apartment and records the message to be shared during the virtual church service.



Helen Douglas, June MacKinnon

Franklin and Doris first went to Viet Nam as missionaries in 1952. They served there until the fall of the country, leaving in 1974. They transferred to the Philippines the following year. They retired from missionary service in 1991. During their time in Viet Nam the Irwins served in several different capacities including a period during which Franklin was the Field Director. They served in Davao City in the Philippines and later Franklin also became the Field Director of the Philippine Mission. Living in Manila, Franklin joined with Asterio Wee to become the directors of the Canadian C&MA “Above and Beyond” church planting project in Metro Manila. Doris played a key editorial role at the CAMACOP publishing ministry.



Franklin Irwin

While attending First Alliance Toronto, after retirement, they worked with a few Filipino members to start a Filipino service. It resulted in the founding of the Filipino Alliance Church of Toronto.

They noticed a growing number of Chinese beginning to attend First Alliance. Doris had always wanted to have some type of ministry to the Chinese as she was the daughter of missionaries who served in China.

Franklin wrote in his testimony, now found in Ron Brown’s global vault:

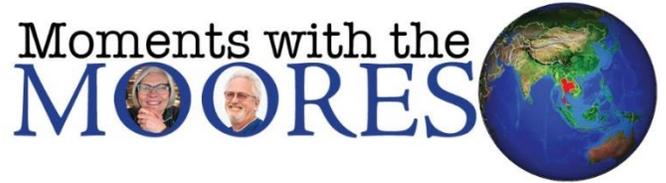
*Then the Lord said, “That’s done. Here’s another group of people I want you to care for and feed them the Gospel,” and He brought to us Chinese people from mainland China. They started showing up at the church. They had come not to become Christians but to learn English. These were the people Doris had*

*grown up amongst. She had wanted to be a missionary to them at the very beginning, but the Lord closed the door to China in 1949. So, she said, “I was not able to take the Gospel to the people in China, but the Lord has brought them to us. He has brought them here for us to give them the Gospel.” God kept her in His service here on earth to tell them the Gospel until November 5, 2005, when God retired her by taking her home to be with Him, leaving me to carry on His work. He still has some things for me to do here.*

And Franklin remains faithfully doing the "some things He still has for me to do here," including in the house church where Franklin still helps with the preaching. Good on you Franklin, still serving! --Ron MacKinnon

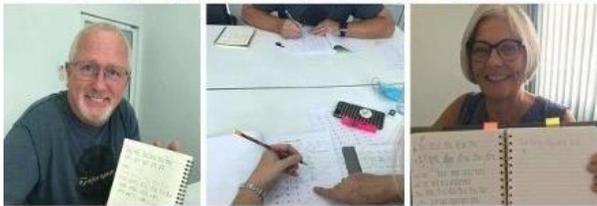
Check out the global vault - <https://globalvault.ca/5-biography-2/>

**Tim & Nancy Moore** retired from Ambrose and were assigned to Thailand for a special project.



Due to COVID-19,

many students for that project could not come.



Their assigned ministry to train future Christian leaders is coming on line again. They are also into language study in their impetuous- youth-season-of-life. In their newly re-assigned country, we find Tim & Nancy in their classroom where they spend Mondays and Wednesdays studying Thai!

They said "Some days our minds blow-up! Thai has 44 consonants, 16 vowel symbols, and 32 vowels, oh and, 5 tone markers...easy right?! Nancy of course is excelling in language study."



Since **POWER Team** members **Ken & Darlene Paton** have resigned as lead pastor in Phuket City Thailand for reassignment in British Colombia, Tim is Interim Pastor of the International Church and preaches at least twice a month.



Ken writes: "We have indeed landed back in Canada. This is the last of the five western provinces we have lived in.

I have taken up a new position as president of Foundations for Living (FFL). FFL was founded by **Dick and Susan Driedger** (who are **POWER Team** members). The office has recently moved on site with Bear Creek Community Church in Surrey, BC.

Dick tells me this is a great fit because they have a mandatory retirement age of 95. We still have some gas in the tank but not sure we will have enough to make it to that age. Nevertheless, I am closer to 95 than I am to 50 years of age.

Foundations for Living produces disciple making material which has been translated into 18 languages. We look forward to establishing disciple making training centers and expanding the use of the material in many countries of the world. Prayerfully, funds will be available to continue doing translations in other languages as well.

It has been great to clear quarantine and get to spend time with our children and grandchildren.

## Roy & Miriam Taylor



serving in Milan Italy were “retired” as residents of Italy due to COVID-19 but are still ministering from afar. They write: “Who would have ever thought when we left Milan the middle of March that we would still be pastoring the church in Milan, Italy from Abbotsford, Canada in September? When I'm tempted to wonder why God called us to Milan for so short a time I'm reminded of Paul's amazing commentary in Romans 11:33

*"Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge!*

*How impossible it is for us to understand His decisions and His ways!" (NLT)*

And Isaiah's ponderings in Isaiah 55:8,9 *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,"* declares the Lord. *'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.'* (NIV)

We would have never dreamed that such a ministry would be possible and yet here we are half-way through September and I am continuing to pastor a group of faithful followers of Jesus Christ in Milan.

We went online with our Worship Services just before Easter and have continued this ministry every week since.

During the last six months I have been meeting about every two weeks with the elders to encourage them as they lead and shepherd the people. This has proven very profitable.

I have given the elders the freedom to look for another pastor however, at our meeting last Friday, they emphatically affirmed that I am their pastor and they want me to continue even though I am not there with them.

Please continue to pray for us and for Italy and for Milan and for our people at Milan Bible Church. At this point we do not know when we will be able to return to Italy. We have been advised to not even think of going until spring of next year. We would love to return



**Dan & Joy DeGaris** -just transitioned from Ontario to Airdrie, Alberta.



Dan & Joy served many years pastoring in the Alliance, “retired” and began ministry with Family Life Canada. As they expanded their ministry, the Indigenous Ministry has exploded in need and opportunities. Dan is the Director for Development, Indigenous Ministry. When they could be retiring (due to age), they are re-positioning to the middle of the country which puts them closer to family members and the center of the 630 Indigenous nations in Canada.

[@familylif](mailto:dan@familylifecanada.com)



**POWER Team** members “retired” from life on earth



**Adriaan van der Bijl** -1930-2020 IW



**Elfrieda (Toews of Saskatoon) writes** “Adriaan came quietly into our lives and quietly left. On the evening of August 20,2020, God called Adriaan to his heavenly home, with “Well done, good and faithful servant, come and share in your Masters happiness, Mt.25:21. It must have been an AMAZING reunion with all his beloved Nduga friends (in Irian Jaya), missionaries and JESUS.

He was a gentleman who knew how to say thank you and was always ready with an open door to welcome who would come to visit him. It was his life-long ambition to preach the Gospel where Christ was not known and God fulfilled the desire of his heart. He walked on slippery slopes, with his beloved Nduga people, in the mountains of Irian Jaya, with so much energy to bring the light and life of JESUS to them.

Now he is with the one he loved and longed to be with and we rejoice with him. For the rest of us he has left a big empty hole in our lives and we wait to be reunited when God calls us home.

Adriaan, we thank you for being such an enormous blessing in our lives. Your example of a life well lived, inspires us to keep on keeping on.”

The Funeral Celebration of Life service was at Lawson Heights Alliance Church, Saskatoon.

**CONNECTOR** May 2020 has a full write up of Adriaan

<https://www.cmacan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/connector-40-may-2020.pdf>

## Fernand Cancelier

*July 4, 1931 – July 14, 2020*

*“If I die, don’t cry over me because I will be more alive than I ever was.”*

*– Fernand Cancelier SLDistrict*

After a full life of loving his family, serving Jesus with everything he had, and pastoring within the Alliance family of churches, Fernand Cancelier was called home to heaven July 14, 2020, exactly ten days after his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Fernand was from Belgium, and worked there in the insurance industry and as a furniture upholsterer. He and his wife, Marika, immigrated to Canada in 1960 and went to live in Rimouski, where one year later God blessed them with their daughter, Joëlle.

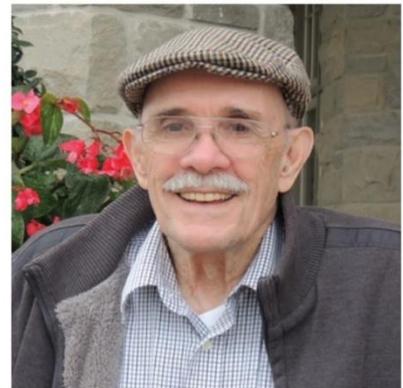
In 1964, Fernand and Marika met Jesus as their Saviour. In 1965, they moved to Quebec City to find a church, where they could grow in the Lord. Grow they did, until in 1983 God, through another local church pastor, called Fernand to ministry.

With a shepherd's heart, he faithfully served in our St. Lawrence District of the C&MA as a pastor at Belvedere Church until his retirement in 2000. Invited by their daughter to come live near her, Fernand & Marika moved to Newmarket, Ontario in September 2006, so they could be close to Joëlle and be more involved in the lives of their two grandsons, Mark and Andrew.

A Celebration of Life Service was held at the Valley View Alliance Church Newmarket. You can view the service here [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGi9JRT\\_IC4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGi9JRT_IC4)

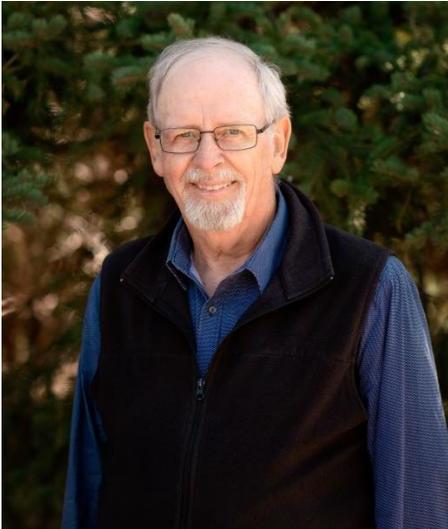


*Nos plus sincères condoléances  
Our sincerest condolences*



## Stanley Nilsson -1948-2020

Stanley (April 28, 1948 - June 11, 2020), passed away surrounded by loved ones in Grande Prairie, AB at the age of 72 years.



Stan had a lifelong passion for the homebuilding industry working as a carpenter, in lumberyard sales, and ending his career in real estate. His true passion was his relationship with God that was shown through his love for people, his numerous leadership roles within the Grande Prairie Alliance Church, and ultimately using construction experience as a missionary in Mexico and Cuba.

He will be dearly missed by his wife Ruth; his children and grandchildren.

A Memorial Service was held June 17, 2020, at the Grande Prairie Alliance Church (<https://www.facebook.com/AllianceChurch/>).

## Shirley Hoepfner -CPD



***April 22, 1941 ~ August 21, 2020***

***1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.***

*Underlined in her bible*

God had a special call on the life of Shirley. Her mother slowly declined in health with Parkinsons and Crippling Arthritis until the girl who became at 13 years old could not lead a teenager's life. Studying at a desk at home by correspondence, she also cared for family life, doing what mothers normally do. I was recently told by a family friend that he was "*blown away*" by a mealtime visit in the Dirks home when he saw that 13-year-old in the kitchen single-handedly preparing the meal for guests!

The burden of such living finally led to Shirley ending her education before completing Grade 10. A sense of inadequacy underlay her self-image. It was only in marriage and using her God-given talents and Spiritual Giftedness that she overcame her self-doubt. She "*graduated*" gloriously from God's Special Training School for a sweet-hearted Lover of Jesus.

Despite that, her natural talents led to an amazing career in service. From children's Sunday School teacher and choir member, to developing a large Sunday School where her Primary Department of children alone had 50 students. Her skill and willingness led to developing the curriculum for summer camp (*Shirley and Roland directed summer camp for several years*), writing the curriculum for National Canadian Alliance Women's ministry for several years; and ultimately developing a CareCall Ministry (*phone ministry of pastoral care*) to an entire congregation of a large church that Roland pastored.

Her last 15 years of church ministry were first on a team of church administration, and then to become the Church Administrator in the Penticton Alliance Church, with a special gift of caring for the spiritual needs of all who would come to her. She had a God-given ministry of Counselling.

### **Shirley Hoepfner ... Lover of Jesus, Servant to All**

Her spirit of surrender, and selfless life was seen by her future-pastor husband. She fell in love with Roland, and was to marry a man who (*unknown to her*) was avoiding God's call to pastoral training and ministry. He grew up in a poor home where Dad was lay pastor of a tiny country church, and part time farmer. Always enough to eat and wear, and happy as a home, Roland decided to NOT become a pastor. So' Shirley, unknowingly was marrying a salesman who wanted to excel financially. (*Not the reality of many pastors of that era!*)

The wedding was planned for April 9, 1966. In January the local Alliance church met for special weeknight meetings. The message was a call to full surrender of all to Jesus Christ. One night, we both found our way to the altar. Roland surrendered to God's call. After that service, Shirley heard these words from him.

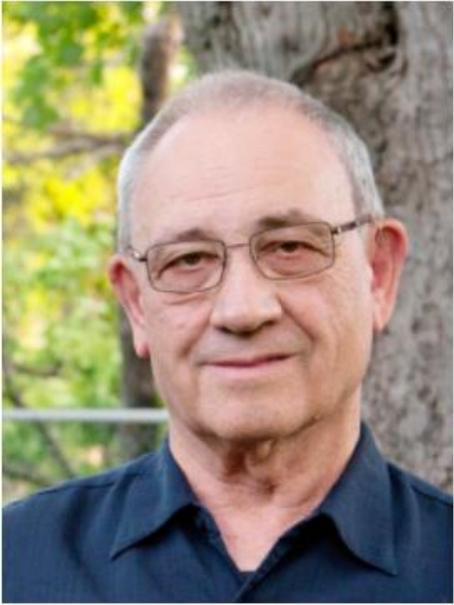
*"I set you free from your promise to marry me. I have to, tonight, I surrendered".*

Shirley almost jumped through the roof of the car! Her face simply beamed with delight! Her immediate response was one of pure joy! *"I always wanted to be a pastor's wife, or a missionary!"* She had surrendered her life to whatever God wanted for her. And now God was giving her the deepest desire of her heart!

That was Shirley. Her commitment to Jesus, and selflessness was an example of beauty.

Roland [capasinkid@gmail.com](mailto:capasinkid@gmail.com)

Celebration of Live service was live streamed Sept 14<sup>th</sup> from Chilliwack Alliance Church



## **GORDON ALLEN BUCEK -CCD**

**February 20, 1941 – September 1, 2020**

Gordon, another POWER Team member “retired” from his earthly assignment and has been Re-assigned his new ministry with his Lord for eternity –never more to “retire”.

Gordon peacefully made this transition after a brief illness, in his 79th year. He was a proud Dad and granddad. Born in Glenside, Saskatchewan – in a sod house on the prairies, Gordon’s world expanded as ministry called him to multiple places in Canada and New Zealand along with his Strasburg Sask bride Jeanette of 55 years. Gordon served as an ordained minister with the Christian and Missionary Alliance for more

than 52 years. After retirement he continued to serve with joy as a chaplain (2006-2017) at CAMA Woodlands Long Term Care home, Burlington, ON. He was a man settled in his faith, knowing when this time came, he would experience the embrace of Jesus. “Well done, good and faithful servant” you have entered into the joy of the Lord.

A memorial service was held September 19<sup>th</sup> at Paramount Dr. Alliance Church in Stoney Creek, Ont. Gordon’s adventurous birth to John & Lillian Bucek occurred in a sod house near Glenside, Outlook, Saskatchewan in 1941. His father rode horseback ten kms to Outlook in a frigid -40 degrees to get the doctor’s help in the birth. By the time help arrived, Gordon was born and cradled in the standard wooden apple box of those times. He grew up on a farm in a loving Christian home where church was perhaps his more important spiritual and social background. His one sister, Betty-Ann, passed away at age 26.

School years, grades one to nine were at the Happy Hollow one room schoolhouse, high school at Glenside and Outlook schools. Summer and part time jobs included irrigation canal riprapping, construction, cooking for construction workers, earth-moving and warehouse jobs, retail store work, Ontario saw mill and Alberta pipelines. Hobbies included his horses and his 1927 Chevy Coupe.

Gordon met Jeanette Fuller at Canadian Bible College. They were married in 1965. They celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary June 26<sup>th</sup> of this year. Gordon cherished Jeanette as an affectionate companion and friend –modeling true love at its best. They have three married sons and three granddaughters. Gordon and Jeanette have lived in Stoney Creek, Ontario for 37 years.

Gordon’s preparation for ministry began by acquiring a BRE degree from Canadian Bible College in 1964. Following 15 years in ministry, he returned for further education getting a BA in the social sciences at the University of Regina and a Master of Divinity at Canadian Theological Seminary (now Ambrose). He served in interim ministries while furthering his schooling.

Gordon’s fifty-two years of ministry began with itinerant evangelism with Dr. K. Neil Foster in 1964, a one-year commitment holding evangelistic and deep life campaigns in churches in Canada and the States. Pastoral ministries continued in Quesnel B.C., Strathmore and Calgary Alberta. Then it was

church planting in New Zealand before moving to Ontario. Here he served as Assistant Superintendent with the Eastern & Central Canadian Districts for 15 years in church planting and personnel oversight. Eleven years in post-retirement were spent as chaplain at CAMA Woodlands Long Term Care Home (Burlington Ont), and continuing there informally with a Sunder service each month until his death.

Celebration of Life Service was held September 21, 2020 at Paramount Alliance Church, Hamilton.

## **ROBB, Mabel** -CMD

Mabel was born in Crossgar, Northern Ireland and passed away September 15, 2020 at the Regina Lutheran Home. She was predeceased by her beloved husband Reverend John Anderson Robb (2008)

Mabel is survived by her family: son Stephen; daughter Stephanie. Mabel and John were married on January 19, 1957 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and immigrated two weeks later to Canada where they created their life together

Mabel served along side her husband John in the ECCD (now the ECD), WCD & CMDistricts.

A Funeral Service was held at Living Hope Alliance Church, Regina, SK, September 21, 2020. Also Live streamed



**This is a call to pray** for the spouses as they transition into this new season of their lives: Elfrieda van der Bijl, Ruth Nilsson, Roland Hoepfner, Marika Cancelier and Jeanette Bucek

**Did you see and listen to the President's report, August 24th?**





This is our president David Hearn and our **POWER Team** overseer – Ryan Graham-- to whom we report and get great support from the National Ministry Center. They are not only making their presentation during the President's Report but performing a virtual DUET. We so appreciate their enthusiasm.



1. The President's Report is an opportunity to see how God is moving among the Alliance and consider where God is leading us next.
2. Join in worship with fellow believers all across the world!
3. Catch a glimpse of the community and be encouraged that you are a part of a movement that is spreading the hope that is found only in Jesus.
4. This is the first time that the President's Report will be completely open to anyone who would like to join! In the past, we have done the President's Report during General Assembly. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are no longer able to meet in person.
5. This is a time to be inspired!



#### President's Report

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7563178/video/452256633>

-total gathering with worship songs as well

-Culture -David Hearn <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7563178/video/461444061>

-Nurture -Ryan Graham <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7563178/video/461454643>

-Venture -Brem Frentz <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7563178/video/461433232>

#### Wayne & Betty Kerr

-National Volunteer **POWER Team** Coordinators

-CONNECTOR -compilers -647-408-4204

[waynbettyk@rogers.com](mailto:waynbettyk@rogers.com) -

Be sure & turn the page





Yes, too long, but we discovered some of you only read this so...

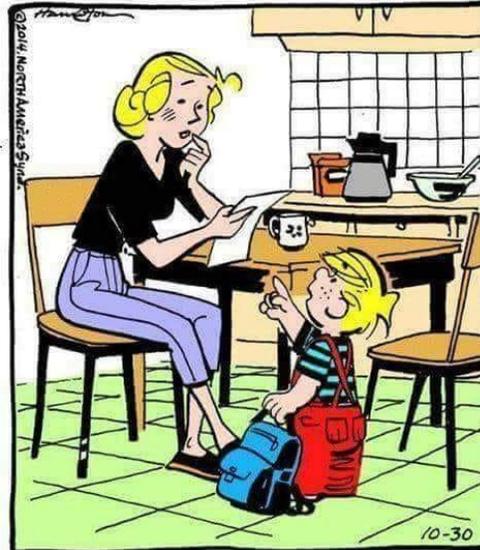
**Wife:** I have a bag full of used clothing I'd like to donate.

**Husband:** Why not just throw it in the trash? That's much easier.

**Wife:** But there are poor starving people who can really use all these clothes.

**Husband:** Honey, anyone who fits into your clothing is not starving.

**Husband is recovering from a head injury now**



"DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT THE TEACHER SAYS. SHE'S BEEN IN KINDERGARTEN FOR 15 YEARS."

## The NILE Virus (Type C):

I thought you would want to know about this virus.

Even the most advanced computer programs from Norton, McAfee, and others cannot take care of this one. It appears to target those who were born prior to 1955.

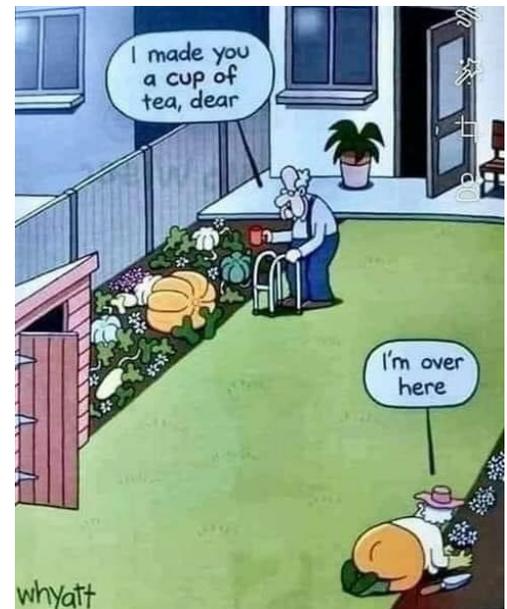
The lockdown seems to be increasing the chances of being affected!

### Virus Symptoms;

1. Causes you to send the same e-mail twice. (Done that)
2. Causes you to send a blank e-mail. (That too)
3. Causes you to send an e-mail to the wrong person. (Yup)
4. Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you. (Ah-ha)
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment. (Done that)
6. Causes you to hit SEND before you've finished. (Oh no, not again)
7. Causes you to hit DELETE instead of SEND. (Hate that)
8. Causes you to hit SEND when you should DELETE. (Heck, now what?)

### *This virus is called the C-NILE virus!*

A lot of us have already been inflicted with this deadly disease and unfortunately as we age it gets worse.



And if you can't admit to doing any of the above, you've obviously caught the other strain - the deadly **D-NILE** virus.