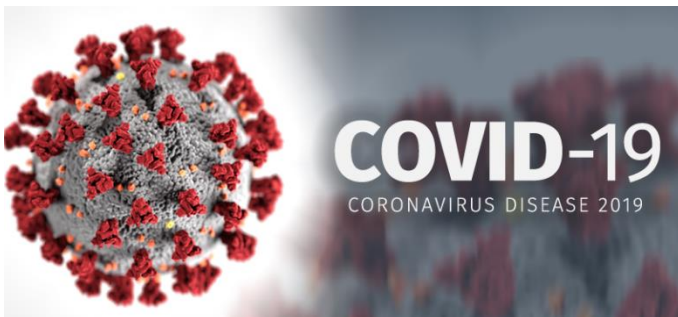


CONNECTOR

#40 May 2020



"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Christ who gives me strength." ~ Phil 4:11-13



Last month we focused on suffering. With the Covid-19 extending its affect on everyone of us, we can allow the traffic jam of our thoughts and emotions to overtake us.

We believe God is in control, but our problem is that we do not have any control over when this is going to pass and when we will get back to

"normal". Through the sufferings and loses we may be experiencing, we must never forget the positive things we do have..

Each one of our District Superintendents are sending us regular communications and we appreciate what they are doing to encourage the pastors, churches and each one of us. I was privileged to receive a recent article written by Stephen Harbridge, District Superintendent of the Central Canadian District. With his approval I am passing this along to you, plus what others have submitted to our **POWER Team** CONNECTOR. We are also reporting the Graduation to Glory of one of our veteran IWs.



The is an **opportune time to put into practice** Step #2 of the **POWER Team**
<https://www.cmacan.org/ministries/ministry-networks/>

-Being the next generation's greatest cheerleaders

Your pastoral team and district leadership are faced with great challenges these days as they try to connect with and minister to their people. Take the time to email or phone them and inform them that you are praying for them during this time. In fact, take the time to pray with them on the phone.



DS Stephen Harbridge writes: **WANT WHAT YOU HAVE**

So...I've been doing a lot of reflecting these days on the mental and emotional effects of COVID-19. One thing I'm hearing God say to me in this season is, "**Learn to want what you have.**" That's what Paul is revealing as the secret to living in "any and every situation" of life. Contentment—the *quality or state of being satisfied; having a soul at rest*. Contentment is synonymous with happiness. Happy are the people who want what they have.



In our western—"first world"—culture, happiness is gained by having what we want, not by wanting what we have. It's this pursuit of happiness that drives consumerism and fuels our economy. Advertisers appeal to this human nature by creating discontentment so as to motivate sales. It is this same human nature that is presently being exposed by the effects of COVID-19.

I considered myself to be a fairly contented person. I didn't want for much. That is, until COVID-19 took away what I had—my freedom to visit my family; my ability to gather with friends; the environment of safety I have come to expect; the plans I had and the freedom to fellowship with other believers for corporate worship, to name a few. To be honest, I've come to realize just how much my pre-COVID contentment/happiness has been dependent on these privileges and expectations. And I don't think I'm alone in this struggle. There are a lot of unhappy and discontented people these days.

James associates anger with discontentment. He asks the question, "**What causes fights and quarrels among you?**" Then he answers it himself. "**It's because you're not getting what you want right now. You're discontented and unhappy. So you resort to aggression to get what you want so you can be happy again.**" (James 4:1,2) I'm hearing from angry pastors and parishioners who are contemplating civil disobedience because they want to get back to Sunday gatherings. We're starting to read about armed protestors in the US marching on state government buildings. I read the other day of a customer assaulting a grocery store clerk. Discontentment, and its emotional expressions, is at an all time high and we Christians are not immune to it.

Want what you have

I've been asked by many what the "new normal" will look like. I don't know for sure, but whatever else it will be, it will require re-learning the secret of contentment. The key to happiness and anger management is not getting back what we've lost, but adjusting our wants and expectations to accept what we now have and will have in the future. And to be thankful for it! This won't be easy. We will need the help of Christ. This is the true context for Paul's statement, "**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**" It's in the real challenges we're facing today that we need the strength of Christ.

For me, it helps to put things into perspective. I was reminded by a fellow pastor recently that what we are experiencing right now—the threat of disease; financial loss; possible food shortage; restrictions on our freedoms and the inability to gather for worship—most people in the world live with this reality daily. And to a much greater measure. I am reminding myself that my sufferings are not to be compared with the sufferings of most people in third world countries. My prayer is that this COVID experience would help me develop a new and greater compassion for the severe suffering of others in the world.

HAPPINESS

..comes from wanting
what we have



The Stoics were a group of 3rd century BC Greek philosophers. They weren't Christian philosophers and I'm not promoting their teaching in general. But they did claim that "contentment does not consist in possessing much, but in wanting little." They believed "if you want to make a man happy, don't add to his possessions but take away from his wants". They maintained that the wealthiest man alive is he who is content with least. It seems that in their search for understanding they discovered the same secret as Paul—be content in any and every situation, whether

living in plenty or want, by wanting what you have.

So, how can I endure this present situation, and learn to be happy in what will be the "new normal"? I can choose to lower my expectations of self and others. I can choose to trust God to supply my daily needs. I can choose to focus on the blessings of the Lord. I can choose to want what I have. And I can choose to be thankful for it.

This is a lesson God is teaching me in this season. Happiness doesn't come from having what I want. Happiness comes from wanting what I have.



Could the following be a prayer that we as **POWER Team** members could raise to God?

Kerry Weber, Executive Editor of *America: The Jesuit Review*

A Coronavirus Prayer

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died.

As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.



Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

Amen.



Hot off the Press

We just received word that **Ruth Patterson 1924-2020** , one of our **POWER Team** members graduated to heaven.

There is a lot about her here, but during this slower time, you may glorify God in reading how this lady never stopped serving her Lord even in "retirement"

Here are some quick responses I received about her....

"A sweet, longtime friend, Ruth Patterson, has gone home to be with Jesus. She was 95 years old and had served the Lord faithfully in Africa, Cambodia and France before retiring to Ontario Canada. "Well done, good and faithful servant."

-Marie Enns

"A wonderful woman of God. She touched many lives here at home and on the field. Heaven's applause would have been long and loud upon her entry". Ron & June MacKinnon

"Another mighty warrior of God has moved onto glory". Brem Frentz

"We remember her as a quiet faithful and warm person with a steady and loving heart for God and people. A real gem!! Fond memories." Gerald and Dorothy Hogenbirk



Here are some cut and paste portions from Ron Brown's Global Vault. Please click on this file for the whole story. Who would ever believe that such a quiet gentle lady could be used of God like this?

<https://globalvault.ca/5-biography-2/> Scroll down to Africa and then to Patterson.

Ruth Patterson, a Canadian, served as a missionary with the Christian and Missionary Alliance from 1952 to 1992. During these four decades she lived, worked and witnessed in four countries on three different continents—Africa, Asia and Europe. This is a brief account of her experience of God’s presence—often hidden, sometimes dramatically manifest —wherever she went. No matter how remote the location, or dangerous the situation through forty years, God was always there.

Ruth was born in Mimico, a community just west of Toronto on the north shore of Lake Ontario, in 1924.

Ruth had many pursuers but it seemed that celibacy was the Lord’s calling, and His presence and peace sustained her through the years. It is a mystery why Ruth was chosen from among so many others to take a path less trodden. ,,,,,,. She remains convinced to this day that God reached down to an ordinary Canadian girl and called her to a different and better life. She believes that God showed up, that God was there. As the Psalmist reflected, “You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me” (Ps. 139:5)

Soon after her decisive encounter with God, Ruth resigned from her office job. She enrolled in a three-year program at Toronto Bible College (1945-48), where she was honored to be named “head girl” in her graduating year. Student ministry assignments during the summer breaks intentionally prepared students for future adversity by toughening them up. One summer she was assigned itinerant duties at small churches, Bible camps and First Nations reservations in northern Manitoba. After a multi-day train journey up over Lake Superior, she disembarked alone in Winnipeg with only some modest luggage and her bicycle. Realizing the great need for medical outreach ministries, Ruth decided to become a registered nurse. To this end she enrolled from 1948-1950 at the Windsor School of Nursing.

She joined the Windsor Alliance Church, then pastored by R. G. Simpson, meeting in the basement of an unfinished building. There she was exposed further to deeper life teaching and experience, and, of course, to the mission’s program of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. In time she discerned that she should apply for missionary service with the Alliance. Characteristically, she applied “open”—that is, open to serve anywhere in the world. But there was one remaining hoop to jump through. In those days all Alliance missionary candidates were obliged to go through the Nyack Missionary Training Institute on the Hudson River, just north of New York City. This Ruth dutifully did from January through December of 1951.

When she was offered an appointment to a medical ministry in the **Belgian**



Congo—the Alliance’s very first mission field. Ruth accepted. The Belgian government insisted at the time that all foreigners planning to sojourn in the Belgian Congo, one of their colonies, must prepare for that through some training in Belgium. Ruth remembers very well her long trans-Atlantic voyage on a freighter ship from New York City to Belgium, where, from 1952-53, she studied French and persevered through a challenging program in tropical



medicine. In August of 1953, in the company of two newly acquired missionary friends and colleagues—Ruth Hess and Ruth Kroon (together, the “three Ruths”)—she took a second ocean

journey from Belgium to Tenerife (among the Canary Islands) and on from there, eventually, to the Congolese city of Boma. The C&MA was launching a critically-needed hospital in the relatively-remote Kinkonzi region, near the mouth of the Congo River in mid-west Congo. Ruth joined this tiny team of pioneers for what would prove a long term and harmonious ministry together—one that would eventually span two continents. For the next twenty years (four terms, as Alliance missionaries calculated things), Ruth served faithfully...

In time she came to direct and teach at a nursing school for nationals that was established there. To hone her skills for these responsibilities, she attended the Francophone University of Montreal one furlough where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing education.



Ruth's heart was always in personal evangelism. During these years there were many conversions at the hospital and in the surrounding villages... after just one year on the field and at the youthful age of twenty nine, she was left in charge of the entire hospital ministry...Educational and training standards at the Congo mission schools and hospital steadily advanced; in time, capable national workers were able to assume staff and leadership positions for the hospital.

After twenty years of demanding missionary service it would have been entirely appropriate for Ruth to consider retiring, and returning to more familiar and congenial circumstances at home.

Besides, her medical ministries had been largely successful inasmuch as trained nationals were equipped to take over leadership and responsibility. The missionaries had in effect worked themselves out of their jobs.

CAMBODIA

In the early 1970s Southeast Asia was convulsed with war as the intense conflict in Viet Nam had spilled over into adjoining nations. Cambodia was also in chaos, as the rogue Communist regime of Pol Pot was engaged in massive human genocide and the capital city of Phnom Penh was at risk of being overrun.

**Ruth Worked
herself out of a job.**

Human tragedy and suffering was everywhere, and World Vision, a premier Christian relief organization, felt compelled to offer medical and humanitarian aid to those who were suffering there. The organization put out an emergency call for assistance to create a children's hospital. The Krohs and Ruth Patterson were asked to help, and the Alliance gave its blessing. Ruth sensed in her spirit that this was a call to which she must respond. She had already been praying for the Cambodian people with deep concern for several years. So once again she accepted an appointment to assist her friends and colleagues in an entirely new and even riskier adventure for Jesus' sake. She arrived in Cambodia in 1973.

As the war conditions worsened, the American government advised all foreign women and children to leave on military planes. Single women were also urged to evacuate, but were permitted the option of remaining. One Sunday morning, as Ruth prayerfully pondered what she should do, she attended a



small Cambodia church. There she discerned, with her still-limited language skills, that the sermon was about Esther. Into her heart with self-authenticating force came Esther's famous words, "And if I perish, I perish." **She felt it was God's challenge to her. She would stay and trust in God's care.**

What followed was an unusually fruitful season of ministry. Before it had been so hard to get people to show an interest in the Christian faith; now they were coming willingly. But it was very dangerous.

Enemy rockets were hitting the city on a regular basis. Their approach was signaled by a terrifying "whooshing" sound as they hurtled through the air toward their targets. On one occasion a rocket sped right past Ruth and exploded into an apartment two blocks down the street. On another occasion she heard the telltale whoosh of a rocket so close by that she instinctively fell to the floor of her room.

Ruth was so euphoric over the spiritual responsiveness of the Cambodians that her dominant emotion was joy rather than fear. Indeed, she faced death many times, but in the midst of it experienced a supra-rational peace. Looking back, she attributes this remarkable calm in part to the prayers of those faithfully interceding for her. "In those moments," she later explained, "I realized that God was there and he kept me and gave me peace in the face of death."

FRANCE Cambodia finally fell to Communist forces in 1975, but by this time Ruth was completely committed to her new Cambodian friends. She relocated to neighboring Thailand, chiefly for the purpose of assisting refugee Cambodians with their transitions to new lives elsewhere in the world.

But her heart went out especially to the vulnerable Cambodians in refugee camps all along the Cambodia Thailand border. In 1977 she **quietly celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of her missionary service.**

For many years a large swath of Southeast Asia, including Viet Nam and Cambodia, had been colonized by France and was known as French Indo-China. Links with French language and culture persisted even after independence from colonial rule, and so it was natural that France would be a preferred and relatively welcoming destination for Cambodian refugees. Once again, the Spirit stirred Ruth up to accept yet another assignment on yet another continent. From 1978-92 (three more terms by Alliance calculus), she lived in France for the benefit of Cambodia refugees faced with a bewildering new culture and considerable life challenges. These refugees were arriving in France at the rate of one thousand a month when Ruth took up residence in Paris. She immediately joined Cambodian pastor In Sopheap and Canadian Alliance missionaries **Norman and Marie Ens** in the Boulogne Cambodian church outreach there.

Retirement in Canada



In 1992 Ruth retired after forty years of missionary service. The occasion was marked by a moving, God honoring “welcome home” service in Stoney Creek, Ontario.

But **that did not mark the end** of Ruth’s usefulness, nor of God’s faithfulness to her. Since then, her ongoing involvements have included missionary meetings, Bible studies, Alliance women’s work, and lay ministries at Stoney Creek Alliance Church and later Paramount

Drive C&MA. She also volunteered at the 100 Huntley Street television prayer line, and spoke at the nearby Alliance nursing home in Waterdown, Ontario.

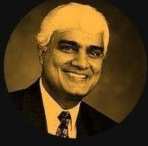
The still-bold spirit of this diminutive older woman was illustrated, when she was planning to participate in a prayer walk across northern Africa. The plan was canceled only after the Canadian government decided that the region was too dangerous for its citizens to travel there.

Close to Ruth’s heart is the Cambodian congregation that now shares the facilities of her home church of Paramount Drive Alliance Church near Hamilton, Ontario. One day a Cambodian stranger came up to her and asked, “Are you Ruth Patterson?” When she confirmed that she was, he shared his story. Years before he had been in a refugee camp and Ruth had visited him and shared the Gospel. He had been a soldier on the Communist side (under ruthless dictator Pol Pot), and initially countered Ruth’s gospel invitation with a sad insistence that he had sinned too much for God to ever forgive him. But eventually the hope of God’s extravagant grace broke into his tortured heart. Ruth had left the man and his family a Bible with her name written in it, and through that Bible and a series of other providential circumstances his fledging faith was firmly established. Now, decades later, Ruth and this soldier with a heinous past were meeting in faraway Canada as a sister and brother in the Lord



Ruth Patterson gives glory to God for the privilege of serving him in these various ministries. She is so grateful for leaders who led graciously, and for the many who gave sacrificially and prayed faithfully to make her life ministry possible. Information in Global Vault Prepared by Gen. C. Georgie

Another Soldier of the Cross ended his ministry...May 19, 2020



“When you say there’s too much evil in this world you assume there’s good. When you assume there’s good, you assume there’s such a thing as a moral law on the basis of which to differentiate between good and evil. But if you assume a moral law, you must posit a moral Law Giver, but that’s Who you’re trying to disprove and not prove. Because if there’s no moral Law Giver, there’s no moral law. If there’s no moral law, there’s no good. If there’s no good, there’s no evil. What is your question?”

~ RAVI ZACHARIAS

Ravi Zacharias 1946-2020 has suddenly been taken from us. Before his scheduled back surgery, he expressed his desire to be back on the ministry trail by July.

We as an Alliance family are so thankful for the investment of our denomination in his life and his great contribution to us and to the Kingdom of God as a whole. He and Margie where married at First Alliance Church in Toronto.

“Because I live, you also will live”

Jn 14:19. These were the seven words that changed the trajectory of Ravi’s life 57 years ago.

Our prayers go to Ravi and his family which includes Shyamala

(Sunder) Krishnan who is his sister.

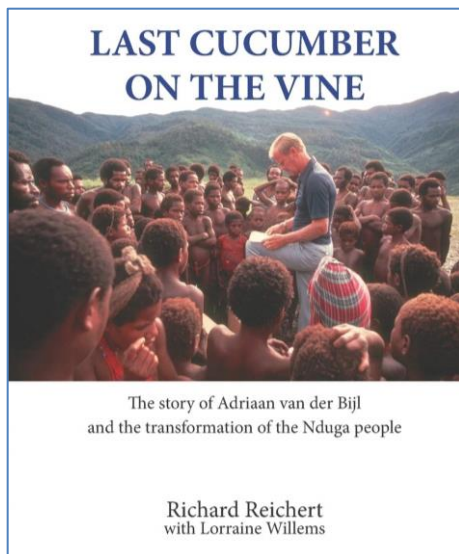
<https://mailchi.mp/4c6437f83c39/obituary-ravi-zacharias?e=6f48e7e804> link to Ravi’s Obituary

Note: In December Ravi performed the wedding of Joel Gamble, son of Dr. & Mrs. Ken Gamble who has served our IWs so effectively for decades.



!Adriaan van der Bijl – knows what “isolation” is all about

Last Cucumber on the Vine is the amazing story of Adriaan van der Bijl and his thirty-year commitment to the Stone Age Nduga tribe who lived deep within the mountainous terrain of Papua, Indonesia.



Adriaan van der Bijl is no stranger to distant places. Born on the island of Sumatra, educated in Indonesia, Dutch by ancestry, American by residency, Canadian by marriage, he is a true international worker. It is not surprising that he welcomed the assignment to move to Papua. Adriaan trekked the length and breadth of Ndugaland's thirty by seventy-mile territory. Along with a team of four, he built airstrips, homes, churches, schools, medical clinics. He addressed physical, spiritual, and educational needs. He taught the people about God and how they could interact with him. A giant of a man, he battled natural disasters, tribal wars, malaria outbreaks. Through it all, he kept his sights on the God who was unstopably building his church.

“Isolation would be a gross understatement” he states in this book. Achievement is not the point. Legacy is not what he is after. It is about the quiet strength of a man who would not quit and who did not complain as the blows of hardship, deprivation and bereavement assaulted his life. That is the point. By the grace of God, he never quit. He kept on going.

Richard Reichert -POWER Team member with the Lord
Colleague-at-Arms with Adriaan & the C&MA Family

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/370342211> Watch this video about "Last Cucumber on the Vine"

To order the book you can go to the following link:

https://www.amazon.ca/Last-Cucumber-Vine-Adriaan-transformation/dp/108024512X/ref=asc_df_108024512X/?tag=googleshopc0c-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=378366144916&hvpos=1o1&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=13616389977901798331&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9001263&hvtargid=pla-813100545991&psc=1



Though this story is focused on Adriaan, his ministry was allowed to continue as Elfrieda Toews, from Saskatoon, partnered with Adriaan and his wife for many years in ministry. Following the death of Adriaan's wife, Elfrieda became his wife December 29, 1986. They have been married for 33 years and are retired in Saskatoon. To further flesh out the story, link onto Global Vault here.

<https://globalvault.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/toews-elfrieda.pdf>



Last Cucumber on the Vine was **Richard Reichert's** last project in "retirement" before his death. The day after Richard submitted his final draft of this book, the Lord saw fit to take him to Himself 2017. His wife Hope resides in London Ontario where they had retired together.



Other books that Richard authored are:

Daybreak over Ecuador, Missions is a contact Sport, Siglo de Avance & Centennial of mission in Ecuador & Escombros (in Spanish as well)



Retirees still serving

A report from the Cases of their latest mission's trip.

At minus 40 degrees Celsius in Calgary it was not hard to understand why our hearts were yearning for our former SE Asia home. That was the situation as on January 14, 2020 we waited for our flight to head to our first stop, Vancouver. Surprise! It was minus 45 C in Vancouver. Two de-icings and an hour or so late and we were again heading to the tropical climes of Malaysia and Indonesia. Our 25 hour flight to Singapore was about to turn into 48 hours, which included back tracking from Hong Kong to Seoul due to a late arrival, missed flight, and early Chinese New Year traffic. Barb was ecstatic to step out into to plus 30C sun in Singapore, prior to our short hop up to Penang, Malaysia.



The four of us, Barb & Earl, Doug & Lorraine Case, were ready to begin a six-week opportunity of sun, sand, and service. After a day of recuperating we grabbed a Grab/Uber and head to our old stomping grounds, Dalat International School. Barb and I were aware of the physical changes to the campus but still our breath

was taken away when we saw what God had done in answer to decades of prayer. When we left Dalat in 2008, after 13 years of service in that educational community, the only new facility was a new power substation. We spent the next couple hours visiting the new modern dorm building, a majestic high school and administration facility, a new library- science-renewed and expanded elementary classes and play area, and an expanded gymnasium. We spent time chatting with older staff we had worked with as well as new younger faces. We praised God for the increasing ministry of this Christian school in a Muslim country and throughout the Asia region. Today the school ministers to over 650 students and their families compared to 200 in 1995, our first year at Dalat. We returned to the campus twice more, received our alumni t-shirts and slowly wandered through our places of memory while knowing this was not where the Lord was going to let us stop.



While in Penang we spent Sunday mornings worshipping at the Penang International Church. This was another place to renew old friendships

At the school we met Kelly, a young American IW, helping to give some oversight to this school. A quick tour and we were hooked. Six classrooms of elementary children from kindergarten to grade six-ish, about 75 refugee children not allowed into the local school. With only 4 volunteer teacher/parents from the refugee community, we quickly saw we could fit in meeting classroom needs. Kelly's main responsibilities were teaching English in another opportunity so she also was part time.

After renting a car, shopping for some school supplies, praying and lesson prep, we were ready to return to the school for 3 mornings each week during our time in Malaysia. All the classes were in English but Barb and I found our limited Indonesian to be a benefit with some children. We taught English, we read with individual students, we did crafts, we taught math, science and whatever was needed. Because of the generosity of our life group and church family here in Killarney, we were able to leave a suitcase plus of clothes for the school head to distribute in the refugee community. As well, we purchased some snacks, supplies, and paid for a number of months of rent for the present facility. Funds were also left with McIvers who were initiating amalgamation of 3 refugee schools. They are introducing teacher training to the refugee volunteers in the schools; a huge task.

We believe a few tears were shed as we left the school for other opportunities in Indonesia. We also had opportunity to encourage a few other IWs in Penang during coffee or over meals. The Lord was good.

Our 10 days on Lombok were spent meeting and encouraging many of our former partners, locals and IWs. Our language was put to the test. Our old brains didn't have the greatest grasp of the language to start with. One of our biggest blessing came the morning we shared during the local IW praise n worship time. This fellowship of young people and couples from America, Germany, Australia, Norway and... are having an amazing impact on the island and neighboring areas. We were blessed to be among them. We pray we were a little encouraging as well.

Our former house helper and our former driver were now working for our Canadian partners. We were doubly blessed to stay in their home while having our former helpers, now their helpers, take care of us. We visited many other local families as well. Many tears flowed as Barb was reunited with her Indonesian walking partner. We had lost contact and were afraid health issues may have claimed her. The tea we shared was very sweet.

Finding and spending time with some of our national EV workers was a highlight. SmRy shared fresh made snacks with us and shared how the Lord is bringing people to Himself through study of the Word. They continue to see miracles of physical healing, food multiplication, and lives changed. RdMi continue to use their sewing and teaching skills to reach students and villagers with the good news, as well as raising 3 huggable children. Time and scheduling seemed to hamper our attempts to meet with AxRa. We had heard Ax was very ill and recuperating on his home island. Disappointment turned to rejoicing as we were about to go down the escalator in a mall only to be stopped by Ra and her daughter Grc who were also about



to head down the same escalator. After many hugs and sharing tears and laughter we parted ways again.

A highlight was reconnecting with our village family for a meal. We continue to hold them up. Through technology we continue with opportunities to place stepping stones before them, to lead them closer to our Saviour and hopefully theirs someday. We have continued to connect weekly from Canada with them over the last 3.5 year. Technology is wonderful but Spirit is greater. Hugs, prayers, and photos were shared while viewing new art work at Kisid's gallery and new batik creations at Sam's studio. These men were key players in the foundation and it's work while we lived in Indonesia. They and their families are also dear friends.



Our hearts were full of joy as we reflected on our time with old friends, then with sadness as we aren't sure we will have this opportunity again. The Lord protected us from sickness as we travelled. Now that we are in Canada again. He has provided an abundance of time for us to refocus and lift our many IWs and distant family before His throne.

Working together in Him Earl & Barb Case Proverb3:5-6



Irene Draper has days full of connecting with people during Covic-19



Thank you for your faithfulness in trying to keep track of everyone through the CONNECTOR. It amazes me how much I find to do during this time of self-isolation. My days are full of connecting with various people—phone calls, zoom meetings, other on line connections, visiting with people from my condo, plus friends and family while keeping our distance. Each day I still have several things I would have enjoyed doing when it is time to head for bed.

Truly God is good as he walks with me through all the circumstances that are part of my life.

It amazes me how God demonstrates his love for me each day. Right now I am sitting in my closed in deck, thanking God for the beautiful trees around me. A pair of robins have been busy building a nest in a tall shrub beside my window. They often land on the ledge before disappearing into the leaves. I can't see the nest but I know it is there. Hopefully they will use the window cell to line up the babies for flying lessons.

Ken and Carla Draper (our son and Carla the daughter of Don & Chris Olsen) had a drive way grad party for their daughter Anna recently. They sent a Dropbox link so I could share in the fun. I watched the online ceremony and Anna also called on WhatsApp.

Already this morning, our daughter Ruth-Anne phoned and while we were chatting Bruce (our son) called to say he and Rhonda were coming by with a bouquet of flowers they had just bought at the farmer's market. I met them outside in the condo garden where we visited for a few minutes. They also had a cup of coffee for me. My family continues to be a great source of blessing.

There are several areas close to my condo where I can walk and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. The beauty of nature nourishes my soul.



My two sons, Bruce & Ken Draper

Yes, I miss Lloyd (husband) and Derrick (grandson who died recently) but in answer to the prayer of many saints God's gift of peace floods my heart and soul. The hope of eternal life because of Jesus life, death and resurrection is a source of comfort and even joy.

I have many favourite scripture verses but right now Paul's prayer in Romans 15:13 is the desire of my heart and my prayer for my family. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so you may overflow with hope by the Holy Spirit."

May all of you be experiencing God's blessing upon you and may his grace provide the strength you need for each new day. -Irene Draper (Kelowna)

A time for POWER Team members to reflect and flourish

Betty and my pastor is leading us through a series on Psalm 23 and we are applying that together in our small group. It is a constant reminder that this expression of David's was not just to be read at funerals but is a great reminder of the **All-Sufficiency of Christ** which we as pastors and IWs preached for many years.

We are reminded that as "my shepherd", "He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters". In this pandemic time, are we giving Him an opportunity to shepherd us to rest in green pastures and places of stillness by quiet waters?

As He wants to refresh our souls and bodies, this is a time for the Shepherd to heal any of the wounds that we have experienced in our journey of life and service over the years that may not have been addressed in the past.

Two Reasons why we should choose to follow Jesus is that:

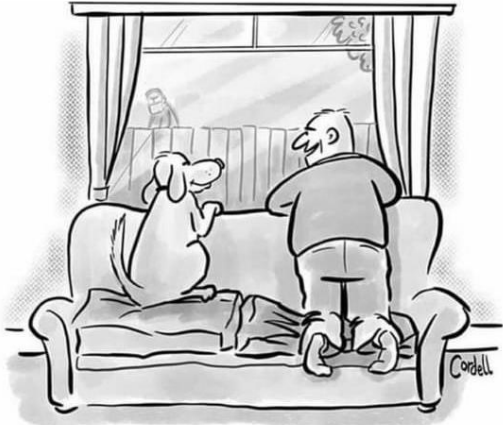
- a. He alone can satisfy the thirst of our souls
- b. He alone can heal our brokenness.

Has my theological bent mellowed some in this season of my life?

Maybe we have discovered that some of the theological stands we had earlier in our ministry should not have been so time consuming and divisive. Maybe the call to "make disciples" should have consumed more of our time.

Recently, I came across the following article by Stephen Altrogge. "Things I wish I could tell my Younger Self About Calvinism (or: How to be Less of a Jerk). Yes, he was and still is a Calvin follower. No matter what our theological stand is in some area, I believe that this is good fodder for thought for **POWER Team** members, as we desire to be the next generation's greatest cheerleaders. Read this <https://churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/304327-things-wish-tell-younger-self-calvinism-less-jerk-stephen-altrogge.html>

Some lighter things.



"Until now, I never understood why you got so excited when someone walked past the house."

I'm Confused

So let me get this straight. I go to IGA and buy a pack of sliced ham wrapped in plastic, a loaf of bread in a plastic bag, 4l of milk in a plastic jug, a pack of napkins wrapped in plastic, a Greek salad in a plastic container, a plastic bottle of mustard and a plastic bottle of ketchup, and they won't give me a plastic bag to carry it home because the plastic bag is bad for the environment?



Celebrities: We are all in the same boat...

Their boat:



My Boat:



<https://www.cmacan.org/ministries/ministry-networks/>

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