

CONNECTOR

#62 October 2022

POWERteam



Connecting
PEOPLE

The theme of this CONNECTOR is “CONNECTING”

If you click on the Alliance web site below and scroll down to POWER Team...

[Ministry Networks | The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada \(cmaacan.org\)](http://cmaacan.org)

...you will see that **Our Purpose is to.....**

...connect and encourage “retired” (Christian workers) pastors and international workers of the C&MA in Canada. We are focusing on **‘connecting’** in this issue.....



1.-with one another as POWER Team members (p. 2)

2.-with our new President (p.3)

3.-with our First President in Canada who turned 90 this year (p.5)

4.-with our National POWER Team Coordinator, caught fishing again? (p.6)

5.-with other POWER Team members “NOW” (p.7)

6.-with one another through the CONNECTOR (p.9)

7.-by celebrating POWER Team members hearing, “well done” (p.10)

8.-with a wee bit of humour (p.11)

1. Connecting with one another as POWER Team members

One regional POWER Team met together in a park

Nelson & Jan Annan, who pastored at Bayview Glen Alliance in Toronto, Harvest Hills Alliance & the Pilipino Alliance in Calgary, served in Vietnam, are the regional **POWER Team** coordinators for the SW area of the CCD. They have retired in London Ontario.



They called a gathering of all the **POWER Team** people in this region and were blessed with 12 gathering in the park for pot-luck lunch, sharing and prayer.

It was a blessing to have IWs, Danny & Vera Kurunji back for a short time from Serbia. It was great to have them share their personal ministry with us. One member, Gord Brown brought his guitar so

we serenaded the Canada Geese and gave praise to God. Before departing, the group divided into 3 groups of 4 for further sharing and prayer. The fellowship was great and this **CONNECTOR** encourages you, where ever you live, to do something similar in your area and give us a report. Such a gathering is what **POWER Team** desires in connecting with one another.



Danny & Vera Kurunji just back from Serbia. **POWER Team** members but still serving



Divided into 3 groups. You see one group still praying and one group packing up to leave.

12 POWER Team members meet to eat, greet, share and have time of prayer in a park (no wasps today, just Canada geese).

2. Connecting with our new President Darren Herbold



July 7, 2022, Rev. Darren Herbold was elected by General Assembly in Sherwood Park, AB, commencing August 1, 2022.

Darren experienced success in the online and retail business world before becoming a pastor and, along with his wife Naomi, an international worker with The Alliance Canada. He was in business for six years prior to ministering at Beulah Alliance Church in Edmonton for seven years, where he served as the Senior

Associate Pastor and Multi-site Director.

In 2014, Darren and Naomi went to serve as international workers in Thailand, where Darren also launched a Thai foundation focused on anti-trafficking and evangelistic efforts in Thailand. While there, Darren and Naomi became the Regional Developers for part of Southeast Asia and Latin America for The Alliance Canada, and Darren was one of the key initiators in the Gateway project. Darren has also served as the international worker representative on The Alliance Canada Board of Directors

Darren graduated from Covenant Bible College in Strathmore, AB (Certificate in Christian Studies), Taylor University College in Edmonton, AB (B.A. in Religion and Theology), and Liberty University in the USA (M.A. [with high distinction] in Global Studies). Darren and Naomi have three children and have relocated to southern Ontario.

Report from National Coordinators Gerald & Dorothy Hogenbirk who connected with Darren at a regional ECD meeting. Here are some of their notes.

What a delight to meet briefly with our new C&MA president, Darren Herbold. Darren is the son of immigrant parents and has recently moved with his wife Naomi to their new home in Milton, Ontario. They would appreciate our prayers for their family. Their eldest daughter, Esther, is attending Capernwray School in Texas. Their son Judah faces the challenges of grade 11 in a new school and 12-year-old Esther needs discernment as a bold evangelist.

His best sermon is **“The Hope of God”**. Christian hope is realistic...here is not home.

At the ECD Regional meeting he gave Reflections on Choosing a Better Way, using the example of the Samaritan woman.

1. Deeply caring about all people.

Are you willing to pray, “Jesus help me to love better—to love people like you

love people?”

2. Seeing like Jesus sees.

Are you willing to be inconvenienced and interrupted for God?

3. Embrace the uncomfortable.

Is there anything keeping me from the cause of Christ?

We were challenged to take a posture of listening:

1. What is right in your world that Jesus wants to partner with you to optimize?

2. What is broken in your world that Jesus wants to partner with you to fix?

3. What is confused in your world that Jesus wants to speak divine clarity into?

4. What is missing in our world that Jesus wants you to create?

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Darren assured us that he still endorses the Vision Prayer:

“O God, with all our hearts, we long for you. Come transform us to be Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered, mission-focused people, multiplying disciples everywhere.”

He has no intention of changing our statement of faith, realizing that there may be some difficult conversations with those of differing views.

He encourages our **POWER Team** members to be intentional, have urgency and to realize that your voice is more important than ever. The next generation needs to hear the established voice of experience.

There is a temptation to recreate past glory, but we need to be the wise sage to speak wisdom and faith with experience.

He challenges us to ask, “Lord, who do you need me to talk to?” How are you tapping people on the shoulder to encourage them toward ministry?

We’re encouraged to identify and equip the next generation.

Darren invites feedback on any strategic thoughts you may have.

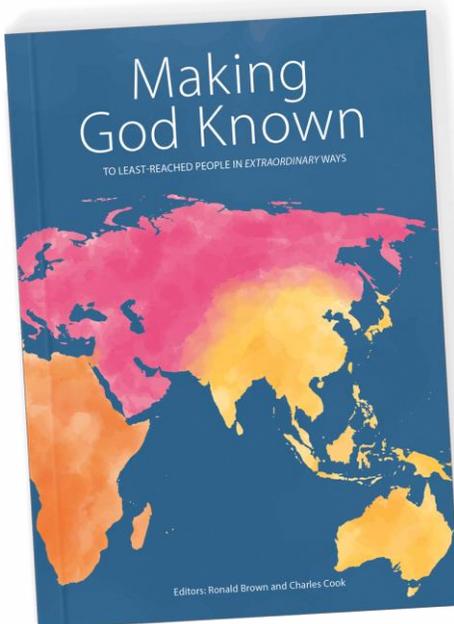
president@cmacan.org



3. Connecting with our First Canadian Alliance President who turned 90, October 2, 2022

POWER Team member Ron Brown of Calgary was very helpful in passing on to us odds and ends out of the Global Vault he has produced. Click on <https://globalvault.ca/>

1. A brief history of the WCD by Mel <https://vimeo.com/channels/254696/40431178>
2. About a decade ago at the WCD New Workers Orientation Mel Sylvester gave some reflections on his life in ministry - each video clip about 5 mins long <https://vimeo.com/search?q=sylvester%20reflections%20on%20my%20journey>
3. In 2013, 9 years ago, Ron went to Mel and Joan's home to record him sharing poetry which as a pastor and speaker he was known for - here are random samples: <https://vimeo.com/74845462>



4. Here is the biography he wrote out for Ron some time ago. In this Mel mentions how many from each of his congregations went into full time ministry both home and abroad - quite a legacy. <https://globalvault.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/sylvester-mel-v2.pdf>

4. Charlie Cook and Ron dedicated book 3 in our trilogy so this picture is where they went over to present the book to him with DS Brent Trask .



5. This is the book dedicated to Mel Sylvester which includes his testimony. I'll attach that book here too in case you haven't seen it - you can scroll down to his biography there at the front.

Thanks Ron for all of this .

-Mel's email is ejfoster@shaw.ca

- Ron's email dronaldbrown@gmail.com

www.globalvault.ca - blogs, podcasts, biographies



4. Connecting with our National Volunteer POWER Team Coordinator



Gerald Hogenbirk has done the “fishers of men” calling on his life for many decades. Now he is proving he can also do the other kind of fishing from time to time. This picture was taken recently on Georgian Bay near Owen Sound Ontario, not from Costco.

Also, as you see by the picture on the right, Gerald is “being the next generation’s greatest cheerleader”.

Gerald sends to you the following:



Someone told me the other day to connect with anyone that brings positivity to your life. Connect with a group who wants to end well, learn, and grow old sweetly. Great, I thought, that is what I’ll do—may I be that kind of a person.

These are the capstone years, the time in which a whole new life is in the making again. The gift of these years is not merely being alive—it is a gift of becoming more fully alive than ever!

I love this Prophetic blessing that was prayed for Asia Spice Region at General Assembly—suitable for all of us in the **Power Team**: It went something like this:

Receive my blessing my children who have been labouring long and hard in the harvest fields. I have seen your hard work and your disappointments. I have collected all your tears in a bottle. Every place you thought of as a failure, I have counted as deposit. Every occasion and occurrence you found as shame I have accredited you with honour. You were untrained recruits when you started, but I have used the difficulties you experienced to form you into skilled, fierce warriors for My kingdom. Nothing was wasted. I will redeem everything; in fact, I am doing it now. Look up! Look and see My Spirit moving among you!

I bless you with a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. You will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of My splendor.

I bless all that has been planted. It is now time for those seeds, many of which you thought had been stolen, lost or destroyed, to root, sprout and grow. Even the places that have appeared long dead will begin to bud, as the appointed season arrives. I change times and seasons!

Do you perceive it? A change in the wind is coming, a shift; a new thing. Lift up your heads to breathe Me in. I have much more for you. I bless you to catch the scent of the wind of heaven as I beckon you onward to once again pick up your cross and follow Me. Receive My fresh wind, the power of My Spirit!

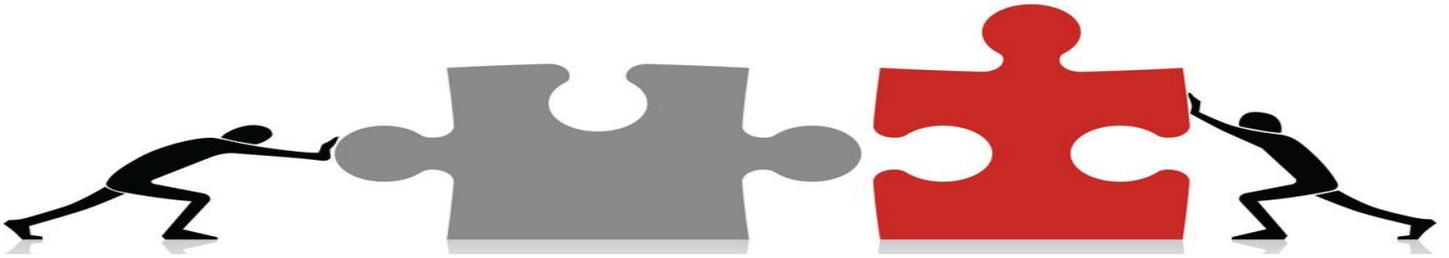
I bless you with the knowledge that I’m the same God that brought the Israelites out of Egypt and I am still walking with you!

I bless you with life and light, with the flow of fresh water that brings life. With Me is the fountain of life; by My light, you see light.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. Receive the great love I have lavished on you!

hogenbirkgd@yahoo.com

5. CONNECTING with other POWER Team members “NOW” -by Wayne Kerr



I have experienced two situations recently that caught my attention. First, Betty and I were walking around a beautiful lake in the city where we are now living. We ran across 3 ladies of another nationality and I risked to ask them if they knew a certain pastor in their native country. They were so surprised to hear this person’s name and that really made a connection with them.

That moved on to another IW’s name in the same country and one said “when that person dies, I am going to their funeral”. I risked by saying: “That is wonderful but I feel differently, because if people cannot take the time to visit with me when I am living, I do not want them to come and view my dead body.”

The second situation is concerning a dear friend of mine and former Ambrose University Board Member (Joe Schuringa) who has just turned 90. He organized a great celebration and invited many people to come and celebrate as he has now entered his 10th decade of life. I did hear some push back that such could be an ego thing. He expressed to all present: “I wanted to invite people who have had an impact on my life and I thank you for the contribution you made to make me the person I am today.”



This lay person, Joe Schuringa, was very influential in assisting in the move of Ambrose to Calgary, and raising money for the construction of the campus. Former Ambrose president, George Durance spoke at Joe’s 90th birthday celebration, October 2nd .

The following poem addresses very well the importance of keeping connected

A poem by Prof Lee Tzu Pheng (Singapore Cultural Medallion winner). This is a powerful poem on human friendship, and loving one another.

“Together we can laugh”

Sip your Tea Nice and Slow
No one Ever knows when it’s Time to Go,
There’ll be no Time to enjoy the Glow,
So sip your Tea Nice and Slow.

Life is too Short but feels pretty long,
There’s too Much to do, so much going Wrong,
And Most of the Time You Struggle to be Strong,
Before it’s too Late and it’s time to Go,

Sip your Tea Nice and Slow.

Some Friends stay, others Go away,
Loved ones are Cherished but not all will Stay.
Kids will Grow up and fly away.
There’s really no Saying how Things will Go,
So sip your Tea Nice and Slow.

In the End it’s really all about understanding Love
For this World and in the Stars above,
Appreciate and Value who truly Cares,
Smile and Breathe and let your Worries go,
So Just Sip your Tea Nice and Slow."

When I'm dead. Your tears will flow
But I won't know, Cry with me now instead.

You will send flowers, But I won't see.
Send them now instead

You'll say words of praise, But I won't hear.
Praise me now instead

You'll forget my faults, But I won't know.
Forget them now, instead.

You'll miss me then, But I won't feel.
Miss me now, instead.

You'll wish You could have spent more time with me,
Spend it now instead

When you hear I'm gone, you'll find your way to my
house to pay condolence but we haven't even spoken in
years.

Look for me now.

*"Spend time with every person around you, and help
them with whatever
you have to make
them happy, your
families, friends and
acquaintances.



*Make them feel
special because you never know when time will take
them away from you forever.

Alone I can 'Say' but together we can 'Talk'.
Alone I can 'Enjoy' but together we can 'Celebrate'
Alone I can 'Smile' but together we can 'Laugh'

That's the BEAUTY of Human Relations.
We are nothing without each other
So Stay Connected!

Stay CONNECTED POWER Team members!



6. Staying Connected through the CONNECTOR

We do have a list of people who are NOT **POWER Team** members but have requested us to send them each issue of the **CONNECTOR**. These people may have attended CBC/CTS, had members of their family attend who are Alliance pastors or IWs.

- a. "I appreciate you sending this to me so much. Thank you. and thanks for doing this. It is such a blessing to read peoples stories. The communion of saints. So many I know and even those I don't are familiar because of the years I spent praying through the Alliance directory. Anyway, it makes my heart rejoice". Elaine (DeGaris) Pankratz.
(Elaine is the daughter of Milson DeGaris (deceased) and sister of Dan & Joy DeGaris, former pastor in the Alliance and now living in Alberta and serving effectively with indigenous communities in Canada with Family Life canada.degaris.dan@gmail.com)
- b. "Many thanks for the **CONNECTOR...**" Sharon Ralph
- c. "Just wanted to tell you that we enjoyed reading the latest version of the **POWER Team CONNECTOR** (and the jokes were good). Thank you for the effort of putting it together. I went to school with Ian Trigg and Brent Trask and would have great class discussions with them. We still have the SID syndrome (65 and 63). We are retired (me from nursing). John works 8 hours a week for ETEQ. I volunteer as coordinator of the master alumni association. We are traveling for 5 months this fall/winter down the eastern coast of the US in our small RV. I will be able to re-connect with my American family. We are seeing this time as a transition to discern next steps.
We enjoy being present for our three grandchildren".
Elizabeth and John Martin (SLD) johnwmartin777@gmail.com
- d. Al Hack, St. Lawrence District **POWER Team** Coordinator wrote; "Thanks for the pic and brief word re Barry Moore. When I was 17 my Dad went forward at a Barry Moore meeting in Chilliwack, publicly declaring his faith in Jesus. My Mom had waited and prayed for that moment for over 12 yrs". aljudyhack@gmail.com
- e. Many of our members are turning 80 and 90. Most recently we have been informed through social media that Shirley Falconer (robertshirleyfalconer@yahoo.ca) and Roy Hubert (revroyhubert@gmail.com) celebrated their 80th birthdays. You may want to congratulate them on joining Caleb's tribe. A way to "connect".
- f. "I get the **CONNECTOR** and thank you for it and all that you put into it. I now live much of the time in Vancouver Washington, where after further training I serve as an ADD and ADHD coach. Jane is still in a care home with dementia. I also do a weekly Bible study on line for a church in western Washington and reach about 1,500 people with it. Jane is now 88 and I am 85. May you have God's richest gifts of grace". Del McKenzie djmckenz99@aol.com

g. **POWER Team** members using their ministry training in short term ministries

The end of September, Marilyn and Ernie Klassen headed south to Peru (3 weeks) and Paraguay (5 weeks). “In Peru we are in Trujillo for 10 speaking engagements, then connecting with a team from Communities for Life (C4L) (www.communitiesforlife.com) helping with translation and connections, and then speaking at a Missions’ Conference in Manchay, as well as visiting friends.

Then we head over to Paraguay for some discipling and teaching with 5 students who are in training for work overseas. Marilyn and I were there last year and the door has opened for another term.

Our support has come through and we are most grateful for our financial and prayer supporters”.



7.Connecting by celebrating POWER Team member hearing, “well done”.

Rev. Paul Zhong

Paul was a worker emeritus in CPD. He is former Sr. pastor of Vancouver Mandarin Church. He heard “well done” Aug.30th. The funeral was Sept.5 at Richmond Funeral Home. There is no obituary or further info.



8. Connecting with a wee bit of humour



Get a baby gate they said, it'll keep them safe it said.... 🤔😂



Positive proof of global warming



Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

