



#70 May 2024

## CONNECTOR

Greetings to all our **POWER Team** people across our nation from British Columbia to New Brunswick. Welcome to Spring, though we are not excited about all the wild fires in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. For all of you who had mothers, we trust Mother's Day in May was a day to remember God's goodness in your upbringing.

Summer is soon upon us, and just before that happens on June 20<sup>th</sup>, Father's Day is on the 16<sup>th</sup>. We trust you had fathers who inspired you along in your call from God in your ministry. If not, may you be setting the example for the next generation and all who follow.

After all that happens, we have.....



**Held at Bayview Glen Church Toronto.** We understand that most of you will not be attending but here are some opportunities for you to participate.

### Four opportunities for **POWER Team** members

1. Attend by being sent by your church
2. Attend evening public services
3. Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> of July **POWER Team** gathering at 6 p.m. before the service in at 7:30 p.m.
  - we will be meeting at the HUB just inside the upper parking lot entrance.
  - time to meet National Volunteer Coordinators Gerald and Dorothy Hogenbirk and others
4. Reports can be found at the website: <https://allianceassembly.com/reports-and-documents/>
  - take the opportunity to read these reports and pray for the Assembly





## We are delighted to introduce you to some New POWER Team Retirees



**Doug & Carol Woon** are retiring this summer.

A lot of transition will be going on for their team of International Workers in Japan.

The current team leaders, Doug and Carol Woon, have been in Japan for over thirty-five years.

Between now and then, they are mentoring Joze and Jocelyn Reverente by preparing them to take over the responsibilities of team leadership. The Reverentes are very grateful to the Woons for preparing them to take on this role.

Please **pray** for the Woons and the rest of the team as they go through this season of transition.

## Marwan & Inge Qandah



The Qandahs used to live in Ottawa. Cedarview Alliance Church was their home church. Presently they are living in the CCD Niagara region.

Currently, they are traveling around speaking at different churches, teaching Biblical Counselling on Zoom and providing counselling to individuals. The counselling is done mainly in Arabic. They also provide member-care to a Christian human rights organization based in Luton/UK but serve in the Middle East and North Africa. Marwan still serves as an elder at an international church in Germany.

Marwin will resign at end of this year.

Future plans D.V.

Continue online teaching in Arabic

Continue one on one counseling.

This is for Arabic speakers who are in ministry.

Hope to focus on writing a biblical counseling manual in Arabic.

Visit Europe and Middle East to hold counselling seminars.

Help a Dutch organization that focuses on ministry to Yemenis.

Ultimately, the doors He opens, no man can shut and shuts doors no man can open. Marwin says, "I know for sure I have no plans to spend the winters in Florida 😊". Please continue to pray as they transition to retirement, and settle in southern Ontario closer to family and grandkids!

**Susanna Tan** is our most recent “retired” **POWER Team** member and has launched a whole new season of serving the next generation of ministry leaders with a partner.



April 7, 2024 Susanna celebrated her “retirement” after nearly 26 years pastoring the Rexdale Alliance Chinese Church in Toronto. April 20<sup>th</sup>, she married Herman Tang whom she graduated with from Hong Kong Alliance Seminary over 50 years ago (along with Herman’s first wife who died 4 years ago).



**Retirement Celebration**  
Kay & Aaron Tang - Chinese Alliance World Fellowship Secretary, Groom  
Herman Tang with bride Susanna Tan, Wayne & Betty Kerr

In March (a month before their wedding), Herman travelled to Hong Kong Alliance Seminary and taught a course to over 125 young seminarians, while Susanna travelled to Prague to train Chinese leaders there. On the way back from Hong Kong, Herman joined Susanna in Prague and they both taught together. At the retirement celebration, Wayne Kerr mentioned this teaming together in Prague and that they really should have a report on how their team teaching went. If it was a little rocky, maybe he needed to add a few extra pre-marital counselling seasons.

Susanna is the first female Lead Pastor to be ordained in the Canadian Alliance and also is the longest serving female Lead Pastor having served 26 years. She has served in the ECD but has always lived in the CCD as have over half of Rexdale’s staff. She & Herman will continue their ministry of equipping the next generation and reside in the CCD.



Their wedding was April 20, 2024 at Bayview Glen Church where General Assembly will be. At the wedding over 500 attended, over 70 pastors and spouses were present as well as a large contingent of Hong Kong Alliance Seminary Alumni.

**Newly weds Herman & Susanna Tang  
April 20, 2024**

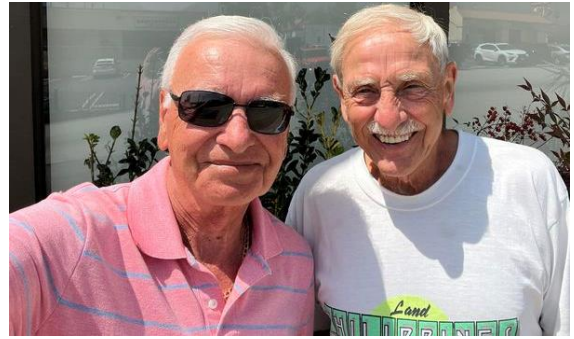


## POWER Team members Connecting

### CP District POWER Team Coordinator Brian Thom

connected with Frank Peters who is living in the States  
“It was so good meeting with a dear friend FRANK PETERS and former class mate at CBC. We connected while enroute home from Palm Springs.”

-social media has informed us that the Peters have recently moved to Los Angeles.



Brian is having regional gatherings of **POWER Team** members throughout the CP District in May & June. We look forward to a report on these gatherings accompanied by DS Mark Peters



**Hope Reichert** who served as an IW for many decades with husband Richard, in Cuba, Mexico and Ecuador recently connected at a CCD regional **POWER Team** gathering, with veteran IW **Lizette Lavois** who continues to serve in Guinea West Africa.

Lizette is from Sudbury but her sending Churches are Midland Ont. (CCD) and The Well Church in Vaughan Ont (ECD). She is on Home Assignment and is also now on our **POWER Team** list, though in her impetuous youth. She will never retire.

**Mary McElhone (rewired IW POWER Team member of the CCD)** does not let missions and the support of our missionaries be lost to the church family.

Mary, who served a number of years in New Guinea, is one of the leaders of the Mature Adults of Tillsonburg Alliance Church in Ontario and exposes this group and the whole church body to our IWs who are on home assignment as well as other retired **POWER Team** IWs.



Here is this “short” power house IW leading their February luncheon and introducing IWs Derek & Bonnie Bernet, before they head back to Thailand for their 5<sup>th</sup> term in July..



**Jeanette Bueck is another POWER Team member** who gives significant leadership to the Seniors & Friends at Paramount Alliance Church in Hamilton. Recently Wayne & Betty Kerr had the privilege of encouraging this group to be the greatest POWER of Love group in their church.

It also had a small feature of recognizing the 2014 LOVE in MOTION cycle trip across Canada that raised over \$40,000.00 for each district toward their outreach to inner city ministries.



## Ernie & Marilyn Klassen in PERU Feb. 6 to April 12 –



After 3 precious days of R&R, we ministered together in Miraflores Alliance Church, where we served on the pastoral staff in the early nineties.

Marilyn gave her testimony of revival in the early seventies. Students from Asbury visited CBC in Regina, testifying to their revival experience. That was the catalyzing flame that spread the revival to various parts of western Canada. Marilyn was present in that chapel service and her heart was deeply revived. As she told her story, the response was palpable.



- Ernie closed the service with an illustration about surrendering to Jesus the “Master Key”. The response was massive and deep. Virtually the entire congregation of some 300 responded in a beautiful prayer of surrender. And then, responded with applause to God for His reviving grace. It was a very special GOD MOMENT. Through prayer, you are a VITAL part of this ministry. We also bumped into people we ministered to some 40 years ago, including one lady whose life was powerfully transformed as we shared EVANGELISM EXPLOSION with her. Today her daughter is married to one of the pastors in Miraflores. SWEET SWEET discovery.

Presently, “we are here in Chile on a 5 week assignment with SALT (Support and Leadership Training). While here, I am teaching on behalf of AMBROSE UNIVERSITY in a Seminary in Temuco.

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## Remember, POWER Team step #3 is Providing Our Workers Excellent Resources

-we are the resources and the “workers” are those coming behind us. It is also being the next generations’ greatest supporters. The Klassen’s are demonstrating this. The following article by Joel Ryan may be a resource for you to apply. We have given you the outline and please ignore that Joel uses “him”. Don’t let that upset your apple cart and so translate it into “her” or “them”, whatever fits.

## 5 Ways We All Can Support Young Pastors

[Joel Ryan](#)

1. Pray and Provide for Him
2. Stop Complaining
3. Encourage Him on Monday Morning
4. Encourage Him to Keep to the Cross in His Teaching
5. Don’t Compare Him to Others

Have you done this with your pastor(s)? If not try it out for a month.

If you would like to have this fleshed out a little more, then click on the link below and Joel Ryan will encourage you to be the next generations greatest Cheerleader.

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/slideshows/5-ways-we-all-can-support-young-pastors.html>

**Remembering one who modelled for us.**

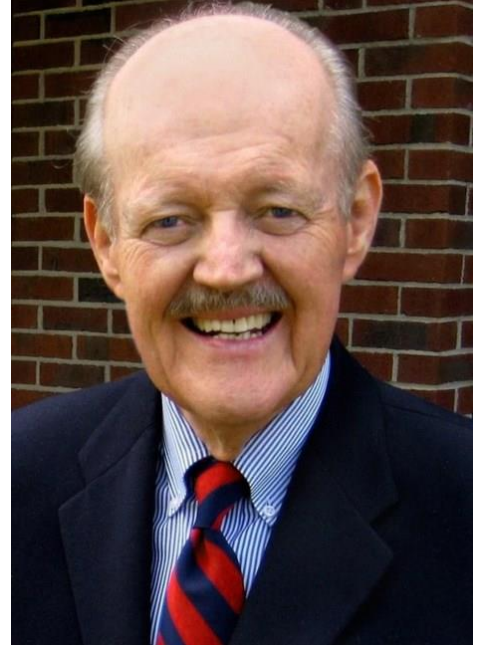
# **Pastor Wendell K. Grout**

8 MAY, 1930 – 25 JANUARY, 2024

On the evening of January 25, 2024, Wendell K. Grout passed from this life into eternity at the age of 93.

Wendell met and fell in love with Leila Mae Brezina while in high school. The two were married in Esbon, KS, August 26th, 1949, (the church where Wendell became a Christian just a couple of years earlier). They raised five children together, one daughter and four sons.

For most of his ministry career Wendell was simply known as Pastor Grout. He pastored and led several churches in nearly 50 years of professional ministry. Most notably pastoring for nineteen years at Blue Ridge Bible Church in Kansas City, MO, five years at Lake Harriet Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN, and 20 years at First Alliance Church in Calgary, Alberta. After retiring from full time ministry, he continued to serve local churches by providing pulpit supply and as an interim pastor.



Pastor Grout loved to preach. He believed firmly in his calling to preach “the whole counsel of God”, demonstrating this conviction by preaching through the entire Bible many times over the years, unlocking for his congregations the major themes and messages from each of the 66 books of the Bible.

In the 1970s he had a radio Bible program every week on KTIS in Minneapolis. He was highly sought after as an evangelist and conference speaker allowing him to travel extensively throughout the US and Canada, preaching wherever he was welcomed. He spoke regularly at camp meetings, colleges, and youth conferences like the LIFE Conference of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Ministries like Village Missions, Stonecroft Ministries, Ecola Bible School, and Horn Creek Conference Center, would invite him back year after year. His speaking invitations also took him around the world. He visited many countries on the continents of Europe, Asia, Africa and South America, encouraging missionaries and speaking to national churches. He also led several tours of The Holy Land. His wife Leila, not being quite as adventurous, only occasionally accompanied him on those trips, but she did, however, always travel with him when he was invited to speak at Peoples Church in Spanish Wells, Bahamas. Almost by accident Pastor Grout curated a photograph collection from exotic and historic locations around the world. Those photos adorned the walls of his church offices and his home office.

Vital to Pastor Grout’s love for preaching was his love for reading and studying. His library grew year after year and by the time he retired filled almost every space of the lower level of his home. As an author he contributed three books to that library. Two of them were self-published collections of letters to his congregations, and the third was a commentary on the New Testament books of Colossians and Philemon, which was published as part of The Deeper Life Pulpit Commentary from Christian Publications.

In 2016 he donated his entire library to Denver Seminary for the edification of budding preachers and theologians. In his retirement years he created and regularly posted on his own blog called Today’s



Truth. He also created a digital resource called “A Walk Through The Word”, highlighting an overview and major themes from every book of the Bible.

Pastor Grout was also a wise and visionary leader. He served on several higher education and professional boards and committees. He served as interim president of Calvary Bible College in the early 1970s. He was on the boards of Calvary Bible College (now Calvary University), Canadian Bible College (now Ambrose University) and Prairie Bible Institute (now Prairie College). He served for many years on the Licensing and Ordination Council of the Western Canadian District of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. He was the driving force behind the establishment of two Christian schools; Blue Ridge Christian School in Kansas City, MO, opened in 1968, and Glenmore Christian Academy in Calgary, Alberta, established in 1980. Both schools continue to be thriving alternatives to public education today. In the 1980s Pastor Grout also cast vision for an Assisted Living home in Calgary known as Glenmore Manor. Many seniors and their families still benefit from this affordable housing community today.

Friends and family who knew Pastor Grout well, remember him as a committed follower of Jesus, faithful, loyal, honest, always positive, outgoing, gregarious, and generous with his resources, both financial and relational.

Pastor Grout made known his desire for anyone wishing to honor his memory to consider giving to the Global Advance Fund of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, or the Great Commission Fund of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in the U.S.

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***“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”***

**Don Dirks** shares the results of being used by God decades ago, and now being reminded of the fruit of he and Elma’s willingness to meet a need at the time, not realizing the eternal results then.

Dick writes: “I received my copy of ‘*Caleb & Co*’ the USA quarterly newsletter for retired pastors, missionaries, and Christian workers. One article really caught my attention. It exposes what God has done but I want to add the story of my acquaintance with Richard and Lillian Phillips and share what a blessing they were to our French Alliance national Church.”

I know that we will have many Canadian readers and former missionaries that will be thrilled.



In 1975 when the Communists took over Vietnam, I was in the process of translating the New Testament into the language of the Mnong, a tribe in hills of central Vietnam. Only a few portions of the Scriptures were in print. North Vietnamese troops captured Lillian and me and confiscated our satchel full of typewritten manuscripts. Everything seemed lost. We were set free after about eight months and reassigned to a West African country.

Years later, we were dumbfounded to receive a copy of the Mnong Scriptures—and not just the New Testament, but the whole Bible. How could that ever have happened? A team of Mnong men, including

some that I had trained, had continued translating in secret. Despite severe government restrictions on the church, the believers had managed to complete the work and print it. Although it needed some corrections, a revision was done by the Bible Society, and the Mnong Bible was dedicated on August 19, 2023. What a joy!

And what about the Mnong church? Believers in that tribe numbered about 6,000 in 1975 when all missionaries had to leave. The latest figure I heard is 102,741, not counting those who have emigrated. Praise the Lord!

(Dick and Lillian offered me their permission to use this article.)

This is how Elma and I got involved with the Phillips.



When the Phillips were reassigned to West Africa as mentioned in the article above, Richard wrote to me. I was the Board Representative of the C&MA in France and was pastoring the Boulogne French Church in the suburb of Paris.



Richard is a PHD linguist and knew what he wanted.

He wrote asking me to find a “home” for them for 3 months preferably in the suburbs of Paris. They had no intention of attending a language training school but wanted to be totally immersed in a French community ie. town or village. In a sequence of events that only God could have arranged, I was able to find them a French engineer’s home, of a Christian family. The owner of that home was going to California with his whole family, for a training program and wanted the Philips to live in their



home. Their home was situated in the very beautiful Orsay Valley to the south of Paris. Even the dates and the costs matched what our Mission needs were.

So the Philips came to Paris

We would see them once a week when they came to pick up their mail. On Sundays they discreetly attended morning worship in the church that I pastored but they would slip away quickly after the services. Often Elma and I would arrange to do a meal together with these dear friends when they came for their mail...

Their three months passed all too quickly so I organized a special Missions weekend and invited Richard to speak at their final service on Sunday morning. When I introduced him, I shared with the congregation that he was a professional linguist and they had only been in Paris for three months to learn French. The older members of the congregation looked at each other with obvious unbelief. I had arranged for a young bi-lingual student attending the nearby Evangelical Seminary to interpret Richard's testimony.

Then came a surprise. Richard came to the pulpit with poise and ease and said in perfect French: "My dear friends, before I call on my Interpreter, I want to express our gratitude and thanks for the kind friendship that you have shown us during these last three months...." From memory he spoke for several minutes. Elma and I were so proud to be associated with them in ministry.

The testimony that he shared and their intrepid faith to still continue their missionary life was very compelling.



After they were gone several of the older members of my church came to tell me: "We have heard many times about the remarkable work that Alliance missionaries are doing all over the world, but now we have our own missionaries." What a boost to our growing denomination in France and to the credibility of our work. The reputation of this incredible couple became our credentials.

Dick & Lillian Phillips are now retired and living in Florida

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The TRUTH is, that all of the "STUFF" here on earth we work SO hard to buy and accumulate. does NOT mean a thing. At the end of the day...people will be cleaning out our "STUFF", going thru our "STUFF", figuring out what to do with all of our "STUFF" this "STUFF" we've accumulated in our life. The only thing of VALUE that remains are the MEMORIES and what we deposit into others. May we all learn to spend less time accumulating "STUFF" and spend way more time making MEMORIES.

[Meet Annie Wilkins: A Courageous Maine Farmers Inspiring Journey - Viral Niches](#)



A few deep theological thots and pictures



**CONNECTOR** -We delight to hear from you as you share His story in your life. Remember, He is the God of the Mountain and He is the God of the Valley. Let us hear what you are learning in this season of your life. [waynebettyk@rogers.com](mailto:waynebettyk@rogers.com)

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