

Greetings to all of our **POWER Team** members.

Summer has passed so quickly and Fall is almost here.

Some of you have witnessed the devastation of the wild fires. So far, we have received no reports of Alliance Churches suffering loss, though a number of our church families may have had to evacuate. Our prayers certainly have been with them.

It goes without saying that all of us are getting older and we are finding that the expiry date on members of these "temples of God" are giving us warning signals. There are some who are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversaries like Ray & Vi Downey. Others of us having our 70th & 80th birthdays entering the 8th 9th decade of our lives.

Are you a 1% er?

The **POWER Team** welcomes those entering into the productive "retiral" season of life. We are also made up of those getting closer to their "retirement" from their earthly assignment.

Are you a 1%er? Do you realize that......

99% of people born between 1930 and 1946 (GLOBALLY) are now dead.

If you were born in this time span, your ages range between 77 and 93 years old (a 16-year age span) and you are one of the rare surviving one-percenters.

You are the smallest group of children born since the early 1900's.

You are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war that rattled the structure of our daily lives for years.

With all of this, we realize that the gifts of the Spirit are without repentance, so we continue to bring glory to God no matter our age or physical situation. In the following pages we have testimonies of that. Some of these articles were sparked from our last **CONNECTOR** issue of "changes in the lives of **POWER Team** members since retirement from formal pastoral or IW service." See last issue by clicking on this link

https://thealliancecanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/connector-66-june-2023.pdf

We present to you the following:

1. Joy Tira- "A Close Encounter with Grandma Wong"

2. Shyamala Krishnan- "Dancing with God"

3. Marie Ens- "Rejoicing in the fruit of what God has and is doing"

4. Ray Peters - "Now that I have retired -What do I do?"5. Denise Benner- "Entering a Ministry I never Expected"

6. Ernie Klassen- "Writing a Devotional"

1. Ministry to Seniors and Ministry of Seniors: A close encounter with Grandma Kwong by Joy Tira



"The whole Church, taking the whole Gospel, to the whole World." - The Lausanne Movement

A Close Encounter with Grandma Kwong (outreach.ca) -read the whole article here

Joy gives us a personal testimony of this Grandma, as he and Lulu continue to impact the world in their assisted living compound in Edmonton.

My extended stay in hospital care, with over two months in geriatric units, and then over three months in a hospital

unit with primarily senior citizens in care, gave me a new perspective on senior citizens. Though I am not yet qualified, the honorific of "senior citizen," in their midst, I witnessed seniors in missions, and missions to seniors. There were senior citizen patients who prayed for me, for each other, and for the world.

The United Nations notes:

The global population aged 60 years or over numbered 962 million in 2017, more than twice as large as in 1980 when there were 382 million older persons worldwide. The number of older persons is expected to double again by 2050, when it is projected to reach nearly 2.1 billion.⁵

Grandma Kwong is representative of the many senior citizens—members of the whole Church— who are committed to bringing the whole Gospel to the whole World. **As the global pandemic raged on, and even after it has waned, we must remember and support those on the edges of age and those who minister to them.** They continue to be Kingdom workers and continue to be a mission field. And, they are honoured and loved.

2. Dancing With God

Shyamala Krishnan found this article on guidance to be very insightful. "Perhaps some of us are needing guidance regarding decisions or plans for the future. May this beautiful picture of a dance help us in our pursuit of guidance, and may He take the lead in that dance."

When I meditated on the word **Guidance**, I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word. I remember reading that, doing God's will is a lot like dancing.

When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky.

When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

My eyes drew back to the word "Guidance".

When I saw "G": I thought of God, followed by "u" and "i". "God, "u" and "i" dance." God, you, and I dance. As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead.

My prayer for you today is that God's blessings and mercies are upon you on this day and everyday. May you abide in God, as God abides in you. **Dance together with God**, trusting God to lead and to guide you through each season of your life.

3. POWER Team member Marie Ens still going strong in Cambodia "Rejoicing in the fruit of what God has been and is doing"

Marie has made her own way after she was not allowed to continue as an Alliance IW having reached the ripe old age of 65.

When husband Norman was suddenly taken to glory, she chose to return to Cambodia permanently and live with the people she loved and shared God's love with. Now 20 years later with many trips back to Canada to share great reports of what God has done and

continues to do in the lives of the children at Place of Rescue. She recently wrote:

It doesn't get any better than this! 16 of our young people who had already graduated from university came to celebrate. Some had first come to Place of Rescue nearly 20 yrs. ago and now were married and had children. They talked to their young "brothers and sisters" encouraging them to study well and to follow Jesus. I felt like the prayer the Lord Jesus taught us to pray had become a reality, "May Your kingdom come. May Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."

I continue to praise God for what He continues to do with this female Caleb. Pray for her physical health (at the age of 88) and that the joy of passing the baton on to the next generation will be a great blessing as Marie sees the fruit of her and Norm's ministry being multiplied.

Recently she wrote: "This song is in my mind this morning and I can't shake it. In light of our celebration last night, I see this is what my life and Place of Rescue has been for many in the past 22 years. The words to this song are so perfect! How can we praise the Lord enough for all He has done through us.?"

Simon & Garfunkel - Bridge Over Troubled Water (Lyrics) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Mfs7ZZbKfw

The end of August she wrote:

"Personally, I am grateful for renewed health and strength. Normal issues connected with aging, such as tiredness and forgetfulness, are inevitable so I am learning how to cope with being almost 89 (come October). I praise God constantly for allowing me to live this wonderful life!

The latest of Marie's miracle report is the following. Take a look.

https://youtu.be/4lpV5QgjH1Y?si=udiSjUiFL3oZmptm

4. Now That I'm Retired......What do I do?

Ray Peters -Fort Erie ON, pastored for over 30 years with the Alliance in Canada (CPD, CMD, & CCD Districts)

For starters, I'm certainly not bored! It was a long time ago, I was probably 9 or 10, when I made the mistake of walking into the kitchen and announcing, "Mom, I'm bored. There is nothing to do!" She responded like all mothers down through the years, "Well, I have lots to do. Come here and help me!" I can honestly say that I don't think I have ever used those words since. But a few years ago, as I was approaching retirement, I did sometimes wonder what I would do with the extra 8 or 10 hours I would have to use as I pleased, every day.

It is now about 10 years since I retired, and I want to share with you some of the ways I fill my days. I am happy to say that I certainly am not bored! I'm a "morning person" and so I still get out of bed between 5:30 and 6:00. After washing up I go to my favorite chair and have my "Quiet time". I read a Psalm including some devotional thoughts. Then I read a couple of pages from a children's devotional book by Louis Gigleo about the wonders of creation. The third book is a much deeper devotional book by Rick Renner called "Sparkling Gems". This is a fairly deep word study, including looking at the Greek phrases and their meaning. Next, I take some time to pray. Then, I check my emails, and the latest news. Dorothy is usually up by this time, and after she's had breakfast, we have a time of devotions and prayer together.



We live in a 3-story apartment building on the Niagara River which is owned by our son. I am the superintendent of the building and try to keep the common areas inside and outside clean and green or cleared of snow. I also deal with any issues the tenants bring to me.

We are very grateful for the church that we attend. Our Pastor gives me opportunities to serve in various ways. The primary one is that I lead a Small Group that meets in our home. This takes a significant amount of time, but I find it very fulfilling and worth my time. I am also responsible for communicating with our missionaries and forwarding letters from our missionaries to the church families.

We are blessed that both of our "children" and their families live near us. Our son is 15 minutes away and our daughter two and a half hours. It is great to be able to keep in touch and to hear and see how the grandchildren and great-grandchildren are doing. It is so good to be able to be involved in their lives.

I have always enjoyed going to various kinds of thrift stores to shop for clothes, books or whatever deal I might find. A couple of years ago I decided that it would be a good idea to not only shop but also to serve as a volunteer. So every second Wednesday afternoon you will find me in the Receiving Area of The Christian Benefit Shop in St. Catharines Ont. It's been a great way to meet new friends, serve a worthy cause and then "shop"!

There have been great opportunities to travel with friends. We've done several cruises to Europe, the Caribbean, and most recently through the Panama Canal. This has been a great way to learn about different cultures, just relax, eat great food... and just live a care-free life for a week or two. Most of these cruises have been with our dear friends, Kirk and Joyce Brantner. He was on staff with me in the early 80's when we served in Hamilton Ontario.

I also have volunteered to help at the District Office. It has been a privilege to participate in interviewing candidates who have applied for various levels of ministry in the district and are seeking to become qualified.

I have several hobbies which I've taken up in my later years. When I was still in pastoral ministry, I realized that almost all of my time was spent with Christians. So, I thought that a great way to meet non-church people would be to learn a new hobby – I chose "wood carving"! It's been most rewarding to begin with a non-descript block of wood and after hours of work with a knife, chisel, and sandpaper to see a loon, deer, wolf, or eagle emerge! I've always had a fascination with pens, so a couple of years ago I bought a lathe and began to make pens! I went to a class, met some new people and

learned a new skill. It's been fun to find a piece of hardwood that has been discarded and make it into a beautiful pen! I give most of them away as gifts, but have also sold some.

I've enjoyed golfing since high school days. Now every Friday morning you'll find me on a golf course in Niagara Falls golfing 9 holes with a group of senior men. Again, it's been a great way to meet new people and get exercise in God's beautiful outdoors.

I have been blessed with good health which has made it possible to enjoy these activities. We live on the Niagara Parkway in Fort Erie. There is a bike

path just outside our building which has miles of paved trail. We can bike North to Niagara Falls and Niagara on the Lake or South along Lake Erie. I also love just staying at home. At home I enjoy cooking, gardening, reading and a host of other activities too numerous to mention.

My dear mother is no longer here... but if she were here, she would never hear me say those words, "Mom, I'm bored. There is nothing to do!" Even in retirement, there's still lots to do

5. "Entering a Ministry I never Expected" by Denise Benner



When I left Thailand after my husband Colin Benner died, I wondered where and what God had for me after living in 9 countries. Currently Ottawa is my home and one of the things I have become quite involved with is Griefshare at Cedarview Alliance Church.

When I arrived back in Canada as a recent widow, I went on line to find a program to help me walk through my loss. I discovered Cedarview offered Griefshare. I had helped many people through their grief journeys but I had never lost a spouse before. I wanted to be as healthy as possible! I have helped lead this program ever since.

This last session which ended in May 2023 was unique in the fact that amongst those attending were two spouses of pastors who attended, a lady and a gentleman. They were the only two participants that were able to attend an in-person evening in June. This provided an opportunity to talk about things that were unique to their situations as both spouses died while still in ministry. Things like cleaning out church offices, deciding if you were able to stay as part of the church as a new pastor was chosen, how to deal with the pain sometimes associated with church politics etc. God is faithful and I knew what they needed to be able to talk about, with someone who had journeyed further down the same road.

This isn't the ministry I expected to be involved with at this point in my life but God is good and able to do amazing things at any point in our lives. I have tried to lay this ministry down several times over the past 9 years but God keeps reminding me of how blessed I was to have a safe place to walk through those first days of grief.

Blessings Denise

6. "Writing a Devotional" by Ernie Klassen

Over this past year I've tried to write one page a day / 5 days a week devotional on the theme of Revival Theology and Revival Praying. Each day has a key thought (half a page) on revival and a short (half page) prayer response. The last half year I focused on the Holy Spirit's role in Revival.

Recently I finished that project and ended up with a 360-page document. It was a great exercise. I've selected 21 one-day readings/prayers and would love to share them with you (free) if you're interested. Write me (revernieklassen@gmail.com) and I'd be happy to share a PDF with you.



(Finished the English version, now I'm going to work on the translation of 21 reflections into Spanish).

Recently, this prayer request went out from the National Ministry Centre...



...Pray for Ernie Klassen (retired international worker), who will deliver the A. B. Simpson Theology Lectures September 8 - 9, an

event sponsored by INFORMA, the Institute of Ministerial Formation. The topic is "The Role of the Holy Spirit in the Local Church." They are expecting several hundred people in-person and online. May God anoint him as he expounds the classic Alliance doctrines of the person and work of the Holy Spirit.



CONNECTOR Thanks to those who submitted the above. We are open to you submitting your journey in this season of life. It might just encourage others of us to keep engaged in Putting Christ on Display in your sphere of influence.

7 Things God Wants Seniors to Know

https://www.crosswalk.com/slideshows/things-god-wants-seniors-to-know.html

-this is a good article for us to read in this "retiral" season of our lives, where we are "realigned, re-assigned, renewed" in our continuing service to the building up of the body of Christ.

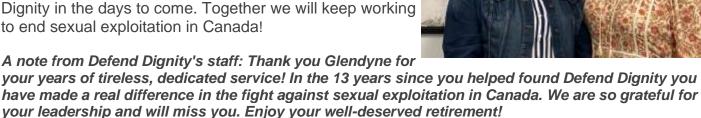
POWER Team member Glendyne Gerrard passes the baton to her successor

Glendyne wrote: As the month of June drew to a close, so too did my time as Defend Dignity's director. On June 30th I officially finished up in my role and passed the torch on to Defend Dignity's new director, Wendy Lowe.

As our advisory team searched for a new director it was of great importance to all of us to find a

competent and passionate leader that would take Defend Dignity to a place of greater impact and influence. I have no doubt that Wendy is the right person for the job. I am excited to see Defend Dignity's next chapter unfold under her guidance!

Thank you for all the support you have provided to Defend Dignity and myself over these 13 years. I hope you will continue to give your full support to Wendy and Defend Dignity in the days to come. Together we will keep working to end sexual exploitation in Canada!





Nyack closed

We were a little bit shocked to read: "Alliance University, a New York City-based institution affiliated with the Christian and Missionary Alliance that dates back 140 years, formerly known as Nyack College, will close down after losing its academic accreditation".

The Alliance Board of Trustees concluded that they will "wind down on-campus and online educational offerings as of August 31, 2023" and "will not offer courses for the Fall semester."

The university also announced that the CMA, a denomination of over 2,000 churches with a statement of faith that aligns with the majority of Evangelical Christianity, is investigating various options regarding possibly continuing the Alliance Theological Seminary program.

Founded in 1882 and originally named the Missionary Training Institute, its name was changed to Nyack College in 1972 in honor of the village where it was located and to reflect its expanded academic offerings.

One of the school's founders was Albert Benjamin Simpson, a Canadian evangelist who moved to the United States in 1873 and also founded the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

In 2020, the school sold its 107-acre campus in Nyack and moved all academic programs to its campus in Lower Manhattan, changing its name to Alliance University in September of last year.

Martin Sanders sends out a CALL TO PRAY....

As you may already be aware, the Middle States regional accrediting body recently made a decision to suspend their accreditation of Alliance University. Although Alliance Theological Seminary and the Doctoral program carries accreditation through the Association of Theological Schools, it is on the same charter as AU, and all classes will cease by August 31.

As of today, I am not aware of all the implications for me personally and for several of our Global Associates connected to the school. It is a possibility the seminary will emerge in its own right as a stand-alone organization in the near future under the accreditation and credibility of the Association of Theological Schools. Please pray with those making these decisions and for all students and faculty impacted by this loss. http://www.globalleadershipinc.org/

Dr. Martin Sanders is a mentor, professor, pastor, consultant, author, and speaker. He has spent 30 years developing the leaders around him. Martin has the vision, passion, and skills to see development in leaders at both the local and global levels. For 25 years he has taught, first at Canadian Theological Seminary in Regina, Saskatchewan, and then 20 years at Alliance Theological Seminary, Nyack, NY. Martin has more than 12 years of pastoral experience in fast growing, life changing churches in both Canada and the United States as well as two extended intentional interim pastorates in Western Australia.

Martin is president and founder of Global Leadership, Inc., a non-profit organization designed to develop the next generation of leaders in under-resourced parts of the world. Through Global Leadership thousands of leaders have been taken to the next level of effectiveness in their personal and professional lives on every continent.

Martin served at CTS as Associate Professor of Pastoral Leadership from 1987 to 1991. Betty and I were blessed to have Martin (& Diannah) on staff with us at Glencairn Alliance Church in Regina for 3 years as Teaching Pastor.

Many of our **POWER Team** members have been influenced by Martin.

Ambrose University President retires



Dr. Gordon Smith will be completing his position as President of Ambrose University the end of this

calendar year. This is a great loss and so we are calling our **POWER Team** members to pray for the Board as they search for a new President.



Gordon has served for many years and many of us had

his parents as professors at Canadian Bible College. That Smith era is coming to a close, though the Gordon's son Micha is the Lead Pastor at Living Hope (Alliance) Church in Comox BC.

The following is a bird's eye view of what is happening at Ambrose from the Dean of Theology, Bryce Ashlin-Mayo Bryce.Ashlin-Mayo@ambrose.edu. Check out his presentation to the WCD conference 2023 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kf32YsQd1VA

Reunited together in their eternal home.



Kenneth Robert Cyr, (July 1962- June 2021) 58, of Grand Coulee, Saskatchewan, passed away peacefully on June 19, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He married Cindy, the love of his life, in 1982, and together they raised three sons. Son Joel is on Pastoral Staff at Rosewood Alliance in Regina.

Ken was born in Chilliwack, B.C. He pursued a calling in ministry by attending Canadian Bible College where he received a bachelor's degree in theology. He spent 33 years in ministry - working as a pastor in churches in Nakusp, B.C., Fort Qu'Appelle, SK, and Quesnel, B.C. and then as the director of Freedom in Christ Ministries based out of Regina, SK. He loved hunting, fishing, and spending time with family,

but most of all he loved Jesus immensely and desired everyone he encountered to experience a saving relationship with Him.

Ken's personality was larger than life. His joy and humour were infectious (and sometimes annoying). He was kind, compassionate, courageous, brave, and incredibly loving. He faced his battle with cancer with incredible perseverance, never feeling like he suffered unjustly, but instead often saying, "Why not me?". We are confident in this: that he is with Jesus in heaven, because he experienced the love of Jesus firsthand while here on earth. His hope rested on that promise and his passion was that others would find that same freedom in Jesus.

A Celebration of Ken's Life will be held, July 24, 2021 at Rosewood Park Alliance Church, Regina, SK.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

Cynthia (Cindy) Cyr, 63, of Grand Coulee, Saskatchewan, was reunited with husband Ken, August 11th, 2023. The family is heartbroken to lose a beloved mother, granny, sister, aunt, and friend so suddenly and unexpectedly.

Cindy was born in Chilliwack, B.C. on December 4, 1959. She followed her husband Ken into ministry where she worked alongside him. Cindy and Ken both began working for Freedom in Christ Ministries based out of Regina, SK, where Cindy continued to work until her passing. She loved photography, nature, and spending time with family, but most of all she loved Jesus with such a passion that it impacted everything she did and everyone she met.

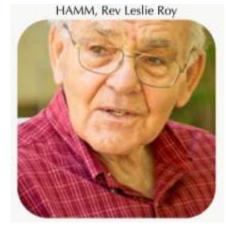


A close friend of Cindy wrote on Facebook: I lost my precious friend yesterday and my heart is aching. Cindy was the keeper of my secrets, the knower of my truths, the laugher of my jokes, the judger of my perfectionism, the mentor of my life. We had a pact to grow old together and move into the same nursing home where we would eat M&Ms with our popcorn and laugh til we snorted. Cindy's sudden passing at the young age of 64 means she does not have to suffer the effects of old age but during her time on earth she did suffer by having to watch her dear husband battle stomach cancer. She had to sav goodbye to her spouse two years ago and fought valiantly to forge on without him with grace and dignity. I was in awe of her strength and her faith. Cindy was always protective of her family and

very proud of her three boys. She was a devoted wife, mother, and sister-in-Christ. I truly thought we had so much time left together for many more silly adventures and bonfires and bike rides and heart-to-hearts. I am so very sad for myself and for Cindy's three boys, but so very happy for her that she got to go quickly to heaven to be with her beloved Ken. Like I would always say to the two of them when I couldn't be part of one of their fun gatherings, "Don't you dare have ANY fun without me!" Ken would always taunt me afterwards with, "We had THE best time." I have no doubt now that they really ARE having THE best time. As I sit here eating M&Ms with my popcorn all by myself, I am picturing the two of them up there together and it makes me smile through my tears. "Save me a seat, guys!".

Les Hamm graduated to his eternal home, August 17, 2023 in Kelowna. He is survived by his wife Shirley of 65 years. Les was well known as a pastor at Hillsdale Alliance Church in Regina for many years.

A memorial service on September 23rd in Kelowna.





Local gathering of POWER Team members in the London area. They had a park luncheon under the leadership of Nelson and Jan Annan. A "New Venture" couple was invited to join to share their vision to reach out into their community.

Not the traditional "church planting" we are used to, but it gave us insight into this innovative way to reach unchurched people and how to pray for this young couple.

This young couple commented on their desire to tap into the wisdom of our **POWER Team** members. They coveted our prayers and input into their lives.

Time for a smile or two -yes, there are more pages this time, so you can skip to the end

S.O.S = SLOWER, OLDER, SMARTER

An Airbus 380 is on its way across the Atlantic. It flies consistently at 800 km/h at 30,000 feet, when suddenly a Eurofighter with a Tempo Mach 2 appears.

The pilot of the fighter jet slows down, flies alongside the Airbus and greets the pilot of the passenger plane by radio: "Airbus, boring flight isn't it? Now have a look here!"

He rolls his jet on its back, accelerates, breaks through the sound barrier, rises rapidly to a dizzying height, and then swoops down almost to sea level in a breathtaking dive. He loops back next to the Airbus and asks: "Well, how was that?"

The Airbus pilot answers: "Very impressive, but watch this!"

The jet pilot watches the Airbus, but nothing happens. It continues to fly straight, at the same speed. After 15 minutes, the Airbus pilot radios, "Well, how was that?

Confused, the jet pilot asks, "What did you do?"

The AirBus pilot laughs and says: "I got up, stretched my legs, walked to the back of the aircraft to use the washroom, then got a cup of coffee and a chocolate fudge pastry."

The moral of the story is: When you're young, speed and adrenaline seems to be great. But as you get older and wiser, you learn that comfort and peace are more important.

This is called S.O.S.: **Slower, Older** and **Smarter**.









Getting ready for a road trip in my Tesla dedd

I USED TO ENVY PEOPLE WHO
COULD DO A CARTWHEEL BUT NOW
I'M JEALOUS OF ANYONE WHO CAN
GET UP OFF THE FLOOR WITHOUT
MAKING GRUNTING NOISES AND
HOLDING ONTO FURNITURE

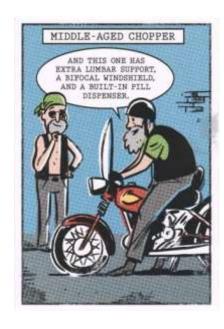
-SHOWGHTS FROM AISLE 4













When I retire, I will have little house on a lakeside..







NURSE CAME IN AND SAID DOC, THERE'S A

MAN IN THE WAITING

ROOM WHO THINKS

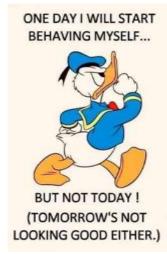
HE'S INVISIBLE, WHAT SHOULD I TELL HIM? THE DOCTOR SAID TELL **HIM I CAN'T SEE HIM** TODAY.





IS THAT HOW

YOU GOT



I SUPPOSE THAT MAKES HIM MINE





We pray that this season of your life

will be a joy as you daily allow the risen Christ to be seen on your countenance, lived out in your daily lives, and expressed in everything you do, whether you are in good health and mobile or moving at a much slower pace.

Happy Canadian Thanksgiving

May this Thanksgiving be a time to reflect on the joys of past ministry, the joys of hard challenges of ministry in the past (participating in the sufferings of Christ), and the privilege to participate in Step #3 of POWER Team...

Providing Our Workers Excellent Resources. -this means... you and I are the resources for those "workers" still in the trenches

...we being the next generation's greatest cheerleaders.

We look forward to hearing "His story" in this season of your life. Please pass it on to us waynebettyk@rogers.com so others can rejoice with you.