

# CONNECTOR

#64 January 2023

# POWERteam



## From our National Coordinators -Gerald & Dorothy Hogenbirk

We enjoy the beginning of a New Year. It's a time to review the past and note the amazing things learned and done. It's a time to dream again, knowing that any new day is precious. We have a list of new dreams on top of the fridge. What are yours?

"Grow old along with me." Robert Browning wrote. "The best is yet to be, the last of life, for which the first was made."

New friendships developed, old friendships rekindled and life begins to laugh inside of us again. Why not call on another POWER team member and enjoy some time together.

Someone has said, "It's not change that will destroy us, It is the attitude we take to it that will make all the difference."



Gerald & Dorothy with Raul & Donna Santos whom they mentored to take over as Regional Directors role for the Silk Road

What a gift that Christ is with me every new day—to give me the joy of His presence as we embrace the changing new- life He brings my way. God bless you this New Year 2023!

Sent by Ed Drewlo

## A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

A.B. Simpson

What shall I ask for the coming year?  
What shall my watchword be?  
What wouldst Thou do for me, dear Lord?  
What can I do for Thee?

Lord, I would ask for a holy year,  
Spent in Thy perfect will;  
Help me to walk in Thy very steps—  
Help me to please Thee still.

Lord, I would ask for a trustful year;  
Humble, and yet so high;  
Help to sink at Thy blessed feet,  
And on Thy bosom lie.

Lord, I would ask for a year of faith;  
Give me thy faith divine,  
Taking my full inheritance,  
Making Thy fullness mine,

Lord, I would ask for a year of love,  
That I may love Thee best;  
Give me the love that faileth not,  
Under the hardest test.

Lord, I would ask for a busy year,  
Doing with all Thy Spirit's might  
All that I find to do.  
Filled up with service true;

Lord, I would ask for a year of prayer—  
Teach me to walk with Thee;  
Breathe in my heart Thy Spirit's breath;  
Pray Thou Thy prayer in me.

Lord, I would ask for a dying world;  
Stretch forth Thy mighty hand;  
Scatter forth Thy Word—Thy power display  
This year in every land.

Lord, I would ask for a year of joy,  
Thy peace, Thy joy divine,  
Springing undimmed through all the day,  
Whether of shade or shine.

Lord, I would ask for a year of hope,  
Looking for Thee to come,  
And hastening on that year of years,  
That brings us Christ and Home.



# Various Aspects of Retirement POWER Team members are experiencing.

## Record Retirements for a POWER Team member?

Franklin Thomas retired from his “job” as Pastoral Care Provider at the end of May 2022.

**(His 5<sup>th</sup> time to retire!)**

Unfortunately, the very next Sunday he had a very serious fall and ended up in hospital for 3 days. He fractured the orbital bone around his right eye in 2 places and there was concern that his vision would be affected and facial surgery would be needed. Thankfully surgery was not needed and he was told that except for cataracts, his vision was as good as a 30-year-old!



Franklin & Donna Thomas live in the Hamilton Ontario area. They served in the pastorate, IWs in India, Pastoral Care in the ECD and the CCD.

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## Retirement to Assignment in Seniors Residence Ministry

A Seniors residence in Edmonton has been infiltrated by POWER Team members.



Howard Woodruff



Joy Tira

Joy & Lulu Tira along with Howard Woodruff are in the same Seniors Residence in Edmonton.

Joy says “Pastor Howard was on the Ordination Committee for my ordination.” 😊

Though still recovering from his severe stroke/heart attack and still dependent upon a wheel chair, Joy is not slowing down much with his writing and publications.

His most recent book which has not gone to printing yet, is **TIDES OF OPPORTUNITIES: Missiological Experiences and Engagements in Global Migration.**

In the Foreword to the book, one finds, "this volume is meaningful to the Lausanne Movement. Joy not only served as the founding Catalyst for Lausanne's Diaspora global issue network. He helped the global movement to see the wave that was approaching. In the early days the wave seemed so small and as it approached us, it was almost imperceptible. But Joy kept pointing and kept teaching us and challenging us. And now it's upon us, and we are better prepared for today and the future because of the diligence of Joy and his co-laborers. By DR. MICHAEL OH, PhD Global Executive Director/CEO Lausanne Movement

Joy is allowing the **POWER** of God to continue to use him in this season of life to address the current issues of the world and what that means for missions and the proclamation of the Gospel. Howard, Joy & Lulu are part of the diaspora of Canadian seniors (**POWER Team**) moving into Senior homes to minister to this aging population of whom most are not Christ followers.

Sadiri Joy Tira [sjtira@lausanne.org](mailto:sjtira@lausanne.org) \*\*\*\*\*

Howard Woodruff [haw@telusplanet.net](mailto:haw@telusplanet.net)  
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## Retirement Announcement of Glendyne Gerrard

**-assignment Announcement** of Glendyne as new member of **POWER Team**

**Prayer Request** from Glendyne for her successor. "There is no success without succession."

January 5, 2023

It has been a profound joy to help give birth to and then direct Defend Dignity over the past twelve and a half years.



I am grateful for the vision of The Alliance Canada President, Dr. Franklin Pyles, who first challenged me, as National Women's Director, to consider addressing a justice issue affecting women in Canada. This directive helped to fully ignite a flame of justice that had been a small and growing ember in my mind and heart. Micah 6: 8: "*he has shown you oh mortal what is required of you; to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God,*" had become the catalyst for a regular prayer of mine, "*Jesus, who do you want me to show justice and mercy to?*" for many months prior to Dr. Pyles' challenge.

DefendDignity



I am grateful for the support of National Women's leadership within The Alliance Canada that allowed me to dream and give energy to what eventually became Defend Dignity. I am also grateful to Alliance Canada president Dr. David Hearn who agreed to make Defend Dignity a department and national focus of The Alliance Canada.

As of June 30, 2023, my role as Director of Defend Dignity will come to an end. The Advisory Team will work with Human Resource specialists at The Alliance Canada to find a replacement with a hopeful start date of April 1, 2023, for the new Director. This will allow for a 3 month overlap with myself to ensure as smooth a transition as

possible.

Many of you have been 'with' me since the beginning and to you I say a huge 'thank-you' for your patience and assistance as I learned about this important issue and the gaps and solutions needed to address it. I know I can count on you to continue to support Defend Dignity and the new Director.

# Retirement of Executive Vice President Doug Gerrard

Never before have we experienced a husband-and-wife retirement celebration in **CONNECTOR**

January 13, 2023 by President Darren Herbold

Doug Gerrard has served The Alliance Canada and our lord faithfully for 45 years, pastoring at Sparwood (BC) Alliance Church, Linden (AB) Alliance Church, Bayridge Alliance Church (Kingston, On), and Morden (MB) Alliance Church for a span of 25 years. Following this, he served 10 years as District Superintendent in the CM District.

For just short of a decade, Doug has most recently served as Executive Vice President at the National Ministry Centre in Toronto alongside three presidents, Rev. David Hearn, Rev. Dr. Keith Taylor, and now President Darren Herbold. In 2021, Doug was also appointed to serve as interim President by the Board of Directors – a challenge that he embraced and performed with excellence.



With typical humility, Doug writes: *“God has blessed me so richly by giving me the opportunity to serve in a variety of roles throughout my ministry career. I am so grateful for the people I have been able to work alongside, and I continue to have great affection for the people in the churches I pastored, the CM District where I was superintendent, and most recently, my colleagues at the National Ministry Centre. It’s been a great privilege to be at the table with so many good people. I have always believed that I have gained so much more than I have given.”*

As leaders we often talk about ending well and leaving a legacy. As we look at Doug Gerrard’s life and service to The Alliance, we see a man who exemplifies both. Faithfulness, steadfastness, and consistency mark his 45 years of service. Although Doug is retiring, we are confident that his influence and ministry with our movement and the gracious and unpretentious way he impacts the lives of those around him will continue and expand.

I want to thank Rev. Dr. Doug Gerrard for his faithful service to our movement and honour him as we recognize together one of God’s heroes. My prayer is that as Doug and his wife, Glendyne, move into this new season of life, Doug will truly sense that God is “fitting him into a new place” -expanding his influence and ability to make Jesus famous –and that the world will stand in wonder and awe at the goodness of our God.

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Doug’s transition at this time begins the end of March, 2023. Congratulations from **POWER Team**.



..another...



..member!

# Retired from Earth's Assignment

**Franklin Irwin March 29, 1923 – January 1, 2023**

## *Franklin Irwin*

March 29, 1923 ~ January 1, 2023 (age 99)

David Franklin Irwin (Franklin) died peacefully on January 1st, 2023 at the age of 99. He is now in the presence of Jesus his Saviour, along with his beloved wife, Doris, brother George who also was a missionary in Vietnam..



Franklin was a man of deep faith, obedience and ardent loyalty to his Lord. This led him to a life of dangers, hardships as well as exciting adventures. With faith as his anchor, he carried with him a spirit of adventure, generosity to anyone in need, curiosity about anything new, along with a genuine interest in other people.

In the year 1923, David Franklin Irwin was born in Danang, Vietnam. He spent his childhood in that country. At the age of 19, after finishing high school, he, his parents, and sister Helen May, along with a group of other missionaries and ex-pats, were interned in a WWII French Internment camp (later to become a Japanese camp) in southern Vietnam. During his time in the camp, he helped teach the children there, all the while keeping track of what was happening in the outside world by listening to the camp doctor's clandestine radio system. Franklin and the group managed their lives as well as they could – they even took to raising turkeys to contribute to the food supply. At the end of the war in 1945, the family was able to get to Saigon, from where they travelled by ship to England and on to Canada.

Franklin attended Nyack College in New York State. There he met his wife-to-be, Doris Derk. After college, he was sent to Barrhead in northern Alberta, where he served as pastor of a small rural church for two years. Though raised in tropical Vietnam, Franklin remembered fondly in later years the cold, the snow, and the adventures bestowed by life in a small cabin and travel via horseback. His primary motivation, as always, was service to Christ, which enabled him to embrace every situation he found himself in. He experienced his stay in the north as a fresh encounter to be cherished rather than as a trial to be withstood. This spirit of adventure was a key part of who he was and remained with him throughout his *life*.



In 1952, Franklin returned to Vietnam as a missionary. Doris joined him a year later. In early 1968, Franklin was serving as Field Chairman when the Tet Offensive erupted – a key turning point in the Vietnam war. Later, in 1975, Franklin and Doris were in New York on a year's furlough when Vietnam fell. Franklin left for Saigon to help evacuate Vietnamese nationals. The flight there was unable to land so he was taken to Guam where he worked with the US military to process thousands of

Vietnamese refugees. Later, being Canadian, he was made a temporary chaplain in the US Army and continued working with Vietnamese refugees in Pennsylvania. Then, in 1978, Franklin and Doris along with their youngest children, Beth Anne and George, went to the Philippines to minister. There, he was elected Field Director, before finishing the requisite language study.

When Franklin and Doris retired to Toronto, they continued their work with the Filipino church. Later, in 2001, they began their evangelistic ministry among a large group of new immigrants from China and won a number of them to the Lord. After Doris passed away in 2005, the Lord continued to work through Franklin in the Chinese ministry. In 2007, the Lord used him to establish a Chinese house church; he preached weekly sermons and taught weekly men's bible study class up until 2021, when at the age of 98, the Lord decided to release him from his lifetime service to His Lord and Savior. Franklin told his sister Helen May: "God hasn't given me any more sermons".

Having lived a life full of service and adventure, for the last couple of years, Franklin's life narrowed dramatically. During this time, he was lovingly supported by his family, his friends, and his Chinese church family.

A memorial service was held January 14th, 2023.



**POWER Team** leadership met on Zoom to work on improving the “connecting” and “encouragement” of our District **POWER Team** members.

If you have any suggestions, please contact your District Coordinator

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-web site for POWER Team below

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



# Encouraging you with a Smile & wisdom



I'm sorry you were not selected

**My grandson made the mistake of telling me I was being overdramatic so I just changed the WiFi password. We'll see who's overdramatic in about 5 minutes.**



## I LOVE THIS ANALOGY

When GOD wanted to create fish, HE spoke to the sea. When GOD wanted to create trees, HE spoke to the earth. But, when GOD wanted to create man, HE turned to himself. Then, GOD said "Let us make man in our image and in our likeness."

If you take a fish out of water, it will die; and when you remove a tree from soil, it will also die. Likewise, when man is disconnected from GOD, he dies.

GOD is our natural environment. We were created to live in HIS presence. We have to be connected to HIM because it is only in HIM that life exists. Let us stay connected to GOD.

