

CONNECTOR

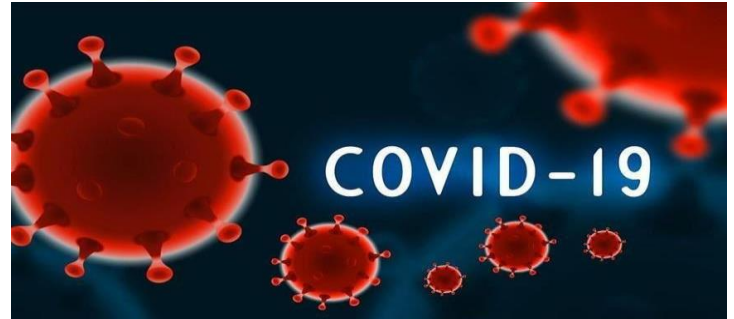
#42 July 2020



Covid-19 Issue #2

We want to thank all of you who responded to our questions

- what you are experiencing during this unique time in the world's history?
- what is God teaching you?
- what are you doing differently now?
- what advice would you give to pastors and leaders of the church today?



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This resulted in us sending out **CONNECTOR #41** Covid-19 Issue #1 the middle of June. Again, as you will see, many responded and so this is Issue #2. We would still like to hear from more of you.

The connecting with many who have never before submitted to **CONNECTOR**

has opened communication with other **POWER Team** members that have connected for years.

We see that the COVID-19 pandemic has touched the homes of the healthy and the unhealthy. As Insight for Living has written, "It has been costing each of us something ----stability, loved ones, togetherness. .

We are grateful for our Canadian governments and the work they are doing. We might question some of the spending, but as I type this, I just discovered that on July 7th we seniors had a \$300.00 deposit to our bank account. WOW!!!

So, let our **POWER Team** members speak to us as we stick handle through the mine fields in this season of our lives.

Ed & Carolyn Drewlo -CPD

It is so interesting to read the contributions from so many we have known about making the most of this unusual world-wide circumstance for the glory of God. It was especially interesting to note from Ron Baker's write-up how something similar happened in the late '60's with its parallel racial tensions erupting in the US at that time. Is it possible that in times of physical stress and hardship that social unrest also percolates? Seems to be a correlation between those two in more than mere race relations.

I don't recall anything quite so devastating as this pandemic for our generation. It represents a special challenge on what it means to navigate through hard times being careful to avoid contamination while coping with the social, economic, and spiritual effects of it all. Mostly, for us, it has meant not being able to travel to see our family and grand-



children (though some showed up for a much-appreciated surprise visit on Father's Day weekend). For Carolyn, the pandemic has turned out to be a bit more intense since, immediately preceding Covid-19, she took on a short teaching contract in the public school system for Grade 2 and 3. Even though it's been a stretch to teach during the pandemic, she has often commented on how blessed she felt to be occupied in this way in this season.

As for me, one of my projects in this time has been to prepare an Evangelism Seminar for our Lakewood Alliance Church here in Prince George. Originally, it was to be an on-site seminar lasting several hours. As it turned out, Associate Pastor, Ian Bennet, asked if I might offer it on-line. After a good deal of research and advice, on consecutive Sundays recently, I did three Power Point Zoom sessions to a dozen or more registrants. The series, now on YouTube, is called, *Engage: Sharing the Good News in Postmodern Times*. Each approximate ½ hr session considers the importance of *Context*, *Content*, and, *Contact*. (There is a further explanation of the series in a recent Blog article on this subject on my Second Wind Ministries website at: www.edwindrewlo.com.)

Much of this pandemic experience has been a little like the journey Israel must have been on in the wilderness sometimes called, *The Land Between*. It seems an appropriate expression for those who are looking for better days beyond the pandemic, as well as for us who are, more or less, at such a point in our earthly journey. Apart from not being able to travel or physically attend church services, the pandemic hasn't meant a huge change in our lives. There has been more time for reflection and for a deeper appreciation of the blessings we often take for granted.

I sympathize with pastors who have had to make major adjustments in their ministries during this time. I am impressed with how so many seem to have accepted this new challenge with strength and courage. The pandemic is an additional complicating factor to present the truth of Scripture and the Gospel in these times. With the recent loss of the concept of objective truth in our culture, pastors need a great deal of wisdom these days in how to "contend for the faith once delivered to the saints" (Jude). Clarity in this, I think, is our greatest need.

Ed and Carolyn Drewlo -Second Wind Ministries

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David & Donna Wintemute -CMD

Grandpa and Grandma "B" were from the "old country". We would only go to visit them when we received an invitation, and oh the spread was second only to Buckingham Palace. Grandma would be the last to sit down before we said grace and say "If you don't see it, I haven't got it". As a young energetic grandson, my father would forewarn me before our arrival to "BEHAVE YOURSELF DAVID!" of which I tried my best even though I didn't understand completely what that meant or even entailed. As we were leaving Grandma would say, "Nice to see you come and nice to see you go!" For sure I did not understand that statement as I thought I had behaved myself. My father would assure me that one day I would understand grandma.

I'm the grandpa now! All 4 daughters, spouses, 7 grandchildren + 2 more who have since arrived, were home for Christmas 2020. We definitely did not sing "Silent Night". January 4th, we became empty nesters again. As they left, I reminded them that there are blessings in the empty nest. You might say there are blessings in retirement. Even virus forced early retirement (isolation) has its blessings.

As active as I still am, I enjoy immensely my quiet time and especially with the Lord. Time to read my Bible, read my devotions, listen to podcasts (familylife.com), send my devotions with "my blog" to friends around the world, praying, listening to music (yes I am a Bill Gaither fan) and researching themes literally can absorb my morning. With all the challenges of today's world, how wonderful and important it is to have time to feed my soul and draw close to Him.



With the advancement of technology - oh yes you can teach an "old dog" new tricks but it just takes a bit longer and that is where the grandchildren's patience kicks in - I can go to the "electronic church"

all around the world, and in one day. Praise the Lord that He is faithful to His word that He will raise up His church and I get to see that! Just like the old saying "Let your fingers do the walking" you can let them do the flying as well.

Being Canadian, I do claim a few rights. One is grandpa time. I am presently watching Alpha youth with 2 of my grandsons (separately) to find out more of their world and their thoughts and I share my world and thoughts and "the good old days". It's like going for a "walk and talk" that I did with their mom. It's also a great time to show love without the responsibility of discipline.



At 68 I was asked to be a price checker for a local grocery store. (6hrs. a week) The joy of serving/helping and showing His goodness to others is just a continuation of a lifelong servant spirit, just a different format. I have a desire to be a volunteer in the quizzing program as well

as the Alzheimers Society. Going about the "mundane" things of life I have the time to build bridges and share God's love. Just this past month I had special time with the water heater maintenance man, the fence installer, and the parging worker on our outside basement wall. Who knows what next week will bring?

It might be a clique but it is true "God's good ALL of the time" and discovering that daily is well worth the searching. Keep looking up and moving forward. He is GOOD ALL of the time.

Bill and Marilyn Parsons -WCD



When the pandemic arrived, Bill was proctoring at Ambrose University. Our daughter Marva (who lives close to us) was in the middle of major home renovations when her 3 kids landed home between Friday and Monday. We opened our basement to her son Cody and for the first month we were all in the same bubble with many meals being eaten here so we were not as isolated as many others have been. We have weathered the pandemic physically, safe washing our hands more than ever before and looking out of the window lots.

Marilyn continues to work in a long term care dementia center that has remained virus free. To say it is a difficult time to work in this area is an understatement. Marilyn would like to remind everyone that there are lots of good care homes in Canada. It has been extremely hard on members of her care-givers group from the church who are living at home with very little help. They are so alone.

Ray & Dorothy Peters -CCD 1. What are you experiencing?

Dorothy and I recently sold our home in Niagara Falls and moved into an apartment building owned by our son, in Fort Erie, Ont. Our apartment is on the first floor and the Niagara River is just across the road. We love our new home. I am the custodian and the building superintendent. There are many opportunities to serve the tenants in the other 14 units. When we moved, we left The Gate church in Niagara Falls and began attending a new Alliance church called Life House in Fort Erie. Most of the 60 or so people who attend are young families, so there are lots of little ones running around! It's great to see all the new life. We love the Pastor and the people.

It has been a significant adjustment to stop attending church like you have been in the habit of doing all your life! Although we miss singing together, the friendly faces, good conversations, smiles and hugs, it has been great to worship on line with our own church and also with some of the bestknown pastors and churches in North America! One Sunday I listened to 6 sermons! Now as we anticipate resuming gathering together, we'll have to adapt to another style of worship -- being together without singing or touching anyone!



I must admit that I am very happy that I am retired and don't have to be a local church pastor under these conditions. I'm grateful for opportunities to serve at our church. Before Covid-19 began the Pastor asked if I would preach on Mother's Day and I agreed to do so. Then Covid-19 hit and a few weeks before Mother's Day I went to the Pastor and begged to be relieved of that responsibility! Thankfully he said "No problem"! I just couldn't imagine preaching to a camera!

I've also enjoyed reading, particularly Joel Rosenberg's books. The problem with reading them is that once you've started reading it is very difficult to put the book down and do whatever else it was you were supposed to be doing! And once you've read 400 plus pages, you realize the story doesn't end. There is another book in the series, so you start over again - another 400 pages. But It's been worth it! I'm just glad that I'm retired and it really doesn't matter that "Sunday's coming...!"

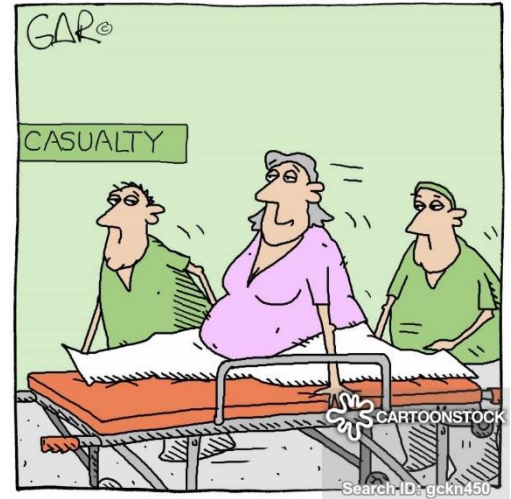
Dorothy has enjoyed meeting weekly with a young mother, discipling her and helping her carry her heavy load. Dorothy has needed knee surgery for well over a year. With the Corona problems her surgery keeps getting postponed indefinitely. This has been frustrating for us.

2. What is God teaching us?

God is giving us unique and new ways of serving others. Most of the tenants are thrilled to have us here and so are grateful for everything we do and every improvement we make. We consider the tenants in our building as "Our Parish" at this time. We are totally enjoying this stage of life. It is a pleasure to serve Him and those He brings across our path. We try to live our lives based on the first sentence of "The Purpose Driven Life" - "It's not about you!"

3. What advice do we have?

One of the things we have learned is to "be flexible". So many things have changed for us all. We've had to change the way we've always done some things e.g. buying groceries. Early in the "Covid-19 crises" our kids told us, "We don't want you going out to get groceries!" so they bought our groceries and brought them to our home! That felt very awkward. But it was the right thing to do at the time. A few weeks ago, Rick Warren advised his viewers that there would be a lot less stress in their lives if they would limit themselves to watching only about 30 minutes of news per day." I think that is great advice! There is a lot less stress in our lives when we heed those words of wisdom.



"...at least I won the bet with my precocious ballet dancing Granddaughter!"

I think it is also important to "obey those in authority over you" rather than second guessing them and complaining about them. I'm just glad I'm not in their position and having to lead through this difficult time.

We're also grateful that we can trust God in this time of change. We don't have to worry - He will take care of us. Rather than looking into the distant future and wondering how we will manage we try to live trusting God "One day at a time."

Gerald & Dorothy Hogenbirk -IW ECD

Life is great despite Covid-19!! A blessing of this time is the realization that there is still so much for us to do and become, that we have no time, no right to be sad.

This year we are both celebrating our 65th birthdays, 43 years of marriage and 40 years with the C&MA. Wow! What a ride! We are so thankful for God's faithfulness throughout our lives and ministries. We anticipate celebrating our special occasions when permitted. In the interim we're doing more than enduring the present, waiting for something better to come along.

We're living in our home in Whitby, Ontario. Gerald has been involved speaking in churches in the GTA, working with Persian Ministries, chairing the MHI (Missionary Health Institute) Board. Much of this has depended on technology lately. Gardening, reading, fishing, and home renos have filled the days. Going through files, old school notes and sermons have brought back many memories.



Dorothy just received her first CPP and Old Age Security cheque. Goodbye tension, hello pension! She has done some volunteer work at the Eastern Canadian District Office, kept in touch with family and friends by making cards and other activities.

*Goodbye tension,
hello pension*

We have been keeping in touch with those we connected with at our Fitness Center and in our neighborhood—over 150 people, which has given us great joy. The means has had to change in the past few months by using Zoom, Face Time, Facebook, phone and email. We look forward to the days when we can have outdoor BBQs on our front lawn again with these dear friends.

Our family continues to expand. It is so nice to be closer to them after being overseas in Africa and the Silk Road. Our 3 sons, daughters-in-law, and soon to be 8 grandchildren bring us great joy.

We're so thankful for the past, content for today and anticipate all that God has for us in the days that lay ahead. We're so thankful for Wayne and Betty Kerr and the Power team who facilitate this wonderful means of staying in touch with friends and former colleagues, seeing how God continues to use us all.

As Joan Chittister, in her book, *The Gift of Years*, states, "A burden of these years is the temptation to cling to the times and things behind us rather than move to the liberating moments ahead".

A blessing of these years is the invitation to go light footed in to the here and now—because we spend far too much of life preparing for the future, rather than enjoying the present."



Eric & Gwen Persson -IW WCD

It has been a long time since many of us sat in either Mr. Downey's or Mr. Kincheloe's classes and heard the debate on whether we as Christians would go through the Tribulation or not.

It was a time when there were also many "Last Day" speakers who went from church to church with their views on Christ's return. That was almost 60 years ago and the subject has dropped from the scene.

The arrival of Global Warming and some of the effects that it has produced in worldwide weather systems and physical changes on coast lines around the world. And then along came Covid 19 with its worldwide death toll and economic devastation, both immediate and what seems to be some longterm challenges. This is true, not only for the developing countries of the world, but also those countries who are considered to have robust economic resources. All this has caused me to be looking again at some of the things our college professors suggested might be signs that, whether we go through the Tribulation or not, are indications that Christ's return is close.

I am not sure that we are preparing our church communities for the challenges that Christians will face as our society becomes an increasingly hostile environment for people of faith.



WELL DONE,
GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT...

ENTER INTO
the joy of your master

MATTHEW 25:23

WWW.EPM.ORG

CONNECTOR wants to acknowledge those who have heard Matthew 25:23 spoken to them

During COVID-19, there has been the reminder of loved ones no longer with us as well as the loss of a loved one when there could not be public gathering for a funeral. This is true for many of our **POWER Team** members and our hearts and prayers go out to you.

In this issue, we have the reminder of one of our IWs (Richard Reichert) whom the Lord took to Himself 3 years ago, and a recent graduation (IW Jack Shannon). We just received word of Marilyn Ibsen's passing so will include that in our next **CONNECTOR**. We do pray for Jean Shannon and Don Ibsen at this time.

Hope Reichert -IW CCD

Three years have passed and COVID-19 has not lessened the loneliness. I have been blessed to have a **POWER Team** pod in the London area and **POWER Team** members Nelson & Jan Annan living in this same condo high rise.

This is a great time for reflection and our son Joel expresses well the great father and husband God blessed us with.

In 1948, on the plains of Western Canada, the great sower cast a special seed in the fertile soil that had been cultivated by His faithful servants Joseph and Naldera Reichert. This special seed grew in



the strength and knowledge of the Lord, its roots grew especially deep, finding their satisfaction alone in the Living Water that gives eternal life.

Dad grew up in another time, with stories that are foreign to us. A diligence, steadfastness and discipline born of hard farm life, one room schools and a small-town closeness that valued people and relationships above all else. His childhood was full of discovery and adventure, like cross-country motor-biking with his brother while still in his teens. Though these were small town beginnings, he knew the world and ventured out into without fear. He knew the Lord was his strength and shield.

Early on, Dad's faith was saturated with the blood of martyrs, Jim Elliot, Nate Saint

and their colleagues on the banks of an Ecuadorian river from which a calling was given to bring hope and healing for the same dark country. His roots now ever deeper, he knew his life's call.

Years of training and education took him to Regina and on to Fredericton NB, where Dad and Mom started their family when Peter was born, on to seminary and along came Jen. From there to Luseland Sask. and Dad's first pastorate, where I was born. Four years on, to the mission field via Costa Rica, and their first assignment in Loja, Ecuador. Paul was born and the Reichert family was complete. As his young family grew and matured so did his mission for Ecuador.

For more than 20 years, Dad poured out his life into the country of Ecuador, a legacy that lives on through lives changed. But even though Dad had a calling to save the lost, his family still came first.

While his vision for ministry was deep, strong and committed, his leadership of the family was even greater. It was the ground he cultivated and worked. There he died to self each day, listening, loving and leading with intentionality. As much as could be expected, Dad was there. Yes, there were sacrifices, time in boarding school away from us. Home sickness, missing Mom and Dad, but in a God's providence,



this made family times even sweeter and more special.

Dad loved the outdoors, regular trips to the mountains for a hike or picnic were a more than regular occurrence. During the years in Guayaquil, day trips to the rustic beach of El Pelado were a regularity. Trips across the country either going to school and back or simply exploring our adopted home country always included a roadside picnic stop at some passing creek or lookout.



Family sports duals were also a regular diversion, whether basketball on one of many rooftop patios, t-ball in the yard in Guayaquil, soccer in the yard or at the beach or school field with the occasional floor hockey battle sprinkled in. Dad was always a willing participant and a gracious example. It was evident that the competitive fire of his youth was there below the surface, but the love and service to his family always put us first.

And there was always time for a family board game, and Dad was always the gracious loser. Always. But he loved it. The family battles on the patio, beach, field or around the table were a teaching ground. Not directly per say, but Dad's selflessness and commitment to his family was there on display.

In so many ways, Dad lived out the teachings of His Lord, and in so doing set an example for us to follow. Dad, I saw you daily live out Jesus' teaching of the Beatitudes and it had a lasting impact on me and those who you ministered to.

Dad, through your meekness you were blessed and thus you shall now inherit the earth.
Dad, through your hunger and thirst for righteousness you were satisfied.
Dad, you were so merciful. You have been blessed to receive God's greatest mercy.
Dad, you were pure in heart. You were blessed to see God for who he is while on earth and now in heaven.



earth.
been
are
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Dad, you were a peacemaker. You've now been blessed to receive your place in heaven as a son of God.

Dad, so many received God's blessing because of your faithfulness.

Dad was the greatest example an earthly father could provide to a son of what Christ must have been like. Dad took up his cross daily, with joy, peace, humility, thankfulness, generosity, patience, gentleness, self-control and sacrificial love. He walked the narrow path of his Savior, unwavering.

Dad wasn't perfect, but because of his example I know what Christ my Savior is like. I know what it is to be adopted as a son of God because of how Dad adopted the poor in spirit as his own children and loved them so. And I know how the Father loves the Son because of the way Dad loved me.

And I know how Christ loves his bride, the church, because of how Dad loved and selflessly loved Mom, laying his life down daily for her.

I know the one, true risen Savior because of my Dad. I just don't know who He is, but rather how He loves me. And what He would do to show me His glory and hold me close until it's my turn to go

home too. He'd give everything. And He did, on the cross. It was the ultimate sacrifice, a perfect God-man taking the sin of the world on His shoulders that we might live.

Until that time comes when I get to go home too, Dad I'll miss you. I pray that although you're gone, the seed that God planted in me through your witness will grow deep roots in the face of Jesus Christ. Oh, Spirit come on me, that in some small flickering way I might bear witness to Christ's glory as Dad did so radiantly.

Rev. Dr. John "Jack" Neville Shannon -IW CCD

Heartbroken by our loss but consoled by his gain, we would like to inform friends, family and colleagues that Rev. Dr. John "Jack" Neville Shannon was promoted to Glory on Father's Day in his 88th year.

Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Jack's childhood revolved around the fun and games of the "Balsam Blue Bombers", the songs and stories of his Irish background and the touchdowns and home runs of his many athletic endeavours.

As an adult, Jack was a member of Delta Tabernacle and currently of The Gate Alliance Church in Niagara Falls. He first served with the Christian & Missionary Alliance as pastor of the Beach Gospel Chapel in Hamilton, Ontario. He then went with his wife, Jean, to Buenos Aires, Argentina where he was a beloved professor shaping the lives of students in the Buenos Aires Bible Institute for forty years. He did the same for three years in The Alliance College of Theology in Canberra, Australia. He is sadly missed by his wife Jean (nee Martin) of 63 years, his sons Daniel (Elizabeth), Washington, D.C., Juan Martín (Melissa), Australia, Steven (Elisa), Argentina, and daughter Elisa (Rich) Brown, Ecuador... His fourteen grandchildren and one great-grandson will lovingly miss hearing Grandjack sing the Tinker Boxer song.



**Served in Canada,
Argentina, Australia**

Jack was an avid runner and a regular on the tracks of the YMCA. Throughout his life, many went to him for his great ability to listen to them, understand their struggles and offer sound advice. Deeply aware of the injustices in our society, he was a lifelong believer in the transformational power of God to bring about social justice as well as individual redemption.

Due to the current Covid 19 pandemic, a memorial service will take place at a later date.





Dan Goldsmith passed this message on. **AN ABSOLUTE MUST SERIOUSLY!!!!**
"Quite a message for the present, considering all the protests and anger".

We join with Dan in saying this is an important message for all of us to listen to because of what we as Christians and churches are experiencing during this pandemic. Please listen and pass it along.

The message is "**What The World Needed then, And Now**": The book of Acts (from North Coast Church)

<https://youtu.be/-mole-t9UdE> -go to minute 12 to start the message



What will church look like now. Check this out: "Post-Lockdown Church" on YouTube <https://youtu.be/flfitkvCVfA>



When this virus thing is over with... I still want some of you to stay away from me.

Is it too early to put up the xmas tree yet? I have run out of things to do.

How LONG is this social distancing thing supposed to last? My husband keeps trying to come into the house.

Wayne & Betty

-National Volunteer **POWER Team** Coordinators

-CONNECTOR -compilers -647-408-4204

-waynbettyk@rogers.com -reply and submit