

CONNECTOR

#68 December 2023



The Alliance
Canada

Dear **P.O.W.E.R. Team** friends,

Celebrate Christmas this year with both a backward glance and a forward look. Rejoice, Our King is coming! There is no better hope that we can give you. How wonderful that Jesus came clothed in humanity, born of a virgin, laid in a manger. Emmanuel, God with us!!



How wonderful that He is coming again, clothed in triumph, descending with angels, crowned with Glory. We will live with Him in unhindered fashion!

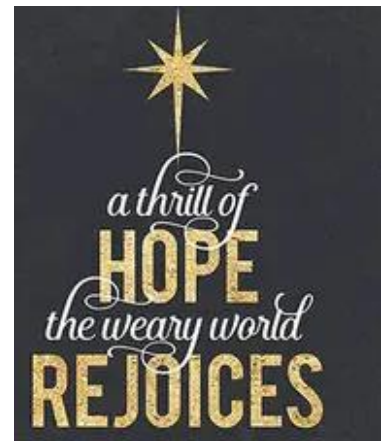


Revelation 21:3 ***“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe***

away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning or crying or pain: the first things have passed away...Behold, I am making all things new.”

BUT...in the in-between, Peter writes in 1 Peter 1:6-7, ***“There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold...so when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.”***

Let us not lose focus, ***“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen but what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, what is unseen is eternal!”*** 2 Corinthians 4:17-18



We want to give a huge Thank You to Wayne and Betty Kerr for their tireless effort to gather material, edit and send out the **CONNECTOR** so faithfully—just one of the ways they help us to keep connected.

Many thanks to our **POWER Team** point people who also voluntarily love and care for the **POWER Team** members in their District:

Brian and Judy Thom
John and Connie Healey
Earl and Barb Case
Wayne and Betty Kerr
Ron and June MacKinnon
Nancy McLean
Al and Judy Hack

Canadian Pacific District
Western Canadian District
Canadian Midwest District
Central Canadian District
Eastern Canadian District
Eastern Canadian District
Saint Lawrence District



May we suggest that you take time to connect with a former colleague during this holiday season, to bless and encourage them and you might even be blessed yourself.

And so dear friends, on the eve of this Christmas season, may the mercy, peace and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ be multiplied to you!

Warmly,
Gerald and Dorothy Hogenbirk
National **POWER Team** volunteer coordinators



We are always delighted to pass on to you HIS Stories through the lives of our **POWER Team** members. We are pleased to pass the following off to you in this issue:

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1. Retirement Changes over 22 years. Ron & June Mackinnon

HOW HAS MY RETIREMENT CHANGED OVER TIME?

CONNECTOR leadership wanted to know how my retirement has changed over the years. The first request from **CONNECTOR** read, “How has your retirement experience changed since you retired?” The next edition of the **CONNECTOR** put it this way, “What changes have there been in your life since you retired?” Either way, after 22 years and counting I can agree that it [retirement or life] has changed, and it just keeps on changing. It is amazing how many things you can get involved in if you are ready to do it free of charge or almost so. No time to be bored!

Firstly, you need to know that as I was intent on retiring, I had heard time and time again that



pastors and missionaries never retire. And my response was that I was going to retire, not from being a Christian but from my vocational role. Ha!

That resolve was challenged even before retirement. During General Assembly, June and I were asked if we would agree to go to Ulan Baatar, Mongolia, to head up the USA led C&MA mission there. After prayer and consideration, we decided to proceed with retirement and spend more time with our kids and grandchildren. That was the right decision. (Picture: 65th Anniversary)

As we have talked about how our retirement has changed, we have been reminded that we had very uncertain thoughts about what retirement meant. Our priority was to get to know our kids, and especially our grandkids, better after being away for four years of every five over 36 years of service in the Philippines.

We have greatly enjoyed getting to know our family better. We have wonderful family memories from our retirement years, even with the difficulties and challenges that happen in a large diverse family. We've advanced from watching grandkids playing hockey, to now watching three great grandkids playing hockey. Watching grandkids develop meaningful relationships and getting married and raising our great grandkids. Lots and lots of good times at the cottage, swimming, playing games and just hanging out. Over thanksgiving weekend, 2023, we had 19 family members show up for all or part of the weekend, including Ron's sister from Georgia and all five of our kids.

Somehow, we began retirement in Oshawa, moving in with Diane, our youngest. Temporary became permanent, and we bought a house, and we are still in Oshawa.

Pastor Al Nickel and the folks at Ritson Road Alliance Church welcomed us warmly. And before long we were both involved in Bible studies. June was asked to serve as part of the Alliance Women's leadership team. After a while I became an Elder. One thing led to another.



(Picture –“Living the high (chair) life in Niagara Falls.)

I think it was a Wednesday morning when Pastor Al and I had coffee together at Wally's World. “I would love to have you on staff, but there is no money.” said Al. I, like many a newly retired person said, “I'm retired; what's money got to do with it”? About three weeks later I joined the staff as point person for adult ministries along with Al, Tim Arkell [youth pastor], and Cathy Kovacs [children's pastor]. It was really a quality team. I was privileged to work with them.

I remember once shortly after coming home, we shared about our Filipino ministries with the folks at Ritson Road Alliance Church. We remarked that in our last term we had worked closely with many young adults. We expressed concern that from what we had heard about Canadian youth that we might not get that privilege during our retirement. Needn't have worried!

We were invited to lead a Bible study for a group of young parents that were already meeting regularly. For several years I co-taught the high school Sunday School class. That was a high-light with a great group of teenagers!

When Pastor Al resigned, I was asked to be the interim pastor. That lasted for 18 months until we called John (and Cindy) Westenberg as our new pastor. Not long afterwards, John was asked if he would serve on the ECD ordaining council. He said, “No, I'm just getting to know my people, but Ron would be a good one for the council.” John Healey asked me and for about 12 or so years I have served in that capacity.

Along the way I have been a member of the executive of the Woodland Beach Property Owners' association and president for 4 years. I attempted unsuccessfully to win the candidate nomination for the Canadian Alliance Party. Later I served as a member of the Oshawa CPC riding association for our MP Colin Carey and was chairman for three years.

Over time the seniors' group at RRAC asked June to join the leadership team. I followed. June and I are still giving leadership to what is called the Mature Fellowship. This has been a fun position and fulfilling.

For the last ten years or so I have served on the Woodland Beach Community Church, Board of Trustees. So, besides getting to preach at RRAC, I get to preach at WBCC also.

June and I have been part of the **POWER TEAM** since before it's first organizational meeting and helped give meaning to it's name by suggesting a **POWER** rubric.

One very different thing we were involved in early on was serving at St. Vincent's Kitchen, a Catholic mission program feeding the needy a full meal for a minimum price. Interestingly enough, we served on a team that was from Grace Lutheran Church. Serving meals to folks and getting to know some, became a highlight of our service for a long time.

In 2008 we and Kim, a lady from RRAC, headed up a ministry of providing a meal and taking a team to Toronto Alliance Church the first Saturday night of the month to serve the meal during their community night. Although the ministry has changed since COVID 19, Ritson Road Alliance Church still assists in this ministry.

Still preaching! Yes, I am still preaching. Something that hasn't changed. Although my preaching may have changed, preaching has been part of my gifting and passion.

Another thing that has not changed is my love of the church. My wife, my family, my church, truly I am blessed. And just to clarify a question once asked by my grandkids, [*Why do you call it your church? Do you own it?*] It is my church not because it belongs to me, but because I belong to it.

Now it is November. Thank God for those who fought for our freedoms. Let us not forget. Thank God, He has set us free!

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2. Don Dirks



A Hobby, a Project, and a Prayer

My hobby took me back to Africa (12 trips in 11 years) and into a translation project that filled my days and nights with productive activity. Our wonderful Mission had paid me to live in Paris, for 2 years, to learn the French language. Then Elma and I served for 14 years in Gabon before we moved to France to start a church planting mission and we lived there for 25 years. Now at age 85 a new opportunity came for me to serve.



In the summer of 2018, I attended the General Assembly of the C&MA in Canada that met in Calgary. One of the big events for me was to attend the Alumni Banquet. I always enjoy reconnecting with friends and ministry colleagues. Before we all separated that evening Ron Brown connected with me. Ron served for many years at the Western Canadian

District office as Missions coordinator. He shared that October of 2019 would mark the 100-year anniversary of the passing of Dr. A. B. Simpson. He went on to inform me that a full biography of Dr. Simpson's life had already been written by David Jones. (A.B. The Unlikely Founder of a Global Movement)

He told me that the C&MA churches in the USA were going to honor our founder by publishing the English version in time for the 2019 Council. It would be distributed at that convocation. Then he said that the thought was that a French version should be made by the Alliance in Canada. This was all new news to me. It seemed to me like a very good and worthwhile project.

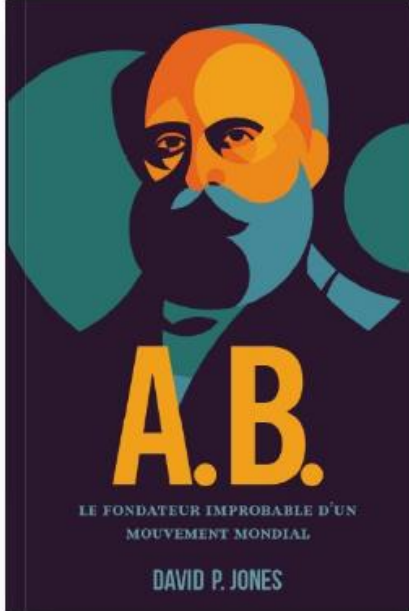
By early September I was back in my home in Abbotsford. A week or ten days later I received an email from Ron Brown. Attached to that email was the manuscript of the A. B. Simpson biography. Ron wrote in his email we are putting this in your hand to translate into French, we would like you to serve as Editor of this project. That came as a big surprise and looked very daunting to me. I wrote Ron to inform that I would pray about it and study the dynamics of how that might work. I promised to get back to him within a few weeks. I always loved a challenge.

I quickly concluded that I would need a team of capable translators. The final "polish editor" must be a native-born French man or woman. I had met a British couple here in Abbotsford through my computer hobby, close friends and members of my church, Martin and Grace. Grace (Welsh) spent her summers as a teen in France living with French families and perfecting her language skills. She eventually became the French language leader in the MEI, one of the most prestigious schools in B.C. When I asked her if she would be willing to help, there was no hesitation. With all her experience and expertise, a team was forming. Now all we needed was a French born translator. I informed Ron that I was willing to do my best but we would still have to locate a French born man or woman willing to assist us. We would need to pray and trust God for an answer. God was way ahead of us. By the end of September, I was ready to begin. I decided that I would do the first rough draft and I set goals that would allow me to move forward and finish the first draft before I left for Columbia, South Carolina on December 15th to spend Christmas with my family. I would be gone for two weeks.

On the very next morning after my arrival (Dec.16th) as we were finishing breakfast the telephone rang. It was Martin in Abbotsford asking if he could speak with me. I had left my son's telephone number with them in case they needed help with their computers. Martin wasted no time. He shared that he and Grace had driven to Langley the day before to visit their dear friend Anne. She was also British and a member of the youth group that Martin and Grace directed in London, UK. Grace had led her to the Lord. They had not seen Anne for a long time and had a good visit. In the course of the conversation Grace mentioned that she had agreed to assist me (I had met Anne) with the translation of a biography into French. In an instant Anne spoke out: "then you have to meet the man who rents my ground level suite." He is a Frenchman and a fine Christian man as well as a French teacher. So Anne called him and he came up to meet Martin and Grace.



It didn't take long for Grace to begin talking about the translation project that she was getting into. Then she asked him if he would be willing to help. After thinking for a moment, he asked who will be in charge of this project. Martin told him that they had a friend who had been a missionary in Gabon with the Christian & Missionary Alliance. Urgently Paul asked what is his name. So, they gave him my name. With no hesitation Paul said: "But I know Don Dirks. He drove me to the CD airport in Paris when I went to teach for 2 years in the Mission school at Bongalo in Gabon." Our last meeting.



No wonder Martin called me, he had to share that God had answered our prayers. What was even more exciting was for us to learn that Paul had done thousands of pages of translation for the Assemblies of God in Québec. For 35 years he taught French in one of the total immersion French schools in Langley. So, our team was complete. So much proficiency!

Paul is a perfectionist, a master of the French language, a real disciple of Jesus, and a very dear friend. We spent many days working together on the A.B. book. Paul's expertise was invaluable.

One and a half years later this book was published. A hobby, a challenging retirement project, and an amazing answer to prayer.

Yours cordially, **Don**, a 1%er

Foot notes:

- i. David Jones tells me that this book is now in 5 versions: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Dutch.
- ii. The C&MA in the USA did a first print of 2500 English copies.
- iii. The Columbian C&MA Church for its Centennial (2023) gave every pastor a Spanish edition.
- iv. A few years ago, the Burkina Faso Church organized a Seminar on the life of Dr. Simpson and every church leader as well as the students of the Maranatha Bible Institute got a French copy. (300 copies)

didirks4help2wa@gmail.com



3. Career Educators, Dedicated Servants -Art & Mary Friesen

We both embarked on our teaching careers after graduating from the Saskatoon Teachers' College.

We both superannuated after successful teaching careers.



Independently, we both dedicated our lives to the Lord, and on confession of our faith were baptized and received into church membership. We were married on July 22, 1961.

Our move to accept teaching positions at Howard Powell School, opened an interesting door. We were having dinner after our first day of teaching there when a knock on our door interrupted our conversation. A young man introduced himself as Don Olsen, Pastor of Rosetown Alliance Church. During the visit he invited us to attend the church that coming Sunday. We accepted his invitation.

That began a lengthy serve we still enjoy today. Rosetown Alliance Church offered the opportunity for both of us to serve. Mary taught Sunday school, Pioneer Girls, worked with the lady's ministry and more. Art taught adult Sunday School and was elected to serve on the Elder's Board. Our serve in Rosetown was completed in June of 1986.

The Lord already had another serve in mind. A call from Pastor Dennis Keith, Westgate Alliance Church in Saskatoon, invited me to join the staff. The Board interview and the Accreditation process qualified me as an accredited worker with the CMA. My title, "Pastor of Congregational Care".

I (Art) also was privileged to engage in other serves outside the church. These included: Chair of the National Adult Education Committee of the CMA; a four-year term on the CBC/CTS Board of



Governors in Regina; Operation Christmas Child in Nicaragua; and participating in a church renovation project in Argentina. We both served on a team doing an eye glass clinic in Guinea, West Africa and two summer teaching assignments in Lithuania. In 2000, we moved to Hong Kong where Mary taught in an International School for 2 1/2 years, while Art engaged in a variety of teaching and volunteer projects. Health issues terminated our serve in Hong Kong.

We purchased a condo in Southwest Calgary and lived there for 21 years. RockPointe Church, Westhills Site continues to be our church home. Proverbs 3: 5,6 proved to be our guiding principle:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.”

We are thankful for the variety of serves we enjoyed, the traveling we did, for our health, our family and each other. On July 18, 2023 we moved into the Aspen Heights Retirement Residence in Calgary, where we are enjoying our pilgrimage in the last third of life.

Respectfully Submitted, Art and Mary Friesen
armfriesen@shaw.ca



4. A Time of Rest -Norma Bailey Holslander

I prayed for the Lord to teach, to show me where he is in the winter for me...a season of the year I dislike more and more. I love water; lakes, rivers, water falls, but especially the ocean (with Palm trees near by). Yet God has placed me here in a province that sometimes has snow (and subzero temperatures) 8 months of the year.

A few days ago, I was reading in Exodus. I was impressed in a new way with God appearing as a cloud, a pillar, and when the cloud rested over the tent of meeting, the Israelites stopped, and they didn't travel on until the cloud lifted and moved.

I looked throughout Scripture for the images of God as a cloud or using clouds. There is Presence, protection, guidance, rest and joyful announcements. Such as; "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." And "he will come again in the clouds to take me home with him." Wow!!

The next day I walked into my living room and through the patio doors noticed the gray, cloudy sky and heard reports of much snow in the near future. But the cloudy sky seemed like a comforting duvet, allowing me to stop, not go out, not to be busy, but to remain in place and enjoy his Presence.

I am in the Sabbath of my life. I need to learn new things about rest and worship and celebration.

The snow did fall in the next days. I noticed 2 inches of snow resting on the rail of my balcony, and I knew it was a symbol of quietness and rest for me. There was chaos on the streets and highways around my city but I could sit in the quietness of the Lord. I thought about the protection snow gives the natural world around me, a time of rest, restoration.



5. A Varied Journey in Serving the Lord - Henry & Helen Wiebe

Henry Wiebe 604-846-7274



Henry writes:

I was filling out an application for the principalship of a new school in Mission, BC in the spring of 1982. Halfway through, the phone rang. It was Pastor Bill Goetz asking if I would consider candidating for the position of Director of Christian Education at Sevenoaks Alliance Church where he was the lead pastor.

After discussions with my wife, Helen, and the 5 children, it was decided that I should proceed with the candidating even though the children thought they would now be poor pastor's kids. (They and 12 grandchildren all live in BC.)

That decision resulted in 10 precious years on staff at Sevenoaks Alliance. This church experienced great fellowship, encouraging growth and effective ministry in the years that followed. We had moved from Mission into the Abbotsford area a few years earlier and had been attending Sevenoaks but it had not entered my thoughts that I would ever be on staff there. Pastor Bill's invitation became a life-changing experience.

During the next few years I undertook the ordination process and when Pastor Bill moved to Pennsylvania to become Editor in Chief of Christian Publications, the leadership of the church asked me to fill in as interim lead pastor until a permanent placement was found. This lasted just over a year.

Not long after that Helen and I went to Kijabe, Kenya for a year-long volunteer mission with the Africa Inland Church. Her role was assisting the station management and occasionally helping out in the administration office of the hospital on site. Kijabe was likely the largest mission compound in the world housing about 150 ex-patriot families serving in the Rift Valley Academy, Moffatt Bible College, the printing press, the publishing house, the hospital, the nurses training facility, a polytechnic school and some other ministries. A person could go there, work on site and return to North America and never really experience Africa. But in my role as a teacher at Moffatt College of the Bible (filling in for another person on home assignment) I responded to students who wanted me to come to their villages for evangelism and discipleship. This gave me a truer perspective and I valued that opportunity even though not every trip was pleasant.

We would take the Jesus film, a generator and projector and show the film on white sheets strung between two poles. People came in droves. I remarked to one student how large the crowd was and he replied, "Did you see how many there are watching a mirror image from the other side of the white sheet?" On Sunday we would minister in the local AIC church with me using an interpreter. That was a new experience. I had to learn to keep it simple and basic. Many other experiences are treasured in my memory bank.

Upon returning to Canada I accepted the position of lead pastor at Oliver Alliance Church where we stayed or 24 years, nearly 7 as lead pastor, 13 as voluntary pastor for seniors and 4 more as just an

involved member. Those were very special years, not just for the fruit trees! We have many fond memories of the fellowship at Oliver Alliance and the Lord's goodness to us. The people were great! Space would not allow me to elaborate on exceptional answers to prayer.

In 2018, due to Helen's advancing Parkinson's, we moved to Chilliwack where we became residents of the first building in Elim Village Garrison Crossing. We've been in Elim Village now for over 5 years. It has been a great place to live. When physical conditions allow it (I) we attend Chilliwack Alliance. Overall, the Lord and His people have been good to us beyond what we deserve.

Henry and Helen Wiebe lazuli.wiebe@gmail.com

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

Please pass your submission on to us, waynebettyk@rogers.com so others can rejoice with you.



This is symbolic of the hypocrisy that haunts our society these days:

The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing and stopped at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman behind him was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection. As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer.

The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed and placed in a holding cell.



After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.



He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, giving the guy in front of you the finger and cursing at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally I assumed you had stolen the car.



Celebrating those who have graduated from the University of Life to their eternal home.

Dr. Joan Carter

May 3, 1939 - Hanna, Alberta October 18, 2023 - Calgary, Alberta

by Judith Wiebe, Retired Director of Member Care, Global Ministries

Dr. Joan Elsie Carter went to be with her Lord and Saviour on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 84 years of age. Joan served as a professor at Canadian Theological Seminary/Ambrose for more than 20 years, teaching Psychology and Counselling. She retired in 2004.

In addition to her academic work, Joan played a significant role in developing Member Care for international workers with the Alliance. My first contact with Joan was back in 1989 when I was working as an administrative assistant to Arnold Cook in what we then called Personnel and Missions. In the previous year, we had experienced a number of moral failures among our workers and the heaviness of this was really weighing on Arnold. One of the people to whom he reached out for advice was Joan Carter. At that time, she was teaching at Canadian Theological Seminary and she had a sabbatical coming up and Arnold wondered if she would consider travelling to a few of our fields to visit workers, to assess the health and well-being of individuals, families and teams, identify common concerns or needs, and advise him on what we could do to care well for our people. A tall order! But Joan jumped at the opportunity.

This invitation became the “seed” which eventually grew into a major research and ministry project for Joan. It spread over many years and resulted in numerous overseas trips to countries in Asia, South America, West Africa, Eastern Europe and Russia. Joan always invited a colleague to travel with her and to help with the research and training in various fields. A few of those who partnered with Joan were Margi Hollingshead, Ruth McKellen, Donna McKay Mitchell, Christine Cushing Wiebe, and Catherine Thompson. In 1999 Joan’s research paper on Missionary Stressors and Implications for Care, was published in the Journal of Psychology and Theology. This was the beginning of Joan’s journey into what we now call “member care” - caring for the physical, psychological, spiritual, mental, vocational and relational health and wellbeing of our international workers and their families - caring for the whole person.



Joan would often quote Fredrick Buechner when talking about God's "call" - Buechner wrote, "*The intersection of the world's greatest need and your greatest joy marks your 'call'*" - That is a beautiful description of the work and ministry of Joan Carter - She had a deep love for God and a strong desire to serve Him, and she also had a deep love for people, especially people in cross cultural ministry.



Joan wanted to come alongside to see them thrive and become all God had created them to be. That call from Arnold Cook back in 1989 opened another door of opportunity for Joan and she entered in with joy and enthusiasm, bringing her unique blend of wisdom, knowledge, and passion to help others.

Photo of Brem and Donna Frenz presenting Joan with flowers in 2015 at the Home Ministries Seminar. Judith Weibe stands by her friend

In the early days, my main contact with Joan was to help her with international travel arrangements and communication with team leaders. But over the years, our friendship grew as we realized our mutual interests and desire to care well for international workers. I took several of the week-long intensive classes that Joan taught at CTS. And we began travelling together to the annual Mental Health and Missions conferences in Indiana. We spent hours during the long car rides, dreaming of ways to enhance and improve the care offered to international workers and their families.

I need to be clear. Joan never had a PAID role with Global Ministries. Over the years we were able to cover most of her expenses but in those early years she actually used her personal funds to cover a lot of her overseas travel. People were able to make donations but there was never enough to fully cover her costs. She did this out of a generous heart that overflowed with love for God and for His people! And she did it because it gave her great joy.

Joan and I spent many happy hours brainstorming about member care. A few of the things that we launched together were:

- an expanded pre-field orientation which included teaching on interpersonal skills and stages of cross-cultural transition
- retirement planning seminars
- transition seminars
- an expanded home ministries seminar which included teaching on transition, stress management, personal debriefings with a psychologist and a medical doctor, a parallel program for missionary kids
- and the development of the Wellness Plan for international workers, based on the Greatest Commandment to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength

And in addition to all this, Joan continued to teach at CTS/Ambrose. The research she conducted on the experiences of international workers prompted her to adapt some of her courses to prepare candidates to handle the unique stressors they would face in ministry, both in Canada and overseas.

There is so much more which could be said about Joan's partnership with the work of Global Ministries and it is hard to do justice to the significant contribution she made to the work of bringing Jesus to the nations. But I want to share some personal observations about my friend Joan.

Joan was an intercessor! In the times I stayed with Joan while we were travelling, I quickly learned that her early morning prayer time was sacred. She had long lists of people that she prayed for by

name. Each day of the week she would cover a different region of the world or area of ministry. She prayed into situations that probably no one else was aware of, and she interceded for people faithfully. One of the things that frustrated Joan as her cognitive abilities began to decline, was that she had trouble remembering people's names, but she continued to pray, perhaps with more of those groans that the Spirit of God delights to interpret for us.

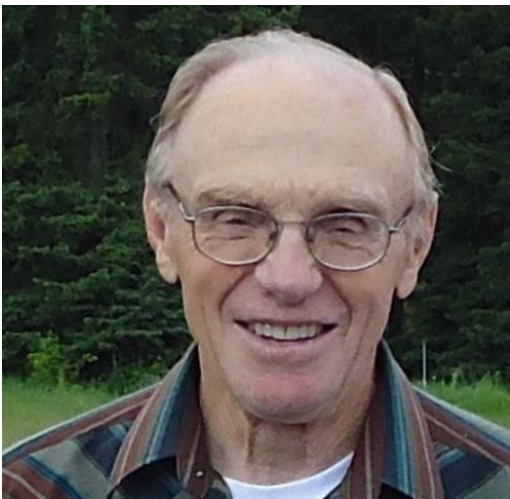
And the other thing that really encouraged me in the past few years, as Joan experienced significant cognitive decline, was the Presence of the Spirit of God in her. Sometimes our visits were hard, as Joan struggled to find the words to express what she was thinking or feeling. But we would always end our visits or telephone calls with prayer, and I was blown away by Joan's ability to pray clearly and with discernment!

I praise and thank God for the rich legacy He has given us through Joan's faith-filled life and ministry.

CONNECTOR adds: It was Judith's passion and service to our IWs and preparing them for retirement that sowed seeds for the birth of **POWER Team**.

Delbert & Jane McKenzie

Delbert - January 7, 2023 (85) Jane - October 27, 2023 (89)



Delbert passed into his eternal home this past January at the age of 85 while Jane joined him October 27th. They both met at Canadian Bible College and were married September 5, 1959 in Lethbridge Alberta.

They both served together with the Alliance for over 50 years. Del pastored churches in Montana, Idaho, Alberta and Washington. He also served as a District Superintendent in the Rocky Mountain District out of Billings Montana.

Del had a love for the Bible, serving others, mentoring men and leading others to Christ. Del was influential in the lives of many pastors, church leaders, teachers, family and friends.

He also had a contagious love of the outdoors, especially cutting wood in the hills of Montana.

Jane, was born in Calgary and met her American, to be husband at CBC in Regina. She loved being involved with the women and the pastor's wives of the churches they served. She also enjoyed organizing and hosting bridal and baby showers for the young women in these churches.



Jane had the gift of hospitality and had many pastors and their wives, missionaries and numerous others in their home for overnight visits and meals. She loved her family deeply and enjoyed cooking meals and baking special treats for them, especially her grandchildren.



Helpful Information:

Should you have interest in some helpful information, we are providing a few links for you to read in your retiral/realigned time.

-7 Ways to support a spouse with Depression

<https://www.crosswalk.com/slideshows/7-ways-to-support-a-spouse-with-depression.html>

-7 Things God Wants Seniors to Know

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

For Retiring Pastors

-10 insights for retiring pastors Voice (christianpost.com)

<https://www.christianpost.com/voices/10-insights-for-retiring-pastors.html>



Time for a smile or two

S.O.S = SLOWER, OLDER, SMARTER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

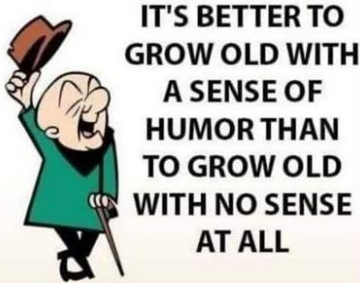
Dedicated to all my senior friends. It's time to slow down and enjoy the rest of the trip. 🧓❤️

Author Unknown





when u leave ur dog w/ grandparents



Why must I prove that I am me to pay my bills over the phone? Do strangers call to pay my Bills? And if they do, why don't you let them?

Condolences and Funnies



My coffee cup reminding me why I shouldn't have a donut with it. 😂



Walmart had to remove 50,000 milk cartons from their store.

The labels have to be changed from "Open here" to "Open at home"

The Grinnin' Bear




Why He came!!