

## POWERteam

### Passing the Baton

“and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”  
2 Timothy 2:2

## Another Baton is passed on in POWER Team leadership

This is happening as **Ray & Vi Downey** pass the baton to **Brian & Judy Thom** as Canadian Pacific District **POWER Team** Volunteer Coordinators.



As you see on page 2 of this **CONNECTOR**, both Ray & Vi are now in their 9<sup>th</sup> decade of breathing God’s clean air. They passed on a baton when they left their IW ministry in Africa to take up the position of VP of Missions at the National Ministry Center. From there they passed the baton to their successor as they

moved into “retirement” only to be “re-aligned” as Volunteer Coordinators for the **POWER Team** in the CP District.



Again, they are passing the baton on to Brian & Judy Thom. Brian & Judy have also been in the habit of passing the baton to others and picking another up. Brian has served as a pastor, District Superintendent, Board of Directors Chair along with raising finances with the Alliance in Canada. Each time, the baton has been passed on to others. As they have seen the vision, we are so delighted that they have received the **POWER Team** baton. They have much to offer as they join

with National Coordinators, Gerald & Dorothy Hogenbirk and other district coordinators in expanding the effectiveness of this significant ministry.

## Decade Celebrations

There are many of our **POWER Team** members who are celebrating significant milestones as they cross into the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and even the 10<sup>th</sup> decade of their lives.



What other ministry of the C&MA spans so many decades of people who served faithfully for decades as IWs and pastors? We are only able to pass onto you those we hear about. One of those is Viola Downey, a veteran IW and a Volunteer Coordinator of **POWER Team** in the CP district along with husband Ray.

In the December 2021 **CONNECTOR** we acknowledged Ray entering his 9<sup>th</sup> decade which included a wonderful tribute from one of their daughters. That could not be a stand-alone, and so as Viola joins Ray by following him into the 9<sup>th</sup> decade, this same member of the family gave her tribute to her mother Viola.

### Viola Downey 80<sup>th</sup>

Today I celebrate the life and love of the woman who has had more impact on me than any other person alive. At the risk of sounding so click-ish, I want to share 8 reasons why I love you, in no particular order, although the first one is pretty important !

1. **You gave me life.** Yeah, dad helped a bit, but you did all the work, carried me in your womb for 9 months and birthed me in the jungles of Africa. Thankfully, I was always a good girl, more than I could ever imagine or deserve. I love watching you with our kids and grandkidlettes.

Maman, my dear mother, today is your special day to join papa in the big 8-0 club. Happy birthday ! I can't believe my parents are in their 80s (which means I'm not so young anymore either, yikes ) ! On this same platform, I wrote about my love for papa on his day, and now it's time to give my tribute to you, and let the world know how fabulous you are, and what you mean to me. So even from the beginning, born with a healthy cry !

2. **You are a survivor.** You always fight for your life. You've lived through pillaging, evacuations and civil unrest in Africa. You've lived to raise 4 children who were not always well behaved and caused you to lose countless nights of sleep. You've lived through breast cancer not once, but twice. Honestly, you're an inspiration to all those around you.

3. **You have the gift of creativity,** incredible talent in art, design, style, cooking ... everything that is handmade. You are thoughtful and giving of your time, making your crafts and giving them away (we kids have always said if you would sell your paintings, your dolls, etc, well, we'd be rich by now!).

4. **You are a woman who believes in tradition,** and in the values of family. Your family comes first. Like papa, you have shown throughout our lives that we - my siblings and I, the grandchildren - matter most. You are the glue that keeps us together, connected, while thousands of miles apart.

**5. You love my father** with the heart of a strong and gracious woman, and hold him so high. What a role model the two of you have been in your marriage, your friendship, your love and commitment, one to and for the other.

**6. I inherited my thrill of adventure**, my "daredevil" tendency, the adrenaline junkie ... from bungee-jumping to skydiving, having the heavy foot on the "go" and sometimes a little impatient, with a "let's get on with it" attitude. All from you! ...and I love that I have this intense curiosity and adventuresome streak.

**7. I have also inherited some of the more complex and complicated traits** - the overthinking, the worrying, the insomnia, the doubting, the second guessing, the challenged listening ... all seemingly less desirable, but not so! What's the greatest part, they oblige us to be more self-aware and push us to become better people. They are what makes me me, and you, YOU.

**8. You are a woman of God**; of prayer, of devotion. You have transmitted your values and beliefs to your children, and we are blessed. I've said it before: you are a woman anointed with God's greatness in spirit. A role model in unconditional love, and in giving, of Time - the most valuable gift one can receive.

So, in a nutshell, I feel so very thankful, on this day, your 80th, to call you my mom. Ich liebe dich. I love you very much.



## Baton Passing at National Ministry Center

**Brem & Donna Frentz** are now full members of the **POWER Team** family as they transition into a new season of their life and relocate to the Edmonton area. They pass the Vice President International baton off to a younger couple, Damien & Darlene Lee. Damien takes up the baton of leading the Global Ministries Leadership Team (GMLT).

We thank Brem & Donna for leading our IWs, and assisting them in transitioning into "retirement/reassignment/re-alignment" or wherever God leads. **POWER Team** then provides some Member Care by keeping these connected and encouraged in this season of their lives.



President Keith Taylor conveys to the Canadian Alliance family; “The process of succession helps provide a seamless flow of leadership, the sharing of knowledge, and the benefit of being able to help set the new leader up for success. This process is now underway. On March 1, Damien Lee assumed full leadership responsibilities as VP International....Through March and early April, Brem and Donna will begin a transition of roles and duties, while continuing to lead and be involved in a number of projects for GM. During this season, their titles will be Global Ministries Advisor(s).”

**POWER Team** welcomes Damien & Darlene in carrying of the baton of VP International. Betty and I have known the Lees for many years as we were one of their pastoral couples as members of Rexdale Alliance Church in Toronto. During that time, they worked in the market place before serving as effective IWs in the Silk Road region. Also, the Lees served as IWs under the leadership of Gerald & Dorothy Hogenbirk when they were the Regional Directors of the Middle East, Europe and Central Asia (Silk Road).

We invite all the POWER Team members to place the Lees on your prayer list as they take on this big and significant ministry of The Alliance in Canada.

## Damien Lee



As a 17year old, Damien moved with his parents to Canada in 1992, and is of Chinese-Malaysian-Portuguese Creole descent. He and Darlene have been married for 21 years, and they have two daughters. They have served as International Workers with The Alliance Canada in the Silk Region since 2011. Over the years, they have attended and served with Foothills Alliance Church (Calgary), South Edmonton Alliance Church (Edmonton), and Rexdale Alliance Church (Toronto), currently their home church. Damien is passionate about developing and empowering leaders of diverse backgrounds who are committed to advancing the Kingdom in the hardest and darkest regions of the world. Beginning March 1st 2022, Damien will be the Vice President of International Venture for The Alliance Canada.

# Some Family Expressions

## Les & Norma Kingdon -CMD

Norma and I pastored the Oakville and Poplar Point Alliance churches (a two- point charge) from 1997 to 2005. The Oakville church closed in 1999, and the Poplar Point church closed in 2005.

Following the closing of the Poplar Point church, Norma and I returned to Regina, Norma's home town, to help care for her aging parents. I got a job at the RCMP training Academy, working in the Custodial Services unit, where I continue to work. I have had the honour of doing a bit of chaplaincy work there. I was also able to serve local churches doing pulpit supply.

That came to an end when Norma's rapidly progressing dementia robbed her of her music, and required my full attention. Early in 2018, the moment I had been dreading

came, and I had to place Norma in a long-term care facility, where she has been since. I believe that God gave me an incredible honour in being her caregiver. When he brought us together 36 years ago, He knew what would be now, and yet He entrusted her to my care. May I not fail Him or her.



The picture was taken in November of 2018, after Norma went into the care home

I have been blessed during the pandemic to know that my wife has been well cared for. It was hard not being able to see her for a long while, but visits are back on, and I am able to spend time each day with my best friend.

Kenneth Carder expresses my feelings well. In his book Ministry with the Forgotten he writes: Upon learning of Linda's (Kenneth Carder's wife) diagnosis, a friend asked, 'Ken, I have put Linda on my daily prayer list. How shall I pray for her and you?' That's my persistent question as Linda goes through the stages of her dementia. My frequent prayer is, "God, I don't know how to pray. I want Linda healed of her confusion; but if that isn't possible, I want the best for her. I just don't know what it is!

And there is comfort in this. When I do not know what or how to pray, God does, and He prays for me. Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. "For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (Romans 8: 26)

For those ministering to a loved one, or member of their congregation living with dementia, I must heartily recommend Kenneth Carder's book, Ministry with the Forgotten (2019, Abingdon Press.) It is a book with a lot of heart and a lot of wisdom.

God has given great grace and strength through this journey, and I know it will continue. Thanks be to Him.

## Tim & Nancy Moore had their Daughter visit them in Thailand

**POWER Team** couple, Tim & Nancy Moore, serving in Thailand, had the blessing of their daughter Katie come to visit them. She traveled to Thailand with Tim, who was returning from ministry opportunities in Canada. On arrival in Thailand, Tim was quarantined for 10 days in a hotel with a positive COVID test which allowed Katie to have uninterrupted time with her mother Nancy.

On International Woman's Day, Katie submitted the following through social media.

"Hey Mom (@nancy.moore4916), happy international women's day. Here are some things that I think about you every day other than just one time a year.



.  
You're strong, you're beautiful, you're resilient, you're feisty, you're spicy, you're fun, you're caring, you're supportive, you're genuine, you're obedient, you are joy filled, you're funny, you're brave, you're contagious, and you're one of a kind.

.  
I had such a great time in Thailand. I had such a phenomenal opportunity to get to know you even better than before. I really strive to be an OUNCE like you when I grow up. Anyone who knows you, knows this. I look forward to when I get to see you

again and we can eat popcorn together and watch Gilmore girls. Thanks for choosing to love me and my brothers every day.

.  
You mom, are so many things to so many people. You amaze me. Be confident in who you've been created to be. Be confident in what you're doing. Be confident that you have purpose. Be confident that you're a fantastic wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend. Be confident in the love you give.

.  
Thank you for dancing the mornings away with me. Thank you for adventuring with me (elephant things, moto things, driving around not knowing where we are things). Thanks for floating in the ocean with me. Thank you for working hard to understand me. Thank you for being unique in your love, for crying with me, for helping me find pieces of joy in the wild world. Thank you for being YOU.

.  
I'd say the world needs more people like you... but one of you is perfect for this world. I'm so glad you're mine and I get to know your love every day. Katie"



**Do continue to pray for our IWs, yes and Pastors, who are serving faithfully. but doing so geographically separated from children and grandchildren.**

## Birthday Celebrations

**CONNECTOR** likes to celebrate birthdays. We can only include those we are informed of or see on social media. We do honour those who are not SIDs (Seniors in Denial) and rejoice in the level of life God has given in this season of life. The year of **Heather McAlpine**'s birth, was not disclosed but husband Bill let it all hang out when he wrote:



“Today I celebrate the life and love of the woman who has had more impact on me than any other person alive.

At the risk of sounding so cliché-ish, Heather Arkell McAlpine, you truly are my best friend, the one who completes me, and who is so much more than I could ever imagine or

deserve. I love watching you with our kids and grandkidlettes. I am so blessed to be able to “‘age faithfully’ with you, and so grateful to the Lord, every day, to be able to brag that you are my wife.” Happy birthday, love of my life. Bill



## Do we have a Centurion **POWER** Team member?



Franklin Irwin will be 100 March 29<sup>th</sup>. Franklin and his wife Doris were pioneer missionaries in Viet Nam.

Rev. Dr. Ron MacKinnon (**POWER Team** Coordinator in the ECCD) said “he does not have email but if any of you decided you would like to talk to him, his phone number is 416-510-2834. He would certainly appreciate your prayers. Franklin says it is only old age but family members believe the Lord will graduate him soon.

See former #43 **CONNECTOR** August 2020 article on Irwins [connector-43-aug-2020.pdf \(cmaacan.org\)](https://cmaacan.org/connector-43-aug-2020.pdf) page 9-11





## POWER Team member “tired, retired” but “re-deployed” to active service in Poland

**Bill & Dianne Finnemore** served as C&MA IWs in Poland. The Alliance Canada has Bill on the ground in Warsaw Poland ministering right now to the Ukrainian refugees. He is also seeing that monies given through Alliance people in Canada are being properly distributed. Here is a short interview about what is being done to minister to the hundreds of children at a massive convention center that has room for 3500 “guests”. [Poland/Ukraine update #1 - YouTube](#)



To give to an agency that will use your donation to reach Ukrainians fleeing the war, go to our website:

[Global Emergency Response | Alliance Catalogue \(thealliancecanada.ca\)](#)

Pray for Bill in these trying times.



## For those closing in on retirement

**POWER Team** does have in the cross-hairs of its scope, those who are less than ten years from “retirement”. There is a time to transition into a season that lets us live, serve and encourage the next generation at a different pace and maybe at a different place.

If possible, it is wonderful to be able to put in place a succession plan and “pass the baton” as seen throughout this issue of the **CONNECTOR**. We also realize that the unwritten rule of the past, is that when you are finished your last day of full-time paid ministry, you need to get out of town and don’t let anyone see your taillights. In other words, they were saying: “we cannot trust you to:

- be a Christian and not in charge
  - have your identity in Christ and not in your ministry
  - be the next generation’s greatest cheerleader.
- } All of these are under **P.O.W.E.R.**  
= **Providing Our Workers Excellent Retirement**

Here are a few links that may help you in your planning for your future:

1. **10 Reasons to Consider Asking Your Predecessor to Stay Involved – Eric Geiger**  
<https://ericgeiger.com/2021/10/10-reasons-to-consider-asking-your-predecessor-to-stay-involved/>

2. **When to NOT Ask Your Predecessor to Stay on the Team – Eric Geiger**  
<https://ericgeiger.com/2021/10/when-to-not-ask-your-predecessor-to-stay-on-the-team/>

3. Interview with Rick Warren on Finishing Well
- fits into **POWER Team** -Having our Identity in Christ and not in ministry.
  - an interview every young pastor should listen to as well, so pass it on to your pastor.
- [rick warren on finishing well - YouTube](#)

All of these fit Step #1 **Preparing Our Workers Entering Retirement**



---

## General Assembly July 5-8, 2022 is fast approaching.

-at Sherwood Park Alliance Church, Edmonton

Did you know that Worker Emeritus persons can register for \$60?

**Note:** In-person participants will need to purchase a meal plan for \$85.00 that includes lunches and morning coffee breaks from Wednesday to Friday for a total of \$145.00

## POWER Team Luncheon Gathering

Thursday, July 7, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

If registered as Worker Emeritus or still in ministry but within 10 years of “relaxing”, your meal plan covers cost

-if you are a drive in -bring a bag lunch and a drink

-stay tuned for some alternatives we might come up with (like fasting???)



---

## Happy Easter Weekend, April 15-17. What does Easter mean to you?

I heard a presentation by Andy Stanley where he said that “most people, if asked, ‘what is the foundation of the Christian faith?’, they would respond, ‘the B.I.B.L.E.’”.

His take on it, is, The Foundation of the Christian Faith is based upon:



## .An Event

-The Resurrection, resulting in.....



## .A community

-The Church, that eventually gave us.....



## .The Bible

(the Bible was compiled a few hundred years after the church was formed.



VID-20170413-WA0  
001.mp4

**Easter Story** from children:

Click on this link

# Some Lighter things

## Some original lexophiles.

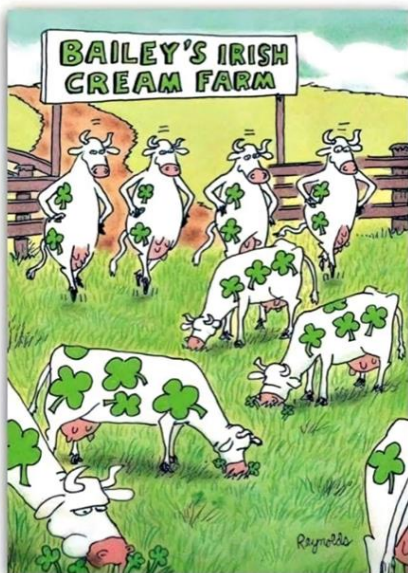
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepe
- This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore
- I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A
- I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.



WHEN YOU GO TO CHURCH THIS SUNDAY AND YOU FEEL THAT OLD TEMPTATION TO POINT OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE PLACE: THE COFFEE'S LUKEWARM, THE LIGHTS ARE TOO BRIGHT, THE TEMPERATURE IS WRONG, THE MUSIC IS TOO LOUD AND, OF COURSE, YOU DON'T KNOW THE SONGS.

REMEMBER IN THAT MOMENT, THERE'S A UKRAINIAN CHURCH GATHERING IN SUBWAY TUNNELS TO WORSHIP WHILE BOMBS BLAST OVERHEAD.

NO COFFEE, NO INSTRUMENTALISTS, NO LEADER PUSHING THEM TO WORSHIP, THEY'RE DOWN THERE IN REAL TIME AND IN REAL LIFE WORSHIPING THE KING ABOVE KINGS AS THEIR WORLD IS CRUMBLING DOWN.



Happy St. Patrick's Day on the 17th

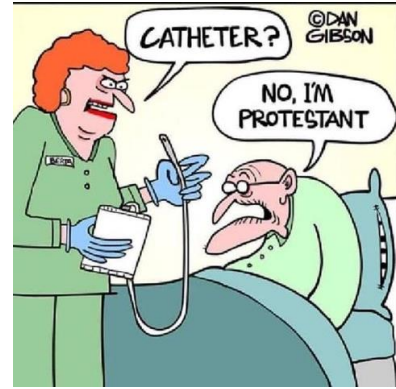




# A Smile for you

I was walking home last night and decided to take a short cut through the cemetery...3 girls walked up to me and explained that they were scared to walk past the cemetery at night,so I agreed to let them walk along with me.I told them "I understand...I used to get freaked out too when I was alive."

Never seen anyone run so fast



Can you name these people in these two pictures?



ENGLISH IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE WHERE YOU DRIVE IN PARKWAYS AND PARK IN DRIVEWAYS.	THE WORD <b>QUEUE</b> IS JUST A <b>Q</b> FOLLOWED BY FOUR SILENT LETTERS.
IT'S ALSO THE ONLY LANGUAGE WHERE YOU RECITE IN A PLAY AND PLAY IN A RECITAL.	<b>JAIL</b> AND <b>PRISON</b> ARE SYNONYMS. BUT <b>JAILER</b> AND <b>PRISONER</b> ARE ANTONYMS.
YOUR FINGERS HAVE FINGERTIPS BUT YOUR TOES DON'T HAVE TOETIPS.	WHEN YOU TRANSPORT SOMETHING BY CAR, IT'S CALLED A <b>SHIPMENT</b> . BUT WHEN YOU TRANSPORT SOMETHING BY SHIP, IT'S CALLED <b>CARGO</b> .
YET, YOU CAN <b>TIPTOE</b> BUT NOT <b>TIPFINGER</b> .	