

#71 August 2024



CONNECTOR

General Assembly report

From Gerald & Dorothy Hogenbirk, National POWER Team Volunteer Coordinators

What a joy to be at General Assembly to meet friends old and new!



Dorothy and I were thrilled to meet Noel N'Guessan Kouadio from Cote D'Ivoire, a former student of ours at Yamoussoukro Bible Institute. He was part of our team to evangelize in surrounding villages and towns. There were approx. 160,000 C&MA members at that time in the late 1980's. What a joy to hear him tell us that there are over 1 million believers who attend over 4500 churches in the country. Noel is now the national church president. What a thrill to meet this dear brother in Christ!! God bless him and the Church!

A power team reunion was held on the Wednesday evening with 30 people in attendance. President Darren Herbold visited with us and encouraged us to press on for Christ. It was so nice to hear each other's stories of Christ's faithfulness in our lives and ongoing ministries.



Brian & Judy Thom, CP district **POWER Team** voluntary coordinator made power team mugs and air fresheners. Thanks Brian!! These were handed out and meant to remind us as power team members to be the fragrance of Christ where ever we go. 2 Corinthians 2:14-16
But thanks be to God who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads

everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death, to the other the fragrance of life!

As we have seen in recent days the reactions to Christ vary greatly.

May we continue to be the beautiful fragrance of Christ no matter the reaction where Christ places us.

Warmest blessings on you all

Gerald and Dorothy National Power Team coordinators

hogenbirkgd@gmail.com

Photo to right

Dave Hearn, Gerald Hogenbirk and Blake Penson living with one foot raised—ready to go where He leads.



<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10759838?share=copy&page=2&page=1>

Above are videos of all the General Assembly gatherings. Below is an executive summary

<https://thealliancecanada.ca/updates/executive-summary-of-general-assembly-2024/>

Here are some photos taken at General Assembly POWER Team gathering



CP District POWER Team Coordinators, Brian & Judy Thom, organized 3 regional luncheons recently

Brian writes:

One of the things that I've often heard from members of the **Power Team** in the CPD is that they have not seen fellow members for many years. So, this year, for the first time, we organized 3 luncheons to try and cover as best as possible the CPD area. The Luncheons were held in three areas of the province: Okanagan Valley, Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island.



The first event took place at Mission Creek Alliance in Kelowna. The Point couple for this event was Arnold & Joan Downey, former WCD DS. They did a fabulous job.

There was NO COST for the luncheons as the CPD office was so gracious in covering all costs for those who attended. Special appreciation goes out to the CPD and Mark Peters, DS.

The PURPOSE of each luncheon was two-fold:

- **GETTING RE-ACQUAINTED:** For some it had been over 10 years since they had seen each other. Some had been college class-mates as well as fellow ministers for a number of years. The wholesome chatter at each location was almost overwhelming as they met each other.
- **MARK PETERS:** District Superintendent: Mark arranged his busy schedule so that he would be at each luncheon. Many who attended did not know or had even met Mark previously. I would love for you to hear what Mark said but in simple terms he:

- Shared his story:



- His years of growing up and his family in Surrey and Surrey Alliance
 - His family: wife Naomi and children
 - His desire to go into the medical field
 - How the Lord redirected him into ministry and those whom the Lord used to speak to him
 - His ministry experience in First Alliance (Calgary), North Shore Alliance (North Vancouver) and how the Lord guided him in becoming the DS in the CPD.
 - In each of the locations Mark was able to highlight 2-3 individuals who were present and how the Lord used them in a positive way in ministering to him.
- Supportive & Encouraging Words:
 - Stated clearly how thankful he is for each person present and the ministry that they had for so many years.
 - Their ministry has changed lives as well as help shape the area of ministry that they were located in.
 - Mark communicated as well that without each person following the Lord's direction in their lives that the Alliance in a positive way would not be what we are today.

- He thanked each one for the continuing ministry that they are having throughout their retirement.
- AND that he values their continued prayers and support for himself, his team and the CPD.

So now what? Well, the message was very clear from everyone that they want more events like this to happen again and very soon!

Judy and I count it a privilege to serve with about 204 retired Alliance workers in the CPD.

Luncheon on Vanc. Island held at the Sheraton Four Points hotel in Langford



Luncheon in the Lower Mainland at Peace Portal Alliance Church in Surrey.





Okanagan Valley luncheon at Mission Creek Alliance Church in Kelowna



Brian with Marie & Ken Shamuhn







Step 3 of the POWER Team ministry = Providing Our Workers Excellent Resources = P O W E R

-this means that we **POWER Team** members are the “excellent resources” and that “our workers” are the IWs and pastoral staff persons who are still on the front lines of ministry. **POWER Team** members are the next generations greatest cheerleaders, supporters, mentors, encouragers.

The following articles are from **POWER Team** members who are putting this step into practice. They are just examples of you all who are doing the same in your own place, at your own pace for the glory of God and the building up of the Kingdom.

Since this issue is lengthy, we will only submit a couple of these here and next issue will have more.

#1 Ronald Brown taking initiative on his part for our Step 3



Coming out of Assembly, one of the themes that was loud and clear was to raise up a new generation of leaders in order to double.

One thing I'm doing in that direction is to introduce our Alliance family to mission books. I've found a team of reviewers, for the most part they would be what you call **PowerTeam** people (you can see their names there in the 'About' tab) and they are writing 500-word reviews on mission books that they would like the next generation to be introduced to. For some it is books they've found most helpful in their ministry or in their Christian growth. For some it is a book they think international workers would find useful reading together and then zooming to discuss as it informs their strategy. For some pastors it will introduce them to new mission themes and recent books being published which they don't have time to read.

So, every Thursday I will be posting on my social media Facebook account a **THURSDAY MISSION BOOK REVIEW** and then the mission mobilizers in each district will 'share' it also on their district FB page and others will do so likewise. So, seeing the respected name of the reviewer you may choose to see what they are saying. The link will also be shared with mission committees and others.

Starting in August, each Thursday will be a post

1. Madness by the Assembly speaker Jossy Chacko
2. Jerry Trousdale's book on Muslims coming to Christ reviewed by Doug Balzer
3. From Womb to Tomb by Joy Tira just published to celebrate Lausanne's 50th next month, my review.
4. Ablaze for God by Wesley Duewel reviewed by Ernie Klassen

Take a look, and you may find this useful and interesting. This website will be growing by at least one new review every week.

<https://qvbookreviews.wordpress.com/>

Blessings,

Ron [rronaldbrown@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldbrown@gmail.com) www.globalvault.ca - blogs, podcasts, biographies

#2 The General Assembly's Wednesday presentation by Shaila Visser

Shaila Visser is the head of Alpha Canada. She has a vision for the necessity of prayer, the power of the Holy Spirit and the importance of recognizing and releasing teens and young adults to be the future of the Church.

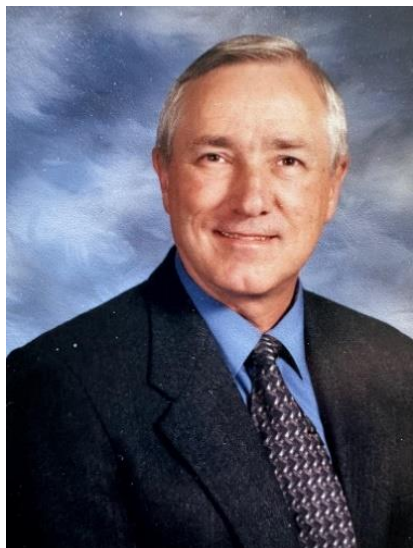
Take the time to listen to her, and to her challenge to support the younger generation. This should fuel our prayers as we see young pastors and IWs reaching the generations younger than ourselves

Click on this link <https://vimeo.com/981700318/5d680bc1c1>

-forward to approximately 1 hr and 4 minutes to begin her challenge to General Assembly 2024.

Next issue will provide a number more items to encourage our fulfillment of Step #3 **P**roviding **O**ur **W**orkers **E**xcellent **R**esources.

Deaths of His Servant



David Belsey November 28, 1945 – June 30, 2024

David Alan Belsey, a devoted pastor, educator, and mentor graduated on June 30, 2024, in Toronto, Ontario, at the age of 78 due to complications from chronic lung disease. Born on November 28, 1945, in Midland, Ontario, David spent his life dedicated to his faith, family, and community.

David spent his early years in Midland, where he developed a love for carpentry under the guidance of his father. He displayed his athletic prowess early on, winning a high jump competition in Grade 8 and securing the Jr Track and Field Cup in Grades 9 and 10. Between Grades 10 and 11, David embraced his Christian faith, a decision that shaped the course of his life. His commitment was solidified with his baptism in Grade 11, an event he fondly recalled as marking the experience of his first miracle.

His life in ministry was launched with the preaching of his first sermon at the age of 19. He pursued a Bachelor of Theology degree from Canadian Bible College in Regina, Saskatchewan, graduating in 1968. In 1969, he married the love of his life, Pamela Dolce (nee Klemke), with whom he shared 55 good years.

Continuing his academic pursuits, David graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in 1972 and later earned a Master's of Theology from the University of Toronto in 1976. His dedication to learning culminated in completing his second dissertation in fulfillment of a Doctorate of Ministry degree from Fuller Seminary in 1998.

David's career was marked by significant contributions to various Christian ministries and educational institutions. David served as a pastor with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Hamilton, Ontario, and Edmonton, Alberta, mentoring many young people and encouraging over 17 to enter ministry. He established "The Inside Story" Christian Books and Music Store in Edmonton in 1976, and started the first small group in Canada while at Millbourne Alliance Church around 1978.

David's legacy of Christian leadership continued as he became an Associate Pastor at Beulah Alliance Church and oversaw the construction of their new facility on 178th street. He later took on roles as Vice President at Canadian Bible College / Canadian Theological Seminary in Regina, Saskatchewan, and Director of Advancement at Rocky Mountain College. He also served as a member of the Board of Canadian Council of Christian Charities. At the culmination of his influential career, he shared his expertise as a faith-based fundraising consultant helping dozens of churches, camps, and schools expand their work.

David's faith was his anchor, embodied in his favorite scripture, Isaiah 44:8 : *"Do not tremble; do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim my purposes for you long ago? You are my witnesses—is there any other God? No! There is no other Rock—not one!"* His life was a reflection of his belief in the strength and steadfastness of God, whom he served diligently throughout his life.

David's dedication to faith, family, and community left an indelible mark on all who knew him. He will be deeply missed, leaving behind a heritage of faith, love, and service.

The Celebration of David's life took place on July 25, 2024 at First Alliance Church, Toronto, ON.

For more on David's health journey, see CONNECTOR #56 February 2022

[connector-56-february-2022.pdf \(cmaacan.org\)](#)

You can connect with Pam Belsey pdbelsey11@gmail.com [Celebration of Life - David Belsey](#) (service)

POWER Team members present at this service were:

- Lois Belsey** –(sister to Dave) IW
- Dianne** (sister to Pam) & **Mel Bowker** -CBC educators
- Melodie** (niece of Pam) & **Dan Ibsen** -IW
- Wayne Kerr** –(graduated CBC 1968 with Dave) -Pastor
- Bruce & Donna Edwards** -IWs & Pastor
- Brent Trask** -Pastor/DS by video

Harold Elmer Dirks

April 15, 1925 - March 26, 2024



Harold's brother Don Dirks conveyed the following:

My brother Harold did his theological studies at the WCBI (Western Canadian Bible Institute) school in Regina. From there he pastored in several Saskatchewan towns: ie Hawarden and Elbow. At the same time that they were there, Mel & Marion Sylvester were serving in a nearby town so they were together often for mutual encouragement and fellowship.

He served as Associate Pastor with Alf Orthner in Moosejaw (C&MA) and was also in charge of preparing all of the music for the radio ministry that Alf had.

He served at one point as pastor of the Beaverlodge church (C&MA) in the Peace River District. He later was in charge of some pioneering ministries of the Alliance further North in the Peace River region. Later he pastored a church in the Okanagan.

Past middle age he accepted a calling from the Wycliffe Bible translators, and after training in Los Angeles he and Kay organized over four dozen fund raiser banquets across Canada.

At one point he traveled with a leading Evangelist in Canada as the Minister of Music.

Harold was a beloved patriarch, a man of deep faith and a prayer warrior who had a tremendous love for his Lord, and family. He lived his life in service to others, and even though he suffered and struggled for many years, he always remained an encouragement and blessing to his care workers and his dear family, right until his passing. His ministry years made him a blessing to many.

None of us will ever forget how he would greet those special to him with his famous 'happy dance'! It brings his family great comfort to know he is free from pain and doing his 'happy dance', reunited at last with his Special K and family gone before him. He fought the good fight and finished the race. Well done good and faithful servant!

He would say "Happyluya, I'm Home"!

Harold was given this verse of comfort not long after losing his dear wife, and he quoted it often:

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

ISAIAH 41:10

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase
To added affliction He addeth His mercy
To multiplied trials His multiplied peace

When we have exhausted our store of endurance
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources
Our Father's full giving is only begun

His love has no limit, His grace has no measure
His pow'r has no boundary known unto men
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again

Jon Huxtable March 13, 1952 – July 27, 2024

On July 27, 2024, after a sudden infection that rapidly overwhelmed his hardworking body,



our beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Jon Huxtable, peacefully went to be with the Lord. He will be lovingly remembered as Pastor Jon of Parkview Church where he faithfully served for over thirty years.

He will be dearly missed by his wife Charlene and family. We have lost a man whose heart was the size of

Hamilton. <https://www.parkviewchurchhamilton.ca/>.

Mark Jones August 17, 1966 – July 5, 2024

Celebration of Life Service was held at Peace Portal Alliance Church July 20, 2024.

Wife Paula and family wrote: Marc was passionate about bringing Hope and practical solutions to people in disastrous situations. He had an adventurous spirit, active yet empowering style. He was educated with a BA in theology and MA in leadership and community development and served internationally with the Alliance.

Mark was an advocate and networker, a starter and a finisher. Mark was excited about building community development team, working with AWF and CAMA. He saw many dreams fulfilled with development of projects in Laos, leadership development and thriving in Asia, Community development networking of AWF, an elevated focus of the Alliance on Community Development Training and plans for increased holistic engagement around the world. Dreams fulfilled only our Heavenly Father could arrange--- lives changed for Christ, three amazing children with spouses who love Jesus and four delightful grandchildren.



Mark had a strong exterior but a soft heart, a brilliant mind but keenness to the whispering Spirit. We thank the Lord for loaning Mark to us for 57 years and find our Hope in the promise that Mark is now with his Lord Jesus Christ. We also put our faith in Christ

Thank you to so many who have prayed, encouraged and supported our family through the brief journey since Mark's catastrophic brain bleed. Your kindnesses are like warm hugs to our souls.

The mystery is the deep pain and deep peace of Christ in the midst. All who call on the name of Jesus will be saved. Mark and Jesus were on great speaking terms and I can only imagine the depth of their connection now. There is no greater love and hope than knowing Christ who gave his life and powerfully rose again to bring us eternal life with God. Earthly death is not the end but the new beginning for all time. Hallelujah.



We are delighted to hear what God is teaching you during this season of your life. We invite your submissions to be forwarded to waynebettyk@rogers.com

Just for a smile or two



AS YOU GET OLDER YOU'VE GOT TO STAY POSITIVE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE OTHER DAY I FELL DOWN THE STAIRS... INSTEAD OF GETTING UPSET I JUST THOUGHT, "WOW, THAT'S THE FASTEST I'VE MOVED IN YEARS"

RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE ARGUING OVER WHO LOST THE KEYS...

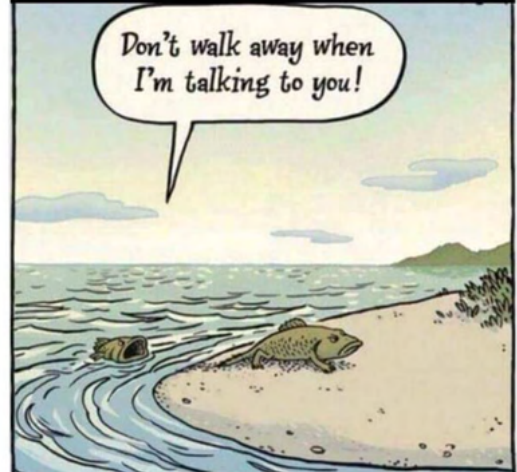


SHOULD I TELL THEM OR JUST SIT BACK AND LAUGH.

"Vaping" back in my day.



THE REAL REASON EVOLUTION STARTED....



I went to the grocery store and they now have a parking spot for Fat guys that like to grill. That's so considerate.