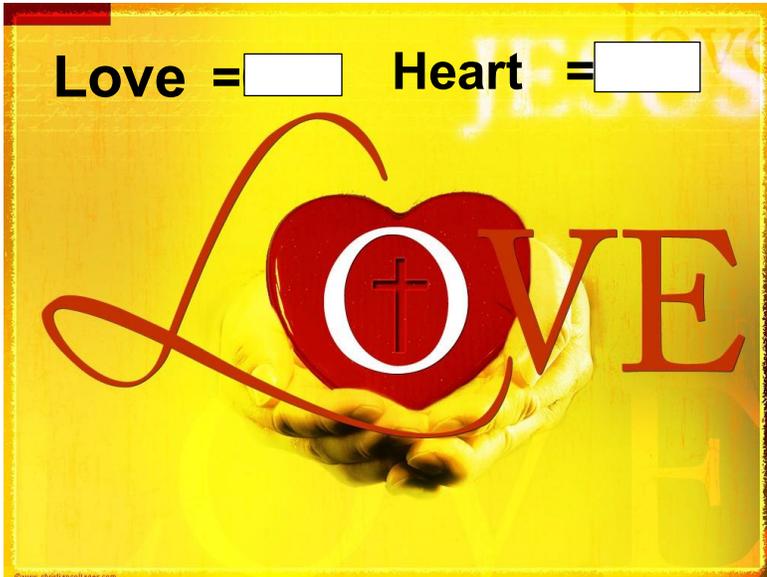


CONNECTOR

#48 February 2021



February celebrates Valentine's Day. We are reminded of God's Love for us and His love flowing through us to others.

Many of you may remember **LOVE in MOTION** the cross-country cycle ride of 2014 raising money for inner city ministries. It was my privilege, not only to be on the leadership team but to be one of the riders.

It was encouraging to have so many riders participating for one week or two or all 9 weeks, raising monies so that each district received \$40,000.00 for special ministries.

Hundreds of church people showed love by providing food and lodging so more monies could go to these projects instead of to our expenses. Truly, all of these were acts of LOVE, (though I felt some days cycling the Rockies, that there must be a better way of expressing His love than sweating it out, having repeated all the Scripture I knew and then counting guardrail posts just to keep my mind off of the pain).

It was an act of love and a challenge to the heart. We read "**LOVE the Lord with all your HEART....and your neighbor as yourself**". There are many passages about **LOVE** and about the **HEART**.

So here is a quiz for you.

1. In the Bible, which word, **LOVE** or **Heart** has the most verses?
2. The Bible has _____ verses on **LOVE** and _____ verses on **HEART**.

(for the answers, go to the last page)



Introducing our new POWER Team National Coordinators

We welcome our new **POWER Team** National Volunteer Coordinators **Gerald and Dorothy Hogenbirk**. This “young” couple have not only been part of the founding leadership team for the past 8 years but they both are now on the governments seniors’ payroll.

Gerald & Dorothy have been part of making **POWER Team** what it is today and we look forward to their leadership as our numbers are increasing rapidly with the Baby Boomers coming of age for retirement.

Gerald & Dorothy submitted the following:

Eight years ago, Wayne and Betty Kerr came to see us in Europe. As we hiked up a hill behind Kandern, Germany, it was mentioned that there were a growing number of retired Pastors and Missionaries across Canada. We said to each other, wouldn’t it be great just to be part of this wonderful family who can care for each other and spur each other on to love and good deeds as we move from one phase of our lives to another.



I understand that we have approximately 600 retired workers across Canada with another 1,000 or so (including spouses) retiring in the next 8 years. What a vision to be able to help each other prepare for an excellent retirement as well as

spurring us all on to a life of heroic virtues and deeds for the years that the Lord continues to give us.

Transition from full-time paid work to this next phase is not easy—occupational hazards abound. Issues of identity and life purpose are very real, but can be navigated successfully. We want to honour those of our C&MA family who have served in leadership and as Dr. Arnold Cook said, not to allow people to be deposited onto the heap of **benign neglect**. The gifts of the Spirit carry on. **Neither the T4 slip, nor geography are the determining factors to the vocational calling.** To see an army of veteran workers who are not grumpy or griping, but are grateful, glowing and gleaning new ways to humbly serve our Lord Jesus Christ, by loving Him and people...this is wonderful. To help each other make sense of our complex world, to build courage and vision in each other’s lives and to joyfully carry each other’s burdens in an environment where love is stronger than fear, would bless people and honour God. To be and to do all this with the joy of the Lord and His presence, is life changing.

A few simple means to help bring this about:

a..Reading and contributing to **The CONNECTOR**. Thanks so much Wayne and Betty for spearheading this so well.

b. Becoming involved with some others in your geographical vicinity in a small group—this can be done in person or on-line. Thanks so much for those who have already taken leadership in this. We've heard of and experienced groups getting together for pot lucks, beach barbecues, coffee, a simple phone call or zoom meeting. A 50- seater Bus trip to Sight & Sound in Pennsylvania has been planned. Please take the initiative to share with the **CONNECTOR** your on-going creative ministries and the gatherings you're involved with. Photos are accepted as well.

c. Being available to the Church and District to help according to our gifting and their need. We've met with C&MA President, Dave Hearn and the District Superintendents and they have been very supportive of an ongoing relationship with **POWER Team** members.

Your part

- a. **Reading/Contributing**
- b. **Becoming involved**
- c. **Available to serve**

Thank you so much to so many of you who have been wonderful examples of living and learning well over the years to Dorothy and myself. May the **POWER Team** be but one avenue of meaningful relationships. So many creative ministry opportunities have opened to us since we returned to Canada, from Neighbourhood and Fitness Center barbecues and outings, working with a number of Persian leaders and churches, on some boards, volunteering at the District office, speaking, mentoring and thoroughly enjoying our family, including our 8 grandkids—though from a distance at present.

As we read through the **CONNECTOR**, our hearts are thrilled and inspired to hear of the practical ways so many are staying involved in ministry and service to others and to their community. Thank you so much for all who have been involved. You are a blessing.

We would love to hear from you.

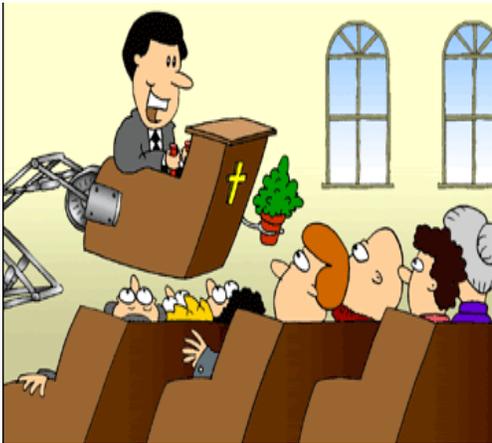
Gerald and Dorothy Hogenbirk

hogenbirkgd@gmail.com

POWER Team National Volunteer Coordinators

New Section for CONNECTOR

Thoughts on Retirement



From the Pulpit to the Pew

We want your input. This is your “personal” invitation to contribute your thoughts, your experiences, your challenges and joys in retirement. This issue starts us off and so we look forward to the articles you will submit.



Nelson Annan

TOO MUCH TIME TO THINK



Retired after 48 years of full-time ministry, I’ve had plenty of time to myself these past two years. Those years were very ‘full-time’: filled with preaching, teaching, counselling, leading and more. But now I have much more time to be still: to pray, to read, to think—and if I’m not careful, to regret. Reminiscing is fun to some extent. However, looking back on seven decades, I often tend to remember not the helpful words and action but those not so good. As an optimist and action-oriented person, unhealthy introspection like this surprises me. With more quiet time in retirement, looking back can easily lead to the sadness of dwelling on regrets.

I enjoyed those busy ministry years; weeks filled with teaching 9 hours in Bible School plus 2-3 sermons each week; leading multi-staff churches with all the challenges involved; pastoring an International Church with the cross-cultural joys and surprises. Jan and I are so very thankful for all God has allowed us to do and the many people we’ve been allowed to serve. But -----.

Yes, I know “forgetting those things that are behind---“. I’ve preached on that Philippians passage. But with more time to think and much more to remember, I can too easily think of things I regret. The tempter, the accuser, is happy to lead my mind towards actions I failed to take and words I should have spoken; or things I should not have done and words that should never have been spoken.

I’ve confessed these foolish mistakes and my multiple sins to our loving Lord. But sometimes I must remind myself that I have a righteous great High Priest who represents me and intercedes with His love and mercy. I must choose the discipline of giving negative memories to Christ and refuse to dwell on the past. “What if” and “If only” thinking; I must let go of the forgiven past; and turn to prayer, praise and worship. Even if they are very small, I must look ahead for ways I can serve and encourage others.

In “The Language of God”, Dr. Francis Collins, famous research scientist, tells of a trip to help a small mission hospital in Nigeria. He was prepared, but still shocked at the huge needs, the lack of equipment and the meagre resources of that small African hospital.

One day he was the only one available to perform a risky operation on a young man who was dying. The operation was successful; he felt wonderful for a few hours. But then Francis began to wrestle with feelings of frustration and sadness at the overwhelming needs and the tiny impact he and others were making. His service was so small in the midst of great needs.

The next day he visited his patient and found him recovering nicely. The young Nigerian farmer asked if Dr. Collins was new; Collins admitted he was. To his surprise the patient said, “I sense you are discouraged and wonder why you came here. I have an answer for you. You came for one reason. You came here for me.”

Francis marvelled at this insight. Those simple words deeply touched his life. This world-famous doctor/researcher scientist destined for great things, writes: ***“We are called to reach out to others. - --Most of the time it happens in simple acts of kindness, one person to another.”***

Yes, growing old in retirement makes us vulnerable to regrets, frustration and even depression. Instead, we must choose small acts of kindness, just one person at a time. We can still pray, walk humbly with our God; and with God’s help, rejoice always.

[Beulah Alliance Church's Thank You Video by Pastor Nelson Annan - YouTube](#) -check out this site of the Annan’s ministry in Vietnam.

Bill McAlpine -November 2020 on Facebook

(-this following paragraph was found on Facebook which resulted in us asking Bill to flesh it out a little more so he submitted “On Being Retired” below but we are taking the liberty to include what was posted on Facebook)

“So I have come to the conclusion that one of the residual effects of aging - is an intensifying of gravitational pull. What do I mean? Well, you see, hair that once resided on top of my head has now been pulled slightly south to other areas of my anatomy, in particular, my nose! Dang! BUT ... now with mandatory mask-wearing in public places, no one sees, so no one gives a rip! See, wearing masks is not all that bad - for some of us old flatulents at least! Happy Friday 13th!”



ON BEING 'RETIRED' by Bill McAlpine



It was just about a year or so before I made the final transition into “retirement” that I had an interesting and very significant conversation with a friend regarding this next stage of my life. The question my friend asked me was: “So what’s your plan for your retirement, Bill?” My immediate response was, “Plan? You’re supposed to have a plan? I’m retiring! Why do I need a plan?” But my friend got me thinking. Maybe I *should* have a plan.

After thinking and even praying about this, a word came to mind a number of times and it was the word “**available.**” Because the number of daily commitments demanding my time and presence was now radically reduced, I had much more discretionary time at my disposal. My plan, now, is to use that time – to be *available*.

This has not meant that I now wait around, to quote A. W. Tozer, “sitting on my hands and twiddling my thumbs”! As someone once warned me would be the case, I have been given cause to wonder how on earth I had time to work prior to retirement! In the almost year and a half of retirement we have enjoyed thus far, I have yet to experience a moment of boredom. A number of factors have contributed to this, including the fact that all of our children and their families live within one and a half to two hours and with five grandchildren (and a sixth on the way), there are ample occasions when our help is needed and appreciated.



**McAlpine plaid face mask
made by Heather**

I have also set out a list of potential activities and/or challenges for myself such as the following: learn one more language (Spanish, since a Spanish-speaking friend encouraged me to do so, so when I see Jesus face to face I won’t need to speak with him through an interpreter!), learn another musical instrument (electric guitar), resurrect a couple of formerly active hobbies – woodworking and water color painting, and join my wife on her daily, long walks as often as possible. More time with my wife and family has been probably the most delightful benefit of retirement. But even with more discretionary time available, it still requires intentionality on my part to ensure such times actually happen.



Typically we embrace a mindset that sees retirement more as a termination than a new beginning. Indeed, it does mark the end of a career or vocation that has entailed regular daily commitments that no longer apply in this new stage of life. But the end of one stage can and needs to be seen as a threshold into a new stage.

In their excellent book, *Launch Your Encore*, Hans Finzel and Rick Hicks point out that in this new season of life, we typically move from a position of leadership and into a position of influence. In other words, although we may no longer be used to set direction as a leader, that does not mean we can no longer have influence. In fact, in some ways we can have influence in ways beyond what a leader may have.

It has been very easy for me to become more pensive as I reflect on the more than 45 years of vocational ministry that Lord has been gracious enough to allow me to enjoy. If I wanted to, I could easily become melancholic, almost pining for the way things used to be. But a passage that my wife shared with me that has become very significant for me is found in Isaiah 43:18 – 19, which says:

***“Forget about what’s happened;
don’t keep going over old history.
Be alert, be present. I’m about to do something
brand-new.
It’s bursting out! Don’t you see it?
There it is! I’m making a road through the desert,
rivers in the badlands.”*** (The Message)



In talking with some of my fellow retirees, I found I was not alone in feeling slightly down, if I let myself, over the fact that we don’t get invited to speak or teach quite as often as we used to: the phone just doesn’t ring as much! The reality is – that comes down to a pride issue, doesn’t it? I think it is more a male thing in which our significance, and perhaps even our identity, is too often deeply linked to what we do, our ministry.

What I do has significantly changed in retirement. But here is one thing that has not changed in the least – who I AM – my identity in Christ. I would say this, I am discovering and basking in my identity in Christ more than I ever have. Way too often we allow our ministry (what we DO) to crowd out or blur our unshakable confidence in our identity (who we ARE). And here’s the thing: I want my grandkids to remember me for who I WAS, not what I DID. In fact, they will probably care less about what I did, but they will most certainly remember who I was.

Retirement is a magnificent gift of time to continue to develop who I AM in Christ without the often-frenetic schedule and weighty expectations (often self-imposed) that ministry can demand. As I said above, and lest I give the wrong impression, this is not for a moment to suggest that retirement become a season of passive, inactive, lethargic existence. I was recently reminded by a good friend that a good retirement is this: “having something to do, but not *having* to do something.”

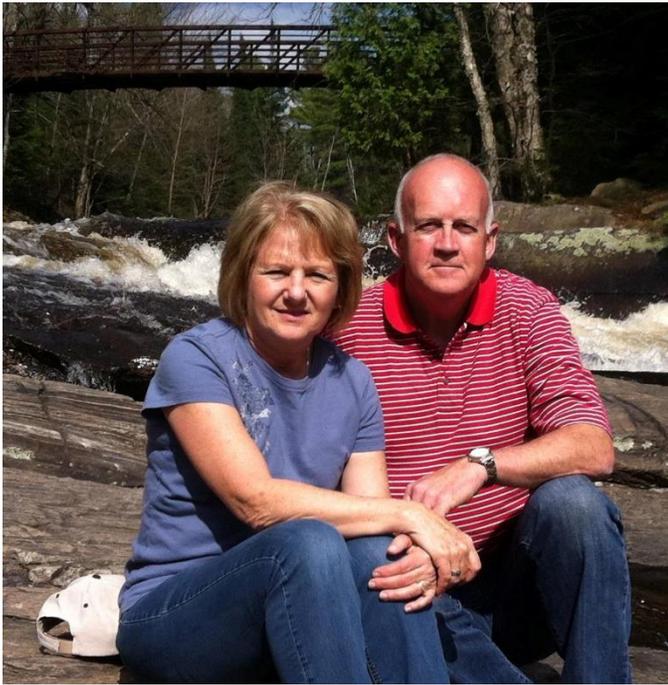
One of the worst responses we can make in retirement is to pretend or act like our past is non-existent. God often commanded his people to remember where they had been – the good, the bad and the ugly - and what He had done for them in the past. But we are not to set up camp in our past, because, “**this** is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” Do I miss elements of being actively involved in a vocation that pays me well? Of course. But the knowledge that God is still “doing a new thing,” that He, as my good shepherd, is still going ahead of me preparing the way.



(CONNECTOR took the liberty to underline or bold some of the above -not that of the author)

From Whitby, Ontario to Calgary, Alberta – John & Connie Healey

We have returned home to the west. Our ministry began in 1979 with the Alliance in Mannville, AB. Our first DS was Roy McIntyre. That was an event in and of itself! A little later we met Rev. Harvey



Towne. Both of them helped us begin a fruitful ministry with the C&MA. We've moved around a lot – some twenty-two residences. Ministry has taken us from Dawson Creek, BC as an intern, to Mannville, AB, to Regina, to Costa Rica, to Colombia and back to Canada a couple of times. We saw the work grow in Winnipeg and in Swift Current, and had a stint as Missionaries-in-Residence at Canadian Bible College. Those many ministries of church planting, leadership training, pastoral work and international ministry trained us well to serve as DS and wife in the Eastern Canadian District. I believe the way God prepared us was by us “*learning to learn*” from others.

We learned from those who went before us, from staff members, from fellow Alliance workers, from

DEXCOM members, from others on the Board of Directors, from fellow DSs and particularly from godly elders who so often became the examples and mentors to us that we had hoped to be to them. We learned from Colombian leaders how to serve in Colombia, and now we are learning from others how to retire. God has used the people of the Alliance to enable us to minister with the Alliance to people all over the world. We've been fortunate to travel and teach national leadership in a number of Alliance fields. And, should we ever get beyond this time of Covid-19 we hope to take up itinerant ministries again to teach and preach and encourage. We'll wait and see how the next chapter of our life is to be written

We came home to the west. We felt very much at home in Colombia, and we felt surprisingly, happily at home in Toronto. Our ministry in eastern Canada introduced us to brothers and sisters in Christ from at least 16 language groups. We felt well received from Toronto to Ottawa, to Halifax and to St. John's. What a



“I’ve crunched the numbers in your retirement account. It’s time to figure out who will be wearing the mask and who will be driving the getaway car.”

Saturday, February 1, 2020 was the end of my Sabbatical and I suppose the first official day of retirement. I thought this picture above was worth a smile. (says John Healey)

privilege it has been to serve with the Alliance family who take seriously the call to deeper life and world missions. Those two passions have been the heart beat of our ministry.

We came home to our children and grandchildren. We have four married sons and a married foster daughter. Three of them live in Calgary, one in Spruce Grove, AB and our foster daughter in Regina. We have grandchildren both in Saskatchewan and in Alberta and we are so enjoying them. We have lived a lot of years separated from our children by distances and busy ministries. So often we worried about how they would be without us. We gave ourselves to prayer, we called often, we made use of emails and text messages. We spent a lot of money on airplane tickets. But, mostly we prayed. Each of them has gone through struggles and each of them have come out victorious, and we are so thankful.



And, I think **we came home to the west to grow up.** We are still growing and we continue to look to see how God works in the lives of others as we begin this chapter of life and adventure. Each place we have lived was an invitation to start over. I've watched pastors and missionaries move from a place of ministry where they thrived to a new place of deep, heart-searching struggle. I've learned that the way we live and serve in one appointment will never be the same as how we must live and model Christ in

the next. International workers often struggle as we did with change. I like to tell them that our lot in life is not simply a change of address. We go through "culture shock," and "language shock," and "ministry shock," and "food shock," and "climate shock," and in all of it we must meet Jesus again, as if it was our first day of life and ministry. We are always learning how to know Jesus where we are at and in the midst of our own dilemmas. We are not good at helping others meet Jesus if we are not continually meeting him again for the first time with every move and new challenge.

Why we retired in Calgary—our home
- to be near children and grandchildren
-to grow up
-to help encourage next generation.

We came home to the west to help and encourage the next generation of Alliance workers who follow after us. We have wounds in our heart from former Alliance workers who couldn't let go of place and power. We have been frustrated at times with people unwilling to protect and cheer on the crowd that is now taking up the serious mantle of leadership. We take very seriously the path before us as a time to pour our affections into pastors and international workers. They must "meet Jesus" over and over in these turbulent days of change. Our verse of hope all these years has been 1 Samuel 12:24, "**Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart, for consider what great things He has done for you.**" We are thankful for years of ministry with the Alliance, and we are taking time to meet Jesus again. This retirement is a new assignment. We'd like to see Jesus right now, where we live, doing something new and fresh in us – and then through us in the lives of others.

John & Connie Healey johnhealey100@gmail.com

John Healey agreed wholeheartedly with the vision that Wayne Kerr and Gerald Hogenbirk placed before him in 2013 which became **POWER Team**. John has been our greatest cheerleader from day one for which we thank him.

Research Project to help POWER Team in the Future.

Input Needed

-For all POWER Team members to respond.

Over the last 10 years of their overseas ministries, IWs have received great guidance for transitioning well back into Canada. On the whole, pastors have had little input for the transition “from the pulpit to the pew”.



There has been very little follow-up once we have gone off the Alliance family payroll. Many of us have harbored our thoughts, weaknesses and challenges in this new season when maybe some “member care” or opportunity to express our challenges could help us know the “joy of the Lord”, being our strength. We may discover that we are not the only ones with these thoughts.

Whether you are newly transitioning into “retirement”, transitioning “from the pulpit to the pew”, or you have been on this journey for many years, what have been the challenges you have faced? How have you dealt with the transition or what are your ongoing struggles with this?

We would like you to respond to the following or even write a paragraph on this.

1. What assistance did you have once “retired” to navigate the challenges of this new season of life?
2. What assistance would you have liked to have received before you retired?
3. What input could you give to the **POWER Team** leadership to better care for, connect with, or better understand what you have had to face in this “retirement” or post full-time ministry time?



“Retired” but still influencing others

“Retired and still serving”



Ernie and Fe Pinzon -Filipino retired pastor in Ottawa

Fe and I were in Indonesia in November to January in 2019 with our daughter. Then from February to March we ministered to various groups and churches on **HEALS** - a series of lectures which I developed after retirement.

H = God wants us to be Healthy.

E = God wants to set us free from the power of Evil.

A = God wants to heal the Aches of our hearts.

L = God wants us to Love.

S = God wants us to Serve Him and His kingdom.

While in Manila the Covid19

lockdown caught us and we were stuck for 4 months. It was only on July 1 that we came home. I have also finished a

teaching series on the Book of



Ephesians which I am now teaching through Zoom -- to an international audience (Thursday) and here with FCC members in Ottawa. I am also teaching discipleship lessons to about 8 or 10 overseas Filipino workers. I am regularly preaching to a congregation in Mississauga once a month as well as to FCC through the Zoom.

Praise the Lord, we're both in good health. Ernie and Fe

We thank the Lord for our health or whatever is left after 70+ years. The lockdowns could not stop God. Here are our zoom ministries: preaching once a month for a congregation in Mississauga in Ontario, Ephesians BS for a group in the Philippines and in Ohio, once a week discipleship lessons for OFW ladies in different cities around the world, Ephesians BS for the members of FCC. Starting on January 4, we will start a zoom lecture series on HEALS for a congregation in Calgary, Alberta. God inspired me to write these two materials (HEALS and Ephesians) before Covid19. Now I know why.

May the Lord strengthen you with great joy as we love and serve Him.

John & Sandi Vanderzee



John attended CBC in the 70's and CTS in 1990-1992 and graduated with a Master of Arts in Religion. We were accredited for both home and overseas ministries. We have worked in Thailand with CAMA Services and World Relief. John pastored a Baptist church shortly after graduation and also spent many years working for Youth for Christ.

We have both recently retired and live on an acreage outside of Sherwood Park, Alberta. John retired as a grain buyer at Bunge and I retired as the Executive Director of Alberta Kidney Care - North (I am also a nurse).

Thanks very much for including us!

God Bless,
John and Sandi Vanderzee
(780) 922-0583

Does not the Bible say something about having a good reputation in the

Body of Christ AND in the marketplace?

Jeanette Bucek's further encouragement to have our house in order.

Jeanette's husband Gordon graduated to glory in September -see October CONNECTOR. [connector-44-oct-2020.pdf \(cmaacan.org\)](#) In the January issue, [connector-47-jan-2021.pdf \(cmaacan.org\)](#) Jeanette gave some good advice from a widow as to how Gordon had prepared for his death. Here is further information from Jeanette which could be helpful to everyone of us. She writes:

"In case this would be helpful or interesting, here are some of the things Gordon listed in the binder and had in his files.

1. Codes for all the bike locks and other locks in the garage. He described what each lock looked like.
2. Code for his one locked briefcase.
3. User name, passwords and pins for: E-bay, HP Printer, iPad, Laptops,
4. He photocopied both front and back of all the cards in his wallet - credit, gift, Costco card etc. (proved very helpful too)
5. List of Bank Accounts and Account numbers.
6. List of automatic withdrawals with listed bank account and what the agreements were.

For example - City of Hamilton automatic withdrawal of 10 monthly installments excluding Dec. 1 & Jan. 1st.

7. Life Insurance - with whom and policy details (file as well).

8. Companies that have his credit card numbers - such as Amazon, iTunes, PayPal.

Just yesterday, Marshall (our Techy son) dealt with a Lap Top that Gordon had used long ago and sure enough the code was in the book.

Thanks again for being our link to friends. Our BIG reunion will be "out of this world".

Jeanette

For Book Section

Donald I Dirks
302 33467 Bevan Av.
Abbotsford, BC V2S 6X2
Canada

"You're only young once but if you do it right once is enough".

My New Blog <http://dondwafrica.wixsite.com/drc-africa>

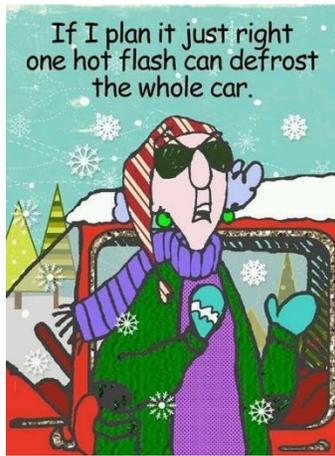
My Book: "My French Connection" <http://www.lulu.com/shop/don-dirks/my-french-connection/paperback/product-21446057.html>

My Book, Kindle version: http://www.amazon.com/French-Connection-Global-Vault-Books-ebook/dp/B00GYKI5OI/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1390257094&sr=1-1&keywords=my+french+connection

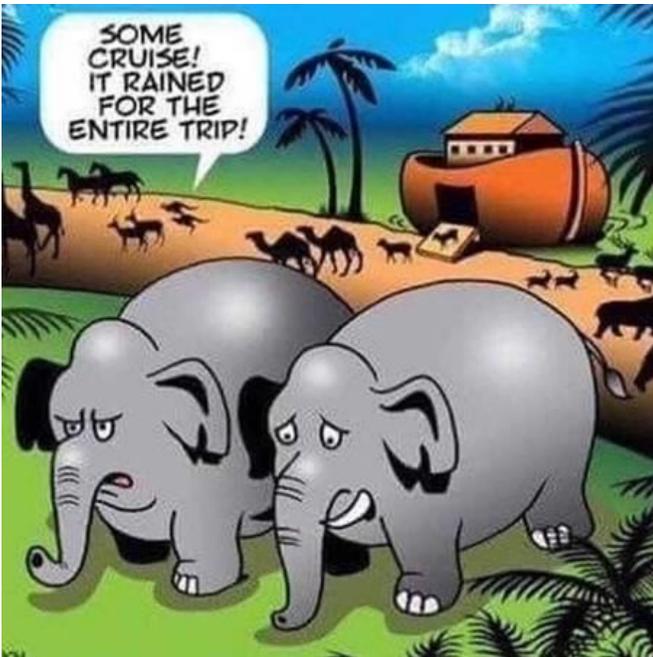
If you have blogs or books you have written and would like **POWER Team** peers to be aware of, please pass them on to us.

Time for a Smile or two:





Ships don't sink because of the water around them. Ships sink because of the water that gets inside of them. Moral of the story, don't let what is happening around you, get inside of you and weigh you down.



December issue of **CONNECTOR** -there was The Bathtub Quiz
connector-46-dec-2020.pdf (cmaacan.org)
Ron & June MacKinnon, two of **POWER Team** founders read this issue and Ron reported in: "I was looking at the last page when June came into the room. I began to read the bathtub test to her and when I got to 'Now, empty the bathtub' June said, 'just pull the plug'. Looks like I might be in the old age home by myself!"

Valentine's Quiz answers from page 1.

- 1. **Heart** is mentioned more often in the Bible than **LOVE** -interesting
- 2. Love = **694** times mentioned Heart=**743** times

Any response or contribution to **CONNECTOR**, please forward to Wayne & Betty Kerr
waynebettyk@rogers.com
647-408-4204