

CONNECTOR

#66 June 2023



Leadership Changes at District Conferences

Two New District Superintendents

-Central Canadian District

Shane Gould



At our 2023 District Conference, we ushered in a new era in the CCD, which will be led by our new District Superintendent Elect, Shane Gould. Shane will focus on clarity, momentum, and renewal as he leads us forward.

Shane & Linda have served at the Wellspring Church in Burlington Ontario.

-Western Canadian District

Matt Boda

Congratulations to our new Western Canadian District Superintendent, Matt Boda! "May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you His favor and give you His peace."



Curtis Peters of the ECD was elected for his 2nd term as District Superintendent

Two “retiring” District Superintendents

-Central Canadian District **Ian Trigg**



We are thankful for the guidance and wisdom that current District Superintendent Ian Trigg has brought into our district in recent years. Ian & Joyce’s presence will be missed, both at the District Office and throughout the Central Canadian District.

Ian was parachuted in from Calgary, after pastoring at Foothills Alliance Church for 20 years, to fill a two-year vacancy in Ontario. He and Joyce made a significant mark on this district.

They return to their home in Calgary in August.

-Western Canadian District **Brent Trask**

We love you & Mandy. We honour and bless you both. Well done good and faithful servants.

Brent has served his full 12 years as our District Superintendent.



Please pray for these two new superintendents, Shane and Matt, as well as for Ian & Joyce, Brent & Mandy as they have “retired” from this ministry and enter into this new season of their lives. Pray that God will give them rest, re-assignment and that “They will bear fruit...and stay fresh and green.” Ps. 92:14

We also welcome them as **POWER Team** members!

We asked our **POWER Team** district volunteer coordinators to respond to:

“What changes have there been in your life since you ‘retired’”?

Here are some responses.



Gerald and Dorothy Hogenbirk National Power Team Volunteer Coordinators

We're so happy with many of the changes in these years of our lives—so happy not to have to do the administration, but very happy in still connecting with old friends, colleagues and family.

We love meeting and inviting new people into our lives, going to events where the generations mix. The fun comes from meeting new people, talking and doing different things together.

We're trying to learn how to make ourselves interesting again; trying to stay interested in ourselves and grow; stay interested in others of all ages; stay interested in life and learn new ways to cook, fish, garden, make crafts, listen to new music, develop new messages and skills and visit new parts of the world.

We look forward to hosting in our colourful garden—neighbours from our street, fitness centre, colleagues, extended family young and old, **POWER Team** members, Persian church leaders, former and present International Workers, Bible study groups and others.

What a privilege that God is giving to us, to spend time with others. This is one of our greatest joys. Have a wonderful Summer and be blessed,



Al & Judy Hack, SL District **POWER Team** Volunteer Coordinators living in GATINEAU, Quebec.

We are still active in a parttime pastoral ministry here at Église ACM de Gatineau, a small Alliance church across the river from Justin Trudeau's home.



Parttime ministry in this, our “retirement” stage of life, continues to be a source of encouragement for us. There is definitely not as much day to day pressure as when we were pastoring churches fulltime in the past. We now have more time to travel to connect with family and friends, to work with old barn wood in workshop (Al), to regularly host people in our home (Judy), to read, to bike, etc.

Being in parttime ministry may mean that we are not doing all the various responsibilities of pastoral ministry on a fulltime basis (preaching, counselling, visitation, administration, etc), however it does mean we are pastor to those in our church fulltime (prayer, concern, spiritual well being of the

believers, future growth of the church, etc).

Along with the members of our church we are trying to discern what this will look like in the coming year(s), but we know, that as long as the Lord gives us the strength (physical and mental), we will continue in some form of ministry here with the folks we love.

Nancy McLean ECD (Ottawa area) **POWER Team** Volunteer Coordinator

After 16 years of retirement, 14 with my husband Laurie, and then these past 2 years as a widow, I have made some observations which surprised me. It was easy to put all seniors in one category before I became one.

Now I understand better the diversity of this grouping - health issues, mental and emotional issues, financial concerns, social needs, etc. To say that seniors from 65 - 95 in age (30 year span) are all on the same journey is to speak without meeting them. Just as there is a big difference between a new born baby and a 30 year old young adult, seniors do not fit one description either!

BUT there does seem to be one area that many of us enjoy individually and as a group - our spiritual journey with God. Our desire for a daily time of Bible reading and prayer, opportunities to share the Good News with others, and the continuing use of God's gifts to us according to our present status. What a delight to find God's Presence and His Promises a sure foundation and personal reality.



Recently I heard an illustration of a father cuddling his new baby often and talking to her so that before long she knows his voice and recognizes his face. He does not then give her a book on "a guide to living" and say, "Follow this and I'll see you again when you are an adult."

In the same way, our Shepherd is with us when we are born into His family and He holds us and talks to us so we can recognize His voice. He does not then say, "Here is your guide, the Bible, and say, "Follow this and I'll see you later when you arrive in heaven." NO! Our Shepherd walks

with us and talks to us every day, not only guiding and correcting but also telling us how much He loves us and enjoys walking with us all the way to heaven.

And yes, He has given us the Bible to nurture and nourish us.

May you sense His presence as you pursue your journey.

Nancy is delighted that her daughter Sharon Howell (IW in Senegal) was home with her for a short while.

Barb & Earl Case -Canadian Midwest District **POWER Team** Volunteer Coordinators

When Earl and I returned in 2016 to Canada having retired from full time overseas ministry, we were on overload. We were out of touch with the culture, we had no idea how far a dollar would go, and no idea where to settle and make “home”.

For the first year we recorded every cent we spent and tried to just listen to what was happening in the life of other people. We joined a seniors group where we learned to play floor shuffleboard; we took up bowling, mostly so that we could meet new people and keep active. We stayed overwhelmed.



We were helping take care of Barb’s mother so we decided that the small town where she was residing was as good a place as any to retire, especially since our kids kept changing their minds about where they wanted to work and live.

To make a long story short, the Lord has blessed. We have found a church home where we have been able to get involved in multiple ways, but especially with a life group and seniors ministry. We have made many lasting friendships in the community, as well as having been blessed with a beautiful home, plus the finances we need to enjoy our home. Also, we are able to enjoy a bit of travel, especially to see grandkids and their parents.

With all the technology available today, we have been able to keep in touch with many of the contacts we made during our time overseas, while continuing to be a support to the national workers with whom we were privileged to work alongside. We actually have more opportunities than we have time. We do love the freedom to linger over our morning coffee, but we also love that we are busy enough not to be bored. Living in a community where 35 percent of the population is over 65 has its challenges and opportunities. It keeps us humble, creaky, and very aware that we are experiencing the ups and downs of the sage stage of life, as Dr. G Smith keenly clarified at one of our home assignment gatherings.

Lord help us keep our focus so You are glorified. Let us Proverbs 3:5-6.

Brian & Judy Thom -Canadian Pacific District POWER Team Volunteer Coordinators

When I finally retired in my early 70's it was a major change for both Judy and I. I had been travelling significantly for most of our ministry life and now I was home, and both Judy and I had to adjust . . . you can only imagine what that must have been like!

Being a people person, I knew I needed to prepare for the change. So, for me, I needed to have something on my daily calendar which has included: spending time as a couple travelling, walking and just doing the things that we enjoy together. As well, for me it has meant coffees, lunches, golfing, etc.



One of the biggest adjustments for me was feeling forgotten by my denomination. For the first few years not receiving a phone call, text or email from anyone in CMA leadership about how I was doing was difficult. I wondered how others were handling the same thing when they might not have been as connected to the denomination as I have been?

Therefore Judy and I feel privileged to now give leadership to the CPD Power Team. Together with you, we want to be connected and be there for each

other. As well I have been able to join with a few others in a group called Focal Point which provides free help and assistance to small church leadership.

The Lord is good and we are so grateful for His love and support, our family and for each of you.
Cheerfully, Brian & Judy

Wayne & Betty Kerr -Central Canadian District **POWER Team** Volunteer Coordinators

It is hard to believe that we are coming up to 10 years since our "retirement" from full-time pastoral ministry at Rexdale where we were paid to attend. 😊 We did ease out with 2 years part time and then 2 years volunteering in ministry there.

There was the transition to the smaller community of St. Thomas Ontario where few people knew us but we have enjoyed the closeness of our son and daughter-in-law, grandchildren and now two great grandsons within an hour's distance. Wayne tells people, "we moved here to be near our son, who is a pediatrician, so that he could look after me when I enter the second time into my childhood."

It took us almost 3 years to break into our new church family and now we find ourselves well established, co-leading in two LifeGroups, teaching a seminar and caring for an older couple assigned to us by the church. Having more time to connect with neighbors and families in need, has further given us the opportunity to "put Christ on display". Wayne again says "I need to get a real job so I can have some time off".

We have also had to intentionally put the steps of **POWER Team** into practice: 1. "Being a Christian when not in charge". 2. "Having our identity in Christ and not in our ministry", and 3. "Being the next generation's greatest cheerleaders".



As you know, Church today is not like it was 10 years ago. I do not wear my hearing aids to church since the music is so loud. They don't pass the offering plate since Covid, etc. BUT, God is working. Young adults and young families are filling up the church building. Many are taking the step of baptism, and young couples are dedicating their lives to raise their children to be Christ followers.

We praise God for this season of our lives, and wish life would continue at this level even as we are ending out our 8th decade of life. Walking lots and cycling regularly are gifts we do not take for granted. We just got back from Cincinnati where we canoed down an Ohio river for four hours with our daughter, son in law, and four grandchildren. They kayaked, we canoed but they failed to tell us that we had to maneuver rapids. Wayne steered the canoe well. We are not looking forward to facing the reality that the members of our bodies do have an expiry date on them and are starting to remind us of that.

Serving with the **POWER Team** leadership is still a joy as we keep plugged into HIS POWER SOURCE.



Reeve's Ministry Update & Prayer

Present and/or Future **POWER Team** members Warren & Debbie Reeve are carrying out exciting ministry in this season of their lives. Take a look at this link and hear what God is doing through the Reeves in new ways for His Kingdom

[Reeves Ministry Update - YouTube](#)



The Reeve's have been making great progress in their ministry in Paris. They are partnering with Martin Luther King Church (MLK) to create an English-speaking International Church Ministry called MLK International. Warren has been dedicating his time to both the new ministry and the Missional International Church Network (MICN), while Debbie has started her own art business in Paris. Together, they have successfully increased the frequency of English-speaking services and integrated the French and English ministries to create a welcoming space for all. The Reeve's have also been excited about the growth of the MICN,

with several regional gatherings.

Please:

- Pray for wisdom and guidance for the MLK team.
- Pray for the success and growth, to reach and impact their communities effectively.
- Pray for the training and oversight of leaders, equipping them to lead their communities effectively.

Retired or Retreaded: Dave & Janie Lewis “retired” from formal pastoral ministry. For the last decade + they have been interim pastors in a number of churches from Edmonton, Alberta to Windsor, Ontario and then “retired”. The latest we have heard is that they are interim pastoring in Oshawa, Ontario. Soon Dave will be able to claim the title of Caleb.



It is never over for those who 'finish well' by Nikky Gumble

Joshua 13:1, 14:6-11

Those who finish well will always have an unfinished agenda. You will be able to say, "It's not over." Again, we see this theme of the 'unfinished agenda' in the life of Joshua: "When Joshua had reached a venerable age, God said to him, 'You've had a good, long life, but there is a lot of land still to be taken'" (13:1, MSG)

Be inspired by Joshua's example. He followed the Lord wholeheartedly. So did Caleb, who was able to say, 'I however, followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly' (14:8). 'He gave himself totally to God' (v.14, MSG).

Not only did Caleb follow God wholeheartedly at the age of forty (v.7), he still did so at the age of eighty-five (v.10) – the same age that Lesslie Newbigin was when he gave those astonishing talks. This is the challenge: to finish well, not to lose your first love but to keep your eyes on Jesus. The result for Caleb was 'strength'-Caleb was able to say, 'I'm still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out' (v.11). For him, it was physical strength as well as inward strength of character. But for all who give themselves totally to God there is the inward strength of the Holy Spirit, which Jesus promises to you and me. You need this inner strength of the Holy Spirit if you are to finish well and fulfill your calling to see the fulfillment of Jesus' new agenda.

Lord, help me to finish well. May I be able to say at the end of my life, "I have followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly'. Please fill me with the inner strength of the Holy Spirit as I seek to see Jesus' new agenda fulfilled and the gospel preached in His name to all nations.



One desire of **POWER Team**, "**How to be the next generations' greatest cheerleaders**". How are you making this a reality in this season of your life? Here is a link to Ed Stetzer's, **Do Pastors Really Hate The Ministry?** He shares insights from a new study that reveals what pastors really think about the ministry. See if this might encourage you to have input into those in your sphere of influence.

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/pastors-preaching-articles/ed-stetzer-ed-stetzer-do-pastors-really-hate-the-ministry-1141>

Here is a second link that may be helpful for you in this age of gender ideology. This may be helpful for your own personal dealings with this issue with people or even helpful in your "being the next generations' greatest cheerleaders" to your pastor and team. Listen to and watch McBlog - The Muslim view of gender ideology.

<https://fb.watch/l70nbBgs6z/?mibextid=l2pjGR>

Some helpful quotes gathered by Joe Schuringa:

Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it. -Lou Holtz (Football coach)

You can either tell yourself, 'It's too hard, I don't think I'll be able to do it,' or 'Yes, I can do this. Let me at it!' Only a fine line separates the two. But I'll tell you one thing: if you work like crazy, you'll come to display capabilities that you never knew you had--potentials that you always possessed, but never tapped. -Josei Toda (Educator/Activist)

God does not begin by asking us about our ability, but only about our availability, and if we then prove our dependability, he will increase our capability. -Neal A. Maxwell

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly. - Romans 12:6

Called Home

Albert Runge November 21, 1928 – April 19, 2023

Al was born on November 21, 1928 into a Jewish family in Brooklyn, New York. In spite of poor health, poverty, and few academic skills, Al had a childlike trust in God. He accepted Jesus as his personal Savior at the age of 14, and even though his mother said he would outgrow it, he never did. He was often heard saying that the best decision he ever made was to trust Jesus with his whole life.

In the following years, Al studied at five institutions of higher learning, including Houghton College and Fuller Seminary. He pastored four churches in the U.S. and Canada, engaged in missionary work with Chosen People Ministries, did radio ministry, travelled across the world preaching and teaching and authored several books.

Al is survived by his loving wife Johanne Lee. Lee was his soulmate, best supporter and faithful companion in ministry

As Al got older, his Jewish heritage meant more and more to him, thankful that he came to faith in the Jewish Messiah. Albert's life and ministry were marked by God's faithfulness, power, and grace. He never stopped sharing the message of Jesus and how He had proven Himself faithful, preaching his last message on Good Friday, April 7, 2023.

Al once said of his life, "If it wasn't for Jesus, I would have lived a disappointed and wasted life. He nourished me with His loving kindness, His restoring power, and made my life worthwhile." A Celebration of Albert Runge's life was held on May 5 at Sevenoaks Alliance Church.



Richard Nester (1932-2023)

In the early morning of April 29, 2023, Richard Nester was suddenly recompensed by grace and entry into the eternal and glorious presence of Jesus.

After an abdominal aneurysm ruptured and emergency surgery was performed during a 4-hour operation, Richard's 90-year-old body never kicked back in. He never woke up. His last words to his three daughters as he entered the operating room were "I love you".



Scripture is so right: what a gain for our father/brother in Christ but what a deep painful loss for us. Family and friends prepared a long time for Alice's trip to heaven (May 10, 2022)... but not so for Richard's. All his things are still in the house as if he had just stepped out to do his favorite activity... going to the mailbox to collect the mail and send off his latest hand-printed letters to many friends and family.

Richard is gone... for now... till he precedes us just a little in resurrection and joins us to meet the Coming King of Kings. A long time ago, death was defeated for Richard and for all who rest in Jesus. His kingdom has come and it's not going away.



Richard Nester's life spoke and will forever shout out that truth. He touched many lives as he lived out his life verse 2 Cor 4:5 till the very last day!

"For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."

Richard and Alice were first missionaries to France (1966-1972) and then to Quebec (1974 to 1999) where they pastored Église du Berger (CMA) in Quebec City and the Alliance churches in Rimouski and Farnham. They then finished their official ministry by being helpful in the Noyan Alliance Church.

It was at an Alain Choiquier crusade Opération Espérance organized by Richard and the few Quebec City pastors at the time (Baptist, Brethren, Pentecostal, Alliance) that on October 25, 1974 Jean (John) Martin met Jesus and was saved. Richard was Elizabeth's father and first pastor. Richard would become Jean's first pastor and later his father-in-law.

Richard had just returned from an unforgettable, 6-month sojourn with his daughters Ruth and Debby in the USA. He was so healthy that he did not even get a simple cold.

Richard leaves in grief his 3 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandkids

Descriptives that may come to mind as you think of Richard:

Organized – punctual – committed – faithful – reliable – joyful – family – prayer - servanthood, golf, Flyers, 76ers, Eagles – food - ice cream

Where did the name **CONNECTOR** come from?

On one of our visits to Cincinnati to visit our daughter and family, we discovered that their transit system is **CONNECTOR**.



This was not the source of the name chosen. Maybe they got the name from us.



We want to keep connected with you. We thank all those who contributed to this our 66th issue of the **CONNECTOR**. We appreciate hearing from you. Please let us know what is happening in this season of your life. What has changed as "outwardly we are slowing down but inwardly we are being renewed day by day." (CONNECTOR's translation) How are you navigating the 2nd step of POWER Team? -**P**roviding **O**ur **W**orkers **E**xcellent **R**etirement by

1. Being a Christian when not in charge
2. Having our identity in Christ and not in our ministry
3. Being the next generations' greatest cheerleader

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