

# CONNECTOR

#55 December 2021



POWERteam



*Live to be forgotten, so  
Christ can be remembered.*

This Christmas season, our **POWER Team** leadership want to encourage you as you look back on the gift of ministry God has allowed you to have.

Some of you may not feel that your ministry has counted much for the kingdom. You served faithfully, retirement came, and so what? Maybe you have felt that you have not been thanked or

acknowledged for your service to God or to the denomination. No one has asked to hear your story (though the **CONNECTOR** has asked each one of you to share ministry stories), and we wonder if we have made a difference.

Others of us have been given some acknowledgement. Maybe we have made a public dent on the growth of the Alliance Church in Canada or in international ministries. Now in “retirement” we might feel unappreciated or that the younger generation does not welcome input from those who have retired.

Our fearless new National Coordinator of **POWER Team**, Gerald Hogenbirk (along with wife Dorothy) has many expressions that catch our attention and one has been **“Live to be forgotten, so Christ can be remembered”**. The Hogenbirks continue to serve the Lord faithfully in their “retirement” and continue to live out this mantra. They passed on to us the source of this quote and so I am passing this along to you. As you read the following, Patrick Fung said in referring to those who ministered to the Chinese people, **“Some of the most important workers for the kingdom in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are the nameless people,”**

Whether you feel your ministry is known or not, may you at this Christmas time give thanks to God for the opportunity you have had to “live to be forgotten so Christ can be remembered”.

**We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining- they just shine.-** Dwight L. Moody (Evangelist)

**If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person. If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the house. If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation.** - Chinese Proverb

***In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*** Jesus (Matthew 5:6).

**Be encouraged** by this presentation by Megan Sarian

[Patrick Fung: “Live to Be Forgotten” - OMF \(U.S.\)](#)

Patrick Fung’s interview at Urbana 2009 was unforgettable. The irony might be lost on you if you missed the emphasis of his interview—“Live to be forgotten”—a phrase that titles a small book he authored about D.E. Hoste, the humble successor to Hudson Taylor as General Director of the China Inland Mission. More than a century after Hoste’s accession, Patrick Fung took up the reins of leadership at the mission, now called OMF International.

I sat listening to Patrick Fung at my first-ever missions conference as a soon-to-be-graduating college senior from James Madison University.

“Live to be forgotten.” Could I do that? I asked myself. I didn’t need to be famous, I reasoned, but completely forgotten?

Patrick described his upbringing in a traditional Chinese family where his parents espoused the values: “success, stability and security.” Patrick had made them proud; he would become a doctor.

When he eventually met and married his wife, Jenny, also a medical doctor, his success was unquestioned.

Patrick's career trajectory and future seemed certain—until he gave his life to Christ as a first-year medical student. In 1979, two years after he chose to follow Christ, his heart turned toward missions. Success, prestige and stability were now off the table for the prospective missionary. The missions path would also require hard conversations with his parents, who were not Christians. Still, Patrick and Jenny prepared for the mission field.

On a visit to a large library in London, Patrick discovered the names of many who had made similar sacrifices. The names were mostly unfamiliar to him. Each one, the archivist told him, represented one life that had been devoted to God, the gospel and the Chinese people. That's when it hit him: **“Some of the most important workers for the kingdom in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are the nameless people,”** Patrick said. “They make Christ visible, not themselves.” It was from this realization that Patrick wrote *Live to Be Forgotten*.

**They make Christ visible,  
not themselves.**

That Urbana experience was six years ago. I now work for OMF under Patrick's leadership (though he is quite a few people above me and quite a few countries away from me). Those powerful words, “live to be forgotten,” still challenge me.

I'm excited to return to Urbana—my second time as an OMF representative. I'm excited to meet people who are magnifying Christ instead of themselves in our self-promotional world. I know that many will join the ranks of those who, instead of stepping up for recognition, are laying their lives at Jesus' feet. I believe that heaven waits for the cries of students who will make an eternity-altering decision this year—those who will live to be forgotten.

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You are loved by the incarnate Christ who came that first Christmas to Display the Father. You are loved and appreciated for your service to the C&MA ministry. May this Christmas be a time to revel in God's love for and to you, even in this season of life.



# Other Alliance Family news

## Interim President announced by the Board of Directors

It is our great pleasure to announce that, effective November 26, 2021, Rev. Dr. **Keith Taylor** will assume the presidency of The Alliance Canada. He will serve in this role until the president elected at General Assembly 2022 takes office. Dr. Taylor comes to us with over 40 years of pastoral ministry experience in the Alliance, and most recently, he has completed a succession process following 30 years as Lead Pastor at Beulah Alliance Church in Edmonton, Alberta. Keith has served on District Executive Committees in two districts, as a member and chair of the C&MA Board of Directors, and on the Board of Governors of Ambrose University.

As part of its governance, the C&MA Board establishes a succession plan annually to provide leadership to the denomination if for any reason the president is unable to fulfil his duties. The Alliance Canada has no office of interim president or other nomenclature; therefore, when the office of president is filled through election or appointment, that person is vested with the authority, responsibility, and privilege afforded the office. The Board expresses its deepest gratitude to Rev. Dr. Doug Gerrard for taking the role of president and carrying this mantle of leadership during this transition. As always, Dr. Gerrard has fulfilled his duties with grace and diligence. Doug will resume his duties as the Executive Vice President when Keith takes up the mantle of President.

Further, it is our pleasure to announce that Rev. Dr. David Hearn is being given the title of President Emeritus until the President elected at General Assembly takes office. Such a title, while honorary, allows us to acknowledge the influence that Dr. Hearn has had on our denomination, the integrity with which he has served, and the affection he has garnered from our constituency. We ask for God's richest blessing on David and his wife, Agnes, as they move forward.

Please join us in praying for these men as they have and continue to invest themselves in our denominational life. Also, please pray with us that God will raise up a new leader to be elected at General Assembly 2022 – someone who knows the Father's heart and can call us to keep in step with the Spirit.

Blessings upon you,

Rev. Jeff Sensenstein  
Chair of the Board of Directors



**Keith Taylor** recently completed 30 years as Lead Pastor of Beulah Alliance Church in **Edmonton**.

Previously, **Keith** was lead pastor for 11 years at the Alliance Church in Vernon, BC. He will continue to be a part of ministry of Beulah post-retirement. **Keith** is married to his childhood sweetheart, Jacquie for 45 years. They have three married children and 6 awesome grandkids. (Sept 6/21)

Read the following. This was in the Edmonton Journal 6 years ago,

[Pastor Keith Taylor's deep roots nurtured his 'heart for Edmonton' | Edmonton Journal](#)

-in this article you will read at the end how this relates to “live to be forgotten, so Christ can be remembered”.

## Listen to Keith's Passing the Baton on to his successor

[Passing The Baton - Beulah Alliance Church](#)

-a good example as a great number of baby boomer pastors and IWs will we transitioning in the next number of years.

Keith has "retired" from Lead Pastor at Beulah Alliance Church. Even though he planned on staying part of the Beulah family (and that will continue) he has been "re-assigned" to be our president. Though, according to age, he has been in the cross-hairs of **POWER Team**, now he and Jackie are official **POWER Team** members as he continues to serve God in this new capacity. Please pray for them as they will already be in this new position by the time you read this.

## New POWER Team members



### Lorne Anderson & Vivian Bright

Vivian first felt the call to missions as a child when a missionary from Hong Kong spoke at a neighbourhood Bible Club. Lorne didn't feel a direct call to be a missionary – but he was definite that he wanted to serve God wherever he was. He said that if I was called overseas then he was called to also go.

Before we were married, we discussed that missionary call. Where would we go? Europe seemed to make sense given Vivian's

background (she speaks French and German). We looked into it, made arrangements and the door closed. But another door opened.

In 1989, when our son was 10 weeks old, we left for a year in Africa. That came as a complete surprise to both of us. We were in Liberia for just under a year. A civil war broke out and we had to leave. We came back to Canada, with a feeling that at some point God would call us overseas again. When and where we didn't know. It was longer than we expected, but God's timing is perfect.

In the mean time we raised two children and had fulfilling careers in education (Vivian) and communications (Lorne). In 2013 we felt that the time to return to the mission field was approaching, so we began talking with the people in Global Ministries. We once again talked of Germany. They said that was too easy. We should consider Azerbaijan or Kazakhstan, so we did. We weren't sure, but willing to go where we were needed.

We were asked, what about Northern Iraq? Lorne went to Iraq a couple of times to look at ministry options. But we speak neither Arabic nor Kurdish. Could we learn a new language? And, given our ages, we wouldn't be there long-term. We continued to pray as to what God was calling us to do.

Then we were asked to consider Germany, where there was a new need with hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees. We arrived in September 2017.

Vivian worked with refugees from Syria, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries, mostly women. In addition to helping with language, culture and practical needs, she also started a weekly drop-in for refugee women (which continues) where they could meet for language instruction and Bible stories. She also started several prayer groups focused on the needs of immigrants.

Lorne's work was split between supporting the persecuted church through one of our partner organizations, Middle East Concern (which he is continuing in Canada) and helping Vivian with the refugee work.



Back in Canada since June 2021, we are completing our Home Assignment. Vivian continues to be involved in refugee work and Lorne continues with MEC, while at the same time we are praying for the Lord's direction as to the next stage of our lives.

## **Christmas blessings from our National POWER Team Volunteer Coordinators Gerald & Dorothy Hogenbirk**

### **LEGACY**



I have been thinking of legacy lately. As we come to the end of this year and look forward to a new year, Lord willing, all of us are products of legacy by having our lives touched by those who have gone before us.

Each of us leaves a legacy, whether we want to or not. What are we leaving behind? That's the question that marks a lifetime. Joan Chittister mentions a few things in her book *The Gift of Years Growing Older Gracefully*:

1. We leave behind our attitude toward the world. We're remembered by whether we inspired in others a love for life and an openness to all of those who lived it with us. We will be remembered by our smiles, for our frowns, for our laughter, for our complaints, for our kindness and for our selfishness.

2. We leave behind for all the world to see the value system that marks everything we do. They know if we care for this earth as we seeded our flower beds, or let the debris from the garage spill over into what could have been a garden. They know what we thought of people of other colours or creeds by the language we used and the lives we connected with. They know the depth of our spiritual life by the way we treated those around us and what we thought of life and what we gave our lives to doing.

3. We leave behind the memory of the way we treated strangers, how we loved the individuals closest to us, how we cared for those who loved us, how we spoke to them in hard times and how we gave ourselves always to satisfy their needs.

4. We leave behind in our very positions on death and life, on purpose and meaning, a model of relationship with God. If we have neglected the development of the spirit for the sake of the material, we have the time now to think again about what it means to be alive, to be full of life, to love all of life, to be full of God. These can be the years when our spirits soar beyond any old injuries.

5. A burden of these years is to give in to the thought that personal spiritual growth is no longer an issue for us and so leave the world a legacy of incompleteness. A blessing of these years is to have the time to complete in ourselves what has been neglected all these years, so that the legacy we leave to others is equal to the full potential within us.

Wow! What an opportunity to trust God to work in my life in a very special way and to be mouldable in His hands.

Dear friends and colleagues, God has used us to shape each other in days gone by. May we continue to be a blessing to each other and to those around us in this new year, as we allow God to let this time of retirement be a time of refinement to the praise of His glory and the good of others.

Wishing you all a Christ-filled Christmas and the gift of His presence for this New Year. Warmly, Gerald and Dorothy Hogenbirk National Volunteer **P.O.W.E.R. Team** coordinators  
[hogenbirkgd@gmail.com](mailto:hogenbirkgd@gmail.com) (905)-438-9210

We would love to hear from you and to receive your suggestions and input on **POWER Team** ministries. Please submit to Wayne and Betty Kerr any articles or information that can be useful to us all for the **CONNECTOR**

**And from our National leadership Team**

CP District -Ray & Vi Downey

WC District -TBA

CMW District -Earl & Barb Case

CC District -Wayne & Betty Kerr

EC District -Ron & June MacKinnon

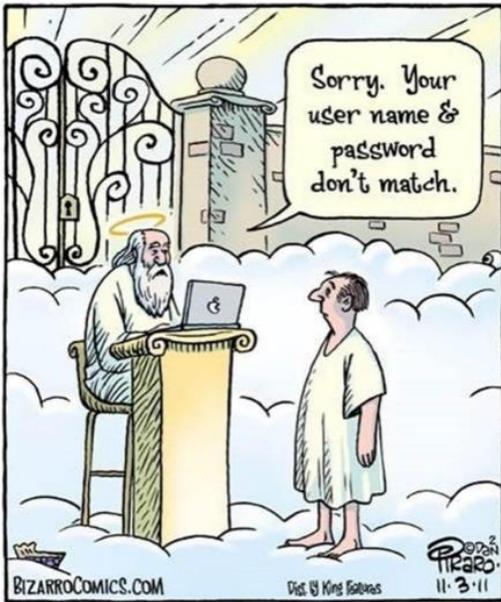
SL District -Allan & Judy Hack



**CONNECTOR** compilers -Wayne & Betty Kerr [waynebettyk@rogers.com](mailto:waynebettyk@rogers.com)



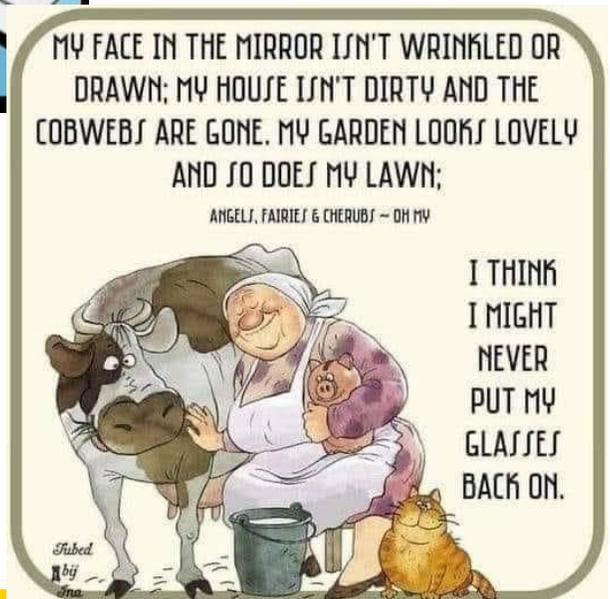
Some smiles for you. We have discovered that some of our **POWER Team** members first turn to this page, so we decided to include the following.



## NOTES TO MYSELF

By I Might Be Funny + Netflix Family

1. You will **NOT** remember that password. **WRITE IT DOWN.**
2. Your coffee is still in the microwave.
3. Do **NOT** throw away the box with the directions until the food is **IN** the oven.
4. Stop spending more money just to get free shipping.
5. Your glasses are on top of your head.
6. Even with a *really* bad stomach flu, you're **NOT** fitting into those jeans again...get rid of 'em.
7. You *will* forget to get gas in the morning. **GET IT NOW.**



**"I've finally reached The Wonder Years"**

**Wonder** where I parked the car?

**Wonder** where I left my phone?

**Wonder** where my glasses are?

**Wonder** what day it is?

