

There is no SUCCESS without SUCCESSION -Gerald Hogenbirk

#47 January 2021



Transitions are taking place in POWER Team

We are delighted to share with you the handing over of the leadership reins of **POWER Team** to Gerald & Dorothy Hogenbirk. Before “retirement” was on their mind, but seeing the need to mentor a couple to eventually take over their ministry, Gerald and Dorothy disciplined Raul & Donna Santos to become Regional Directors for Silk Road. They “retired” from that ministry but God has opened many doors for continued ministry.



Gerald & Dorothy are not ones to confine themselves to a job description and stay within that box. Relocating back to Canada to live, they just put into practice what we expect missionaries to do when they are on the field-to reach their neighbours and befriend people. They have hosted many neighbourhood BBQ’s, inviting those that they had gotten to know at their gym, before the Covid shut-down. They have filled their schedule with speaking opportunities in churches of all ethnic stripes.

Gerald also is free to say that “**Geography and your T4 slip do not determine your vocational calling**”. Both he and Dorothy have been putting Christ on Display before us in fulfilling that statement.

When the Hogenbirks were in their mid 50’s serving in Europe and the Middle East, they still made time and had vision for **POWER Team** ministry. They have been our Baby Boomer couple on the founding team of “retired/retiring” pastors & IWs. They have had major input into making **POWER Team** what it is today. With our **Vision for the Future**, this ministry is going to gain even more traction with a group of 1000+ Alliance pastors and IWs that could be “retiring” over the next decade just due to age.

What a joy and blessing Gerald and Dorothy have been to Betty and myself who are 11-12 years older than them. It is with delight that we hand over the reigns of **POWER Team** to them. We trust you will be a blessing and encouragement to them as you have been to us. At the present, Betty and I will continue the **CONNECTOR** ministry until we have a successor for that. We also continue on as the Central Canadian District Volunteer Coordinators of **POWER Team**.



Picture of original POWER Team leadership.

(front row,) Bob Gould, Laurie & Nancy McLean, Betty Kerr. (Back Row) Alex Yeung, Gerald & Dorothy (taking picture) Hogenbirk, Ron & June MacKinnon, Wayne Kerr.

In thinking about handing over leadership to the next generation and realizing that **POWER Team's** first step is **Preparing Our Workers Entering Retirement**, and recognizing that 1000 of our IWs and Pastors may

enter retirement in the next decade, this following article might be helpful.

Handing Over Power by Pete Scazero



I have had multiple conversations these past few weeks with pastors and leaders about the importance of healthy transitions, particularly as it relates to succession. Why? I am passionate about Jesus and the proclamation of His glory to the next generation.



Over the decades I have repeatedly seen the destructive consequences of leaders who hand over power poorly. Andy Crouch says it best: “It is hard to think of many things that do more damage to an organization than leaders who have no plan for how they will hand over power...When leaders do not actively plan for the end of their power, and when we who are led by them allow them to indulge

in fantasies of unending influence, they are idols, no matter how well disguised” (*Strong and Weak, IVP 2016*).

I describe my own 4½-year interior succession process in the final 17 pages of *The Emotionally Healthy Leader*. Almost three years have passed since that day. Now I find myself speaking much more forcefully, clearly, and directly to my fellow pastor/leader friends. I do so around three words:

1. **Stewardship:** This is Jesus’ church not ours. You are going to die. And then God will continue to build His church. We are only temporary stewards of people, their history, their gifts, their talents, and the mission God has for your organization or church. We are shepherds of Jesus’ sheep, not ours.
2. **Identity:** You are so much more than a pastor, a board member, a vice-president, a president, or a staff worker. You are the Father’s beloved son or daughter. You are married to Jesus, headed for an eternal celebration with Him. Your first calling, like mine, is to behold His beauty and seek His face (Ps. 27:4).

3. **Trust:** Fear is perhaps the greatest reason so many of us unconsciously avoid stepping out of positional power. What will I do? How will I live financially? Will I be forgotten? At moments like this we are tempted to be stingy not generous, to choose scarcity not abundance. We easily forget the entire Christian life is about trusting Jesus. This is the primary work God has called all of us to do (see John 6:28-29).

Our inner monsters emerge when we enter this level of vulnerability. You will need large blocks of time in Scripture with Jesus. You will need wise counselors (e.g. mentors, therapists, spiritual directors, coaches) to speak truth to you when you are tempted to climb down from the cross.

But if you persevere, you will discover that after the cross, there is always resurrection. Endings always result in new beginnings. And you will, perhaps for the first time, understand Jesus' words to Peter: *Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you don't want to go* (John 21:18).

-Pete

Twitter @petescazzero



As **POWER Team** leadership think about and plan for the future and for the many pastors and IWs who will be facing “retirement” in the near future, we should be praying for those who are still in the trenches of ministry. They are facing challenges we have not faced before. If this following article is correct, then this should be fuel for our prayers. Read this (recognizing this is more from a USA perspective, and you may be of a different theological understanding)

Nothing Pastors Do Right Now Will Be ‘Right’ -By Geoff Surratt -check this link [Nothing Pastors Do Right Now Will Be 'Right' \(churchleaders.com\)](http://churchleaders.com)

What a crazy time to be a pastor. The only thing you can be absolutely sure of is no matter what you do, or don't do, church people will tell you, you did the wrong thing. If you ask the church to abide by your state's health orders you are bowing down to Caesar, if you ignore the guidelines you don't care if people die. If you express support for President Trump you don't care about character, if you disagree with Republicans you don't care about unborn babies. If you speak about racial reconciliation you are pushing a far-left agenda, if you don't, you're a racist.

To make it even more challenging, people have more channels than ever before to express their disdain for your decision making.

- Verbal attacks on Sunday morning between services
- Passive aggressive emails, voicemails or posts on Facebook
- Tried but true gossip with like-minded church goers

And it goes well beyond the personal attacks; it is heart breaking to see people you have cared for, for years not only leave your church, but act and speak in ways that are clearly not what

you'd expect to see in a maturing disciple. We are seeing people mold their faith into whatever best fits their personal beliefs and political persuasion, while high profile leaders egg them on.

It is not surprising we are seeing pastors leave their churches and, in some cases, leave vocational ministry entirely. There comes a point where the hurt is too much and the disappointment is too painful. Surely you can follow Jesus without ending every day feeling like you've been run over by an 18-wheeler. It is easy to relate to Elijah when he ran from Jezebel.

'Elijah replied, "I have zealously served the Lord God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too."

1 Kings 19:10 (NLT)

It is not surprising we are seeing pastors leave their churches..and leave vocational ministry entirely.

That last line feels personal, "I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too." It was in that moment that God showed up for Elijah in a gentle whisper. Elijah wasn't the only one left, and God was not done with him. God told Elijah to go back the way he came and he gave him important work to do on the way.

God is not done with you either. Sure, people are displeased, but that has always been the hazard of ministry. None of the Old Testament prophets won popularity contests, and Paul likely won "Most Likely to be Beheaded" at the first annual Apostle's Conference.

The reality is God is using this pandemic to sift the church, to separate wheat from the chaff. I have no doubt when we emerge from this mess many of our churches will be smaller in attendance, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. As painful as it is, I feel like we are getting a "do-over", a second chance at leading people toward true discipleship.

So where do we start? I wonder if we begin where the Reformers began when they looked at a church that had wandered far off the path of discipleship, the five solas of the Reformation. As a refresher, here is my crude synopsis:

1. **Sola Scriptura** ("Scripture alone"): Our faith is not based on what we think is right or what we feel is fair and just, our faith is based on careful examination of God's will as revealed in scripture. I recently saw a comment to a pastor's post that we pray for President-elect Biden that said, "I know the Bible says we should pray for our leaders but..." We've lost sight of the fact there is no "but" in that sentence. We need to return to an understanding that scripture cannot be bent to our worldview.
2. **Sola Fide** ("faith alone"): We are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ. Our people need to understand there is no litmus test between the sinner and the cross; there is no political test to pass. Paul said if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead we will be saved. Full stop. The sentence "you can't be a Christian if you [fill in the blank]" has no place in the church. Paul's harshest words (see Galatians 5:12) were reserved for those who created hurdles to salvation.
3. **Sola Gratia** ("grace alone"): We are saved by the grace of God alone. We have to reorient our people to the concept of true grace rather than a merit-based ladder. A

grace where black and white, rich and poor, Democrats and Republicans stand shoulder to shoulder “without God and without hope”. Ephesians 2:13 (NLT)

4. **Solus Christus** (“Christ alone”): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Savior, and King. Our hope is not in charismatic pastors, powerful Presidents or political parties. Our hope is not in Carl Lentz, Jerry Falwell or Donald Trump. Our hope is in Christ alone. We need to help people understand that people will fail, but God will not.
5. **Soli Deo Gloria** (“to the glory of God alone”): We live for the glory of God alone. We do not live to please people, to grow churches or to obtain fame. We do not live to promote an agenda or protect a legacy. If we are truly Christ-followers everything we do is only for the glory of God. If our words and actions do not reflect glory back to God we are way off track.

As difficult as it is to be a pastor right now, I wouldn’t want to live at any other time. God is trusting us to take up the mantle of Luther, Calvin and Zwingli. To defeat anger and meanness with love and compassion. To gently lead the sheep back to the sheepfold and to once again focus on becoming the perfect bride of Christ.

CONNECTOR believes that the above articles should give us fuel to pray for all of our pastors and IWs, especially those in the 55+ category
-will you join together and pray?

A Relevant Resource:

In light of what we are facing on the world scene and especially in the USA, I (Wayne Kerr) am giving you a link to a message that is very pertinent to what we are facing and how we as POWER Team people should be responding in Putting Christ on Display.

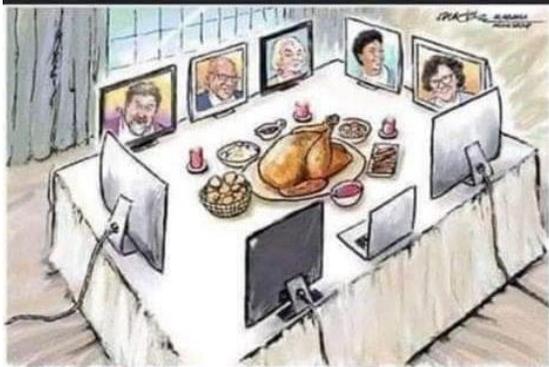
[Sanctify | The Chapel](#)

In this message Jerry Gillis sets a framework to address this whole issue of SANCTIFICATION (which is an emphasis of the C&MA) and how it should be lived out in our lives.





Christmas dinner 2020



Transitioning from 2020 – 2021

In the midst of all the challenges mentioned above we have already entered 2021 with a good portion of our lives across the country being shut down in some form or other.



This picture on the left pretty well sums up many of our lives. It does ours. We had great plans to visit our daughter and family in Cincinnati for Christmas. With plane tickets purchased months ago, the pandemic closures continued to rise and leadership advised no travel unless absolutely required. Medical issues arose so we could not get health insurance and COVID touched one of our local grandchildren. This resulted in us cancelling the trip, cancelling all local family gatherings and having the first Christmas & New Years day being together alone in 53 years of marriage. We are thankful for ZOOM!!

CONNECTOR received Christmas & Year End Letters

It was a joy to get Christmas and year-end letters from **POWER Team** people, so we are including some of that blessing with you.

From....

Irene Draper

As I began to write Christmas cards for my grandchildren this year my heart was hurting as I was reminded again of Derrick's absence (Grandson's death). I asked God to guide me as I wrote to each of them. We will always miss Derrick.

The message of Christmas is that Jesus is the source of our HOPE, our PEACE, our JOY, our LOVE. The hope of eternal life beginning now and lasting forever is especially meaningful to our family this year. We will spend all eternity with Jesus and our loved ones who are already with Him.



My heart's desire for my children and grandchildren is for each one to experience God's love on a deep level. As I was praying for them and for guidance for myself, I listened to John 17.

After hearing Jesus prayer for His followers, I was impressed anew by how specific His prayer is. He longs for us to

experience the same unity that He has with his Father.

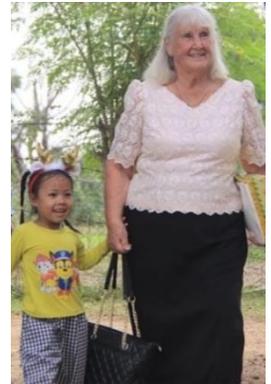
“My prayer for all of them is that they may be one, just as you and I are one, Father—that just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us, and the world will believe that you sent me.” (v 21) ...“I have revealed you to them and will keep on revealing you. I will do this so that your love for me may be in them and I in them.”(v 26) Wow!

We have the privilege of being one with our loving God who created the universe!

The Covid lockdown has given me more time to meditate and listen for God’s voice. I believe the Spirit has guided me to read or listen to John 17 each morning during 2021. I long to be one with my Lord and Saviour. Listening to his prayer for me will be the center of my focus each morning.

God’s love for me has filled me with a sense of anticipation. I look forward to all that He is planning for 2021.

Marie Ens -is in her late 80’s and is enjoying the fruits of her post-retirement years, celebrating with 100’s of children in 3 locations of Place of Rescue in Cambodia.



Joy Tira Hi Friends: how do we face the brand new year? Remember only the glorious memories. Embrace present realities. Even the pandemic situation has great benefits for Kingdom Advancement. Chart with courage the unknown voyage. This nasty Covid-19 and cruel stroke sent me to the most neglected mission field of North America - I.e. hospitals.

Ed & Carolyn Drewlo. Due to Ed’s transitional pastoral ministry seemingly coming to a close and Carolyn thinking it was her time to retire, a decision was made to move to Calgary to be closer to family members. No sooner had they arrived in Calgary than the Prairie Tabernacle Church in Three Hills invited Ed to be their transitional pastor. They have completed 3 months there and Ed says” I have the privilege of speaking God’s Word, not only locally but now due to Covid, to a wider online audience”.



Alan & Judy Hack -Gatineau Que.

In Québec there is a well-known expression that the



majority of French Canadians use to describe their religious state or situation. They say they are “Catholiques non-pratiquants”, (non practising Catholics). Kind of a contradictory term when you stop to think about it. After more than 40 yrs. in the pastoral ministry with the CMA in Québec we “officially” (at least on paper) entered retirement 2 yrs. ago, which basically means that you continue doing various forms of ministry but the government pays you (and maybe with a retirement plan) rather than the church. As a fellow minister describes it, we are

“les retraités non-pratiquants” (non practising retirees), and how true that is.

Knocking on 70's door and therefore trying to envision how we would be in 10 or 15 yrs. from now, we decided it would be best if we moved from our home here in Mirabel, 50 kms north of Montreal, to Gatineau (across the river from Ottawa) where one of our sons lives with his family. We have another son and his family living south of Regina and another son and his family live in Munich, Germany. We are really looking forward to connecting on a more regular basis with our son, his wife and our grandchildren in Gatineau.

When we moved here several years ago to be involved in a District wide ministry, we decided for various reasons to attend Fairview Alliance Church in Montreal, an English CMA church. In Gatineau, we will have the opportunity to be involved again in a local French church, since French ministry is the reason why the Lord called us to Quebec many years ago. When our DS and the church leadership of Église ACM de Gatineau heard that we were moving to Gatineau and would be attending their church, we were asked to come out of retirement and accept the role of part-time pastor for a couple of years. Along with our DS & the church leadership, we see the hand of the Lord in the timing of our move to Gatineau. January 1, we are back on the front lines of pastoral ministry with this small but vibrant French church and we are really looking forward to this new challenge as we work with the church people in this new stage in the life of their church.

POWER Team's name with “**R**” means “Retire/Re-assign/Re-locate/Re-position/Re-???”. The Drewlos and Hacks are fitting into everyone of these.



Dave & Arlene Peters -Prince George BC

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. "God with us" is the message of Christmas, and our hope for 2021 and beyond.

Don & Chris Olsen sent to all, Christmas greetings from Cambridge Ontario having moved from Vancouver Island. With Chris celebrating her birthday on the 25th, we are wondering whether that had any bearing on the name chosen for her, “Chris”.



Connie & John Healey now have time to skate together

Harvey & Joyce Town

Our letter doesn't look very much like Christmas. We have had to replace some of the things we used to do; growing older necessitates changes, as we are finding out. Some of you are on the same page with us. You've been receiving The Town Times since we sent it from Japan in 1958, our very first Christmas in a foreign country. Lots has happened in 62 years. In the Spring of 2019 we decided that it was time to sell our home in Jette Meadows and relocate closer to our relatives, our church, our doctors and hospital. We began to look at the opportunities available and we purchased a half-acre Lot just a hay field away from the church (in answer to prayer), the Jette house sold in less than a week (another prayer answered),



We are grateful for the Lord's care during the Covid-19 pandemic. Harvey is a survivor! He spent a short time in the hospital. Joyce and family members took real good care of him. Joyce never tested positive for the virus.

Our prayer for you this Christmas is from the Priestly prayer in Numbers 6:24-26, *"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."*

May your worship this Christmas bring you great joy and peace. Harvey & Joyce

Don & Doris Scott ---many of our **POWER Team members are facing** serious sickness but a glorious eternal life



Thanks for the **Connector**, I enjoy getting caught up on what's going on, I do wish all a very merry Christmas during these difficult times.

I recently received news that I have an incurable disease. If left alone it will lead to Acute Leukemia over the next eighteen months. I am starting chemotherapy which doesn't cure the disease but may help the bone marrow slow down the disease somewhat.

Please know, I have absolutely no fear and Doris and I are taking our assurance from 2 Cor. 4:16-18. I am 82 years old and God has given me a wonderful life. I know the doctors use medical science and experience to make their predictions, but I am counting on God to have the last word!

I am only asking for prayer that during whatever time I have ahead God will be honoured in all things. I have experienced God's presence and protection throughout my career of serving him as a pastor and missionary and helping the poor and destitute in the world. What an honour it has been to be in His care all these years.

I wish God's blessing upon you -Don (After serving as a C&MA missionary in Thailand, Don was President of World Vision Canada and then served on the world-wide World Vision team)

Celebrating Entering our Eternal Home

Harvey Town 1933-2020

On Saturday afternoon, Harvey sent out this Christmas letter above. After church Sunday and while we ate our dinner in a restaurant, he had a brain bleed, a serious stroke. The ambulance transferred him to Kalispell (60 minutes north). Sunday night, with a cellphone on his chest, he was coherent enough to hear all his children tell him they loved him. Monday night I returned home, and he passed into the arms of Jesus at 4:20 AM, Tuesday. Joyce

Harvey Allan Town - Beloved retired minister and Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA), District Superintendent, pastor to pastors, stepped into the presence of our Lord and Saviour on Dec. 8, 2020.

He was born on October 23, 1933 in Portal North Dakota. Harvey was the youngest of 4 children. He graduated from Canadian Bible College (CBC)(1951-55) with a Bch. of Theology & International Ministry, attended Japanese language school in Kobe, Japan 1958-1960. He was ordained by the Christian & Missionary Alliance at age 21.

Harvey pastored in Alberta at Barrhead Alliance and Beulah Alliance in Edmonton, AB also at First Alliance in Great Falls, MT. He was the C&MA Superintendent for the Western Canadian District 1981-1990. Then he became the C&MA Superintendent of the US Rocky Mountain District 1990-1999. He enjoyed 43 years of ministry from 1956-1999. He retired and returned "home" to the Mission Valley Dec. 31, 1999. He was a published author of "Jesus, Talk of the Town". He served on college & seminary boards for 20 years. He was a CBC alumnus of the year in 1987. Harvey loved hunting & fishing and recreational activities of every kind. His outings with his three sons & many grandsons were the highlight of his life.

Harvey and Joyce met in the Ronan C&MA church as teenagers in 1951. They both graduated from CBC and were married in June of 1955. Their combined enthusiasm and accomplishments made a significant impact wherever they served.



Harvey's deep love, faith & integrity has been an encouragement to his church friends, District pastors & wives and to his family! Joyce and Harvey were married for 65 years.

Harvey was together with the Singing Men (of Canadian Bible College) at General Assembly 2018 when they sang at the **POWER Team Dinner**.



Marilyn Woodruff



March 8, 1936 – October 22, 2020

October 22, 2020, Marilyn Woodruff passed away in her home at age 84. Marilyn is survived by her husband of 63 years, Rev. Howard Woodruff. Marilyn was born in Edmonton. Her family moved to Victoria in 1942; she was raised in Victoria and Vancouver. Marilyn accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour as a child. She faithfully served the Lord for the remainder of her life.

At 18, she attended Canadian Bible College in Regina, Saskatchewan intending to become a foreign Missionary, graduating in 1957. It was here where she met her husband Howard. Marilyn and Howard were married in 1957; Howard was a pastor with the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church and served in Sturgis, Saskatchewan, Trail, BC, Hanna, Vermilion, Devon, and Peace River before retiring to Edmonton in 1997. Marilyn was an active member of Beulah Alliance Church for the past 23 years.

Marilyn's life revolved around her family and the church. She loved music and for many years taught music lessons in her home. She played piano and organ for church services from her teen years until the last year of her life.

As a wife of a pastor, Marilyn was involved in all aspects of local church ministry. She loved gardening, cooking and baking, entertaining in her home and organizing pot-luck dinners and other social events. There was rarely a Sunday dinner in her home where guests were not included. She was always involved in either hosting or preparing food for family dinners on every holiday or family birthdays, the last one being Thanksgiving 2020 which she prepared and hosted the Thanksgiving turkey dinner for her children and grandchildren. In her retirement years, Howard and Marilyn enjoyed meeting with friends for coffee, sometimes several times per week.

Although shocked by her sudden passing, Howard and her children are comforted by knowing that she is with her Lord and Saviour.

POWER Team leadership expresses great gratitude to Marilyn and Howard. At a vision casting gathering in Calgary for the expansion of **POWER Team** ministry in the CMD, WCD and CP Districts, Marilyn & Howard were key influencers to make **POWER Team** nation wide. Ever since that day, they have been great encouragers for retired IWs and pastors.

Do you want good advice from a widow?

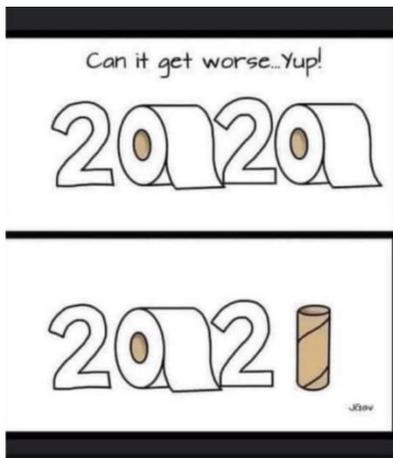
Jeanette Bucek, reflects on husband Gord's preparation for transitioning to be with Christ (2020). Jeanette in her Christmas letter wrote: "Gordon, had all his affairs in order. We never had to look for passwords, receipts, and information. It was all there in a Binder and in files. What a gift he left for us in that way! We were able to follow through on all the duties after a death without stress."



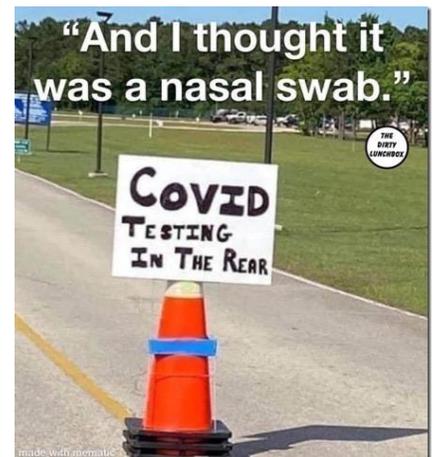
Some Items to make you smile during these down days.



Me: Alexa, what's the weather going to be this weekend?
Alexa: Why? Where do you think you're going?

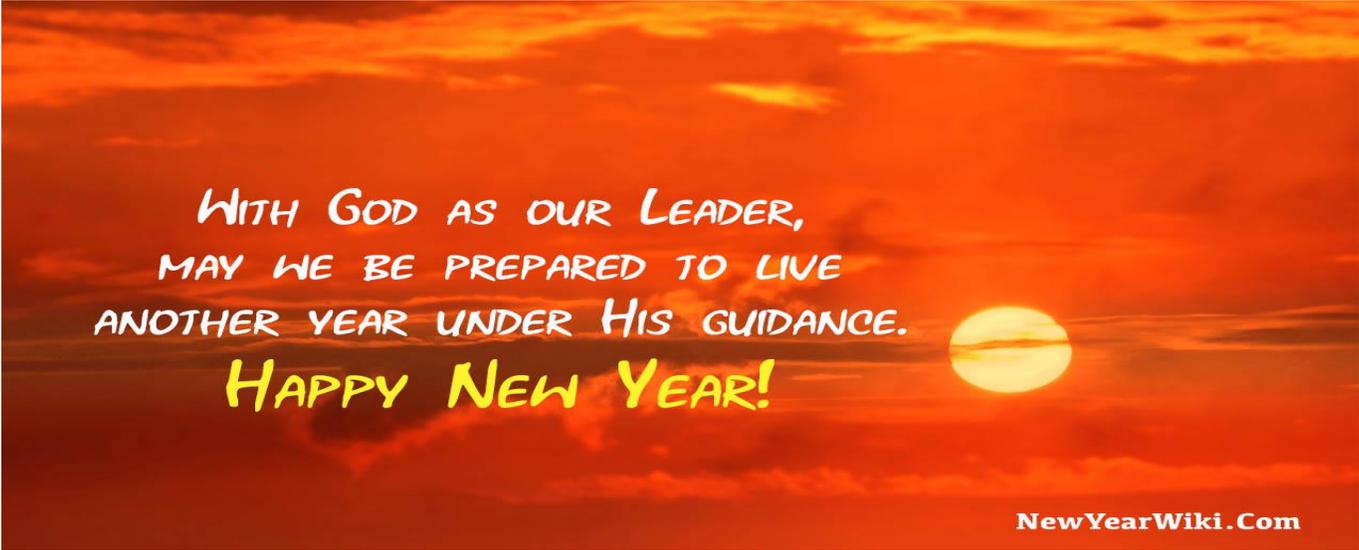


Wife: Did I get fat during quarantine?
Husband: You weren't really skinny to begin with!
Time of Death: 11:00pm
Cause: Covid



I told my wife how thankful I was to have someone I enjoyed being quarantined with. She said "must be nice."

HUSBAND...
"ONE GOOD THING ABOUT THIS LOCKDOWN IS THAT WE CAN'T GO OUT AND SPEND MONEY"
WIFE...
(CLICKS 'ADD TO CART')



WITH GOD AS OUR LEADER,
MAY WE BE PREPARED TO LIVE
ANOTHER YEAR UNDER HIS GUIDANCE.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

NewYearWiki.Com

It has been a joy to be channels of blessings that you give us to share with the **POWER Team** members through the **CONNECTOR**.

We cherish your input without asking. Many are encouraged, challenged and blessed with what you share.

Our plan has been to pass on to you a **CONNECTOR** 3-4 times a year. 2020 saw 11 distributed and 2021 is starting off the same way. We look forward to your input. We see the following being topics for you to submit information on.....

...Thoughts on Retirement

...Things I was not prepared for to "retire". This will help us in helping those who are 55+

...Books that you recommend for **POWER Team** reading

...Books, materials, ministries you are producing/providing .

Continue to put Christ on Display this year

Wayne & Betty Kerr -CONNECTOR Compilers

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Check out **POWER Team** website -you can read former issues of **CONNECTOR**

<https://www.cmacan.org/ministries/ministry-networks/>