

#72 October 2024



CONNECTOR



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. Ephesians 1:3-4



This is the theme of this issue. It is very encouraging to get reports and see things on social media that give us a glimpse into many of our **POWER Team** members' lives. We see that even though we are retired, we have not retired from letting our lives shine before others. We are showing that the gifts of the Spirit continue on in this season of our lives, no matter where we are located/planted.

This is Part #2 of what was started in the August **CONNECTOR**. See the link [CONNECTOR-71-August-2024.pdf \(thealliancecanada.ca\)](https://thealliancecanada.ca/CONNECTOR-71-August-2024.pdf)

Some of these articles may be a wee long, but read what you can endure, and move on.

This issue starts out with Lulu Tira's expression of being planted in a nursing home where she and Joy have been given a new mission field to Bloom and influence people in the last season of their lives.

Bloom where you are planted Lulu Tira | Millwoods Manor

It's summertime and I so enjoy walking around the Shepherd's Garden Courtyard in Millwoods. Wow! The garden is blooming with beautiful flowers. This makes me appreciate God's creation, thanking Him for His love and faithfulness.

As I walk, I am always reminded of the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 55:8-11), who instructed the ancient Israelites exiled in Babylon, "**Bloom where you are planted.**"

What does it mean to bloom? To bloom means to grow and thrive through the seasons of life. Like those plants in the garden, they continue to thrive even when storms or bugs pester them. This leads me to reflect on my 72 years of life; did I bloom wherever God planted me?

I was 21 when I met Jesus personally through the IVCF. There, I accepted Him as my Saviour and Lord. It is then that I allowed God to direct my life wherever He would plant me.

I was a busy nursing student at Far Eastern University (FEU) in Manila, but God gave me the assignment to teach Sunday School in a church close to the school. Little did I know, He was preparing me for His call to be a teacher of life.

After graduation, I worked in two big hospitals in Manila until I was invited to teach nursing at my alma mater. I was intimidated by the task, so I went to the dean and declined the job; but, that night God reminded me of Joshua 1:8-10. The Lord instructed me to take the job and not fear.

I obeyed and God helped me to blossom as an instructor. Additionally, I was given the privilege to teach Bible study among the students and faculty in which some embarked on personal relationships with God. I also became an adviser with the Nurses Christian Fellowship FEU Chapter. Then I married Joy (my husband) who had the same goal and vision of life: "to go where the Lord wants us to go and to do what He wants us to do."



Joy was a trained engineer. I was a trained nurse. But we were first called to be foster parents in an orphanage where street kids were used by criminals for drug and sex trafficking. It was hard but we needed to bloom.

Joy was asked to return to Operation Mobilization (OM), where he had served before our marriage, as an engineer. This time, our toddler daughter, Lorajoy, and I were in tow. Our next home was on the ship MV Logos—assigned to a small cabin with a sofa bed.

Our ship family was composed of 120 people from different nations, cultures, and backgrounds. We would travel from port to port around the globe, visiting people of many tribes among the nations, reaching and ministering to them through books, and conferences, and welcoming many of their leaders on board.

Aside from being one of the nurses, I was assigned to laundry and cleaning on board. Imagine thousands of people visiting the ship each day, but I bloomed, so I was awarded more toilets to clean. On Sundays and while off duty we were encouraged to speak on the ship during conferences. It was my first time facing a camera for TV programming. We had extended prayer meetings once a week and prayed in different languages.

There, on board, my faith and friendship with God deepened, my prayer life deepened, and my complaints and grumpiness became an attitude of praising God in every circumstance.

My character was developed, resulting in the fruit of the Holy Spirit—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, gentleness, and goodness. While on board, one of my prayers as a missionary was for Joy to become a pastor, which God answered.

We came to Canada as students in 1981, with no money only God and His promise to care for us. We lived one day at a time looking to God for food, rent, and tuition fees. We did not ask our families for help or tell our friends about our situation, but it was amazing to see God's provision. We just had to bloom as students and sure enough, God took care of us.

Upon graduation at the Canadian Theological Seminary, Joy was asked to start the first Filipino church in Edmonton. We continued to bloom. Joy was then involved in the national leadership of our denomination, and then in international leadership.

We went back to global travel, not by ship but by airplane. I enjoyed training and teaching just as we did with OM. God enabled us to bloom wherever we were.



Then came the COVID pandemic that stopped us from travelling, followed by Joy's massive stroke, resulting in the paralysis of his left side. The doctor had given up on him, but a friend said, "He is not dying yet. God will keep using his voice in the mission."

Sure enough, God heard our prayers. Joy came out from danger. With three months at the University Hospital and another three months at the Glenrose, these hospitals became a mission field for him and for me to witness to God's goodness.

People became inspired and some prayed to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. When Joy was discharged, the Lord moved us to a new mission field — a seniors home with an opportunity to minister and care for people.

Despite the limitations, by God's grace, we have bloomed. Joy has produced three more mission books. I have authored a devotional book entitled *Life to the Fullest in a Troubled World*—a book of true stories, victory over fear, feelings of rejection and other negative feelings, even suicidal attempts and tragedies —a book on the love of God.* *Shepherd's Care* is not just a waiting place for death. It is a place for us to keep blooming, to be God's messengers of hope and love. Let us bloom here, despite our age and limitations. Point the way to a God who loves people. Let us bloom, SMILE and encourage others. *Shepherd's Care* is a rich field

Joy Tira said: "Ministries? I am retired and crippled but not crushed. Lulu and I continue to have unlimited missional engagements. With the Gospel for every generation, we are also doing ministry among seniors.

Prayer, intercession, supplication is far reaching. We can no longer travel but we can pray. We reach and connect with people through the internet, telephone, and in person. Lulu is leading our seniors Bible study in our senior's home. Seniors ourselves, the people we minister to are a neglected aging population or UPG (unreached people group) within our communities.



Lulu also ministers to me as she is the best nurse to me and I would not survive without her. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP!

I have joined Outreach Canada as a blogger and the Canadian Centre for World Mission (CCWM) as

Lausanne 4 Hot off the press: Joy Tira has had a significant role to play in the Lausanne Conferences but is not able to attend. Take a look at this link of the opening address by Rev. Micheal Oh. Every **POWER Team** person should read this.

https://www.christianpost.com/news/lausanne-4-the-most-dangerous-words-affecting-the-global-church.html?utm_source=Daily&utm_campaign=Daily&utm_medium=newsletter

One POWER Team member honoring another member

-Ron Brown (of the WCD) says of Joy Tira: “Let’s all just say it, “When I grow old, I want to live missionally like Dr Sadiri Joy Tira”!

-as you read this, you will see where you fit in on this journey

From Womb to Tomb by Sadiri Joy Tira

Review by Ron Brown

Dr Sadiri Joy Tira has been an inspiring and delightful friend over the past decades. Twenty years ago (2004) he handed me a signed hard copy of SCATTERED – The Filipino Global Presence. Other edited books have followed over the years. All have helped me to further understand diaspora missiology which became his speciality.

From his seniors home in Edmonton, global travel days are over, children and grandchildren visit, reflection continues and a new book published! (September 2024)

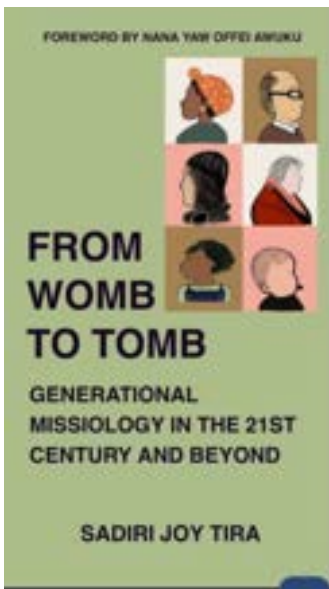
The **first** of the three sections provides a biblical contextual look at intergenerational missions. Various authors illustrate the leadership relationship between Moses, Joshua and Caleb. The story of Ruth and Naomi illustrates an intergenerational partnership. Jesus and Paul model intergenerational mission well.

The **second** section looks at this topic through the lens of sociology, anthropology and theology. What I found extremely helpful was a description of six generations and how each is defined by a set of characteristics and experiences that have shaped their worldview, values and behaviors.

- Traditionalists (born before 1946) – value hard work, duty, loyalty, respect for authority
- Baby Boomers (1946-1964) – value optimism, personal fulfilment, and work-life balance
- Generation X (1965-1989) – value independence, work-life balance and entrepreneurship
- Millennials (1981-1996) – value diversity, social justice, work flexibility and technology
- Generation Z (1997-2012) – value diversity, social activism, individuality and technology
- Generation Alpha (born after 2012) – value self-expression and individuality

“Understanding these generational characteristics can help teams tailor their strategies, communication, and engagement approaches to effectively reach and connect with different age groups and a wider audience” (p 75).

“Likewise, when intergenerational integration fails to happen in leadership, we find stagnant and underdeveloped gifts of leadership in young leaders...The Christian faith is in danger of being understood by youth as a commodity to consume like a good cup of coffee, not a community in which to belong and participate. Likewise, if leadership is only affirmed in those who have executive levels of experience it leaves younger leaders as the critical consumer” (p 77, 78).



Dr Tira then **thirdly** includes six insightful case studies from diverse authors illustrating relationships and benefits coming from intergenerational living.

The **fourth** section provides a pastoral exhortation. One chapter challenges grandparents to hold high the baton of passing the faith along to the next generations with every opportunity that comes their way. Joy Tira writes a moving final chapter begging us not to abandon grandparents when they are in the seniors home or living by themselves. He then illustrates (so typical!) how he carries out diaspora missiology in his current setting. "We are here at the seniors home for a purpose. We continue to be missional. We visit these folks who are older than us. We lead weekly Bible studies that are officially endorsed by the management; together with some of them we pray for missionaries and pastors and the young people to serve the Master in His vineyard. We visit these elderly folks in their apartment to pray for them and to assure them of God's love" (p 143).

Let's all just say it, "When I grow old, I want to live missionally like Dr Sadiri Joy Tira"!

Recently Warren Reeve wrote to Joy: Dr Joy ... Our good friend and fellow colleague. You will be missed at Lausanne next week (last full week of September). Your contribution especially to Diaspora ministry has been remarkable over the last two decades. Thanks for remaining in the game with continued contributions all the way from Edmonton. Some day again we will have coffee at your favourite ... Starbucks or Timmy's ???

Warren

Ron Brown is on a special mission. One POWER Team member mobilizing other members.

He says: 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.

So, I've found a team of reviewers, for the most part they are **PowerTeam** members 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 am 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. Seeing the credible name of the reviewer, they 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

This website will be growing by at least one new review every week.

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





Jeff Sensenstein along with wife Fiona moved to Nova Scotia upon “retirement”.

Jeff has become the transitional pastor at Grace Church of the C&MA about 500 kms away on Cape Breton Island.

He is also involved in playing with the 14 Wing Pipes and Drums Airforce.

“Bloom where you are planted”



Sunder Krishnan is mentoring a number of younger spiritual leaders. **CONNECTOR** asked Sunder to flesh out a recent communication he sent to them.

Sunder wrote: In June 2016, I retired after 36 years of a deeply satisfying ministry at Rexdale Alliance Church. Since then, I have been blessed with continuing opportunities to do three things I **love** to do, feel **equipped** to do and am **passionate** about doing: *preaching, studying and mentoring.*



As part of the last named activity, my life intersects with that of several younger pastors ranging in age from the 20’s to the 50’s +. I meet personally with many of them and am in contact with others via e mail and zoom. Periodically (hopefully when I am in tune with the Spirit’s prompting) I share some thoughts, recommendations, questions etc. with them. Here’s something I sent to them on June 20th..

In my prayer time that morning, I read this sad story of King Uzziah in 2 Chronicles 26. Here are the relevant extracts.

Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years. He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done. He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as he sought the LORD, God gave him success..... and his fame spread as far as the border of Egypt, because he had become very powerful.

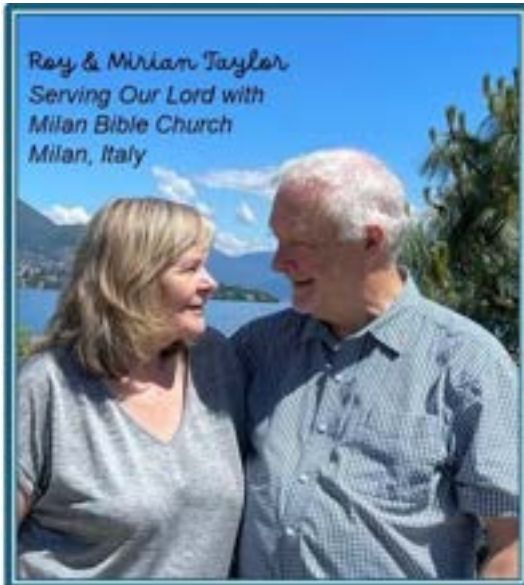
Uzziah built towers in Jerusalemand dug many cisterns, because he had much livestock in the foothills and in the plain. He had people working his fields and vineyards in the hills and in the fertile lands, for he loved the soil. Uzziah had a well-trained army, ready to go out by divisions according to their numbers as mustered by Jeiel the secretary and Maaseiah the officer under the direction of Hananiah, one of the royal officials.....His fame spread far and wide, for he was greatly helped until he became powerful.

But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the LORD followed him in. They confronted King Uzziah and said, “It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the LORD God.”

Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn incense, became angry. While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the LORD's temple, leprosy broke out on his forehead. When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the LORD had afflicted him. King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house —leprous, and banned from the temple of the LORD.

What a humble beginning and what a tragic ending. **I prayed for myself and all of you** that we will determine to finish well and fortify that determination regularly. Beware of the illusion of invincibility that might lead you to say "I will never do that". As my own pastor reminded us recently, that statement has two dangers built into it (1) The "I" means you are depending on yourself and not desperately on the Lord and His grace and (2) you won't have any guardrails to prevent you from "going" there.

Bloom where you are planted"



Roy and Miriam Taylor (CPD) have retired or just re-located again to **Bloom where they are planted"**

INFINITELY MORE

Greetings from Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada! What a difference a few days make. Last Sunday we were ministering and enjoying wonderful fellowship at Milan Bible Church in Milan, Italy and this Sunday we were worshipping with our church family here in Abbotsford and celebrating with our family. Again, we are blessed beyond measure and praise God for His daily mercies and grace.

Our last few weeks were very busy with preaching and teaching, elders meetings, women's gatherings, special events and two sets of visitors from our former ministry at International Christian Fellowship of Warsaw, Poland.

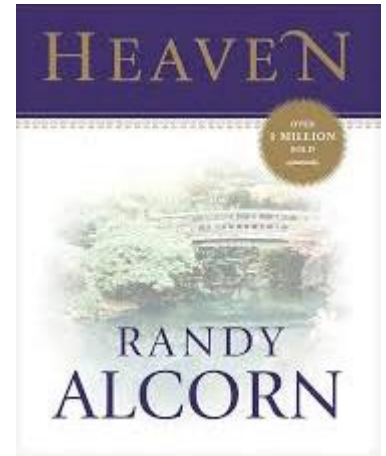
Roy & Miriam

HEAVEN: Do you have Questions about this promised place?

Ray Peters had many questions and so he submitted the following.

Like you, I have long had questions about what heaven will be like:

- What will we do?
- Won't heaven be boring after a while?
- Will there be animals in heaven? What about my pet dog?
- Will there be art, entertainment, sports?
- Will we eat and drink?
- What will it mean to "see God"?
- How will we worship Him?
- We will reign, but over what?



I've wrestled with these questions and others about heaven for a long time.

When Randy Alcorn's book was recently published I bought it and began to read! I enjoyed it so much and found it so helpful that I wanted to share what I'd learned

with others. "This resulted in the book "Heaven" becoming the subject of our Small Group's study. Fortunately, there is a study guide and video series for small groups.

A few years ago I was at a funeral where an uncle and aunt of mine sang a beautiful song, "Heaven's Sounding Sweeter all the Time..." As I grow older and more and more people I love pass away, I, too, long for my heavenly home.

Randy Alcorn's book has made heaven even more attractive. The next time I hear someone say, "We can't imagine what Heaven will be like." I will be able to say "I can!"

Ray rayanddorothy@cogeco.ca



Randy Alcorn's book "Heaven" - Published in 2024
<https://www.amazon.ca/Heaven-Randy-Alcorn/dp/0842379428>

Consider the Following

Do we as **POWER Team** members realize what is happening in our world today? Do you want fuel for your prayers regarding the generations that are following us? Then read the following and if you want the whole landscape, click on this article link.

Today, the population of Canada is 41 million and growing. Residents include immigrants, migrant workers, foreign students and refugees. The interwar population (born 1928-1945) is now in their sunset years, soon to be ushered into their resting place—tombs! Baby boomers (born 1946-1965) are retiring as Generation X (born 1966-1980) and millennials (born 1981-1996) take the “driver’s seat” and provide leadership in all sectors of Canadian life, while Generation Z (born 1997-2012) and Generation Alpha (born 2013-2021) are on the rise.

Consider these figures:

- Millennials = 23% of the national population
- Gen Z = 18% of the national population
- Generation Alpha = 9% of the national population

<https://outreach.ca/article/ArticleId/5637/The-Lausanne-4th-the-Changing-Mission-Landscape>

WHAT IS IN YOUR CUP?

I LOVE THIS ANALOGY:

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you or shakes your arm, making you spill your coffee everywhere.

Why did you spill the coffee?

"Because someone bumped into me!!!"

Wrong answer.

You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup.

Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea.

Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled.

So, we have to ask ourselves... “what's in my cup?”

When life gets tough, what spills over?

Joy, gratitude, peace and humility?

Anger, bitterness, victim mentality and quitting tendencies?

Life provides the cup, YOU choose how to fill it.

Today let's work towards filling our cups with gratitude, forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation, resilience, positivity; and kindness, gentleness and love for others..... Then we will....

.....**Bloom where we are planted”**



Practical things to do, to be a POWER Team member who is an “Excellent Resource” for “Our Workers” because you are Blooming where you are planted.

Here are 10 tips for Physical and spiritual well being as a Christian senior

1. Pray Often
2. Attend Services Regularly
3. Help Others
4. Make Meaningful Connections
5. Live In The Moment
6. Eat Well
7. Exercise
8. Go to the Doctor
9. See a Specialist
10. Be Active



If you want to flesh each of these, click on this link

<https://www.crosswalk.com/slideshows/10-tips-for-physical-and-spiritual-well-being-as-a-christian-senior.html>

During this Thanksgiving season and with Christmas coming, be sure to.....



Wayne & Betty Kerr **-CONNECTOR** compilers. waynebettyk@rogers.com

We love to hear from you as you submit His Story of where you are planted.

Do you want to catch up on past CONNECTORS?

Check this link out. Click on **POWER Team** Learn More, then click on **CONNECTOR** Newsletters

<https://thealliancecanada.ca/ministries/ministry-networks/>

A few items to make you smile while you are **Blooming Where you Are.**

THERE IS AN
ANCIENT LEGEND
THAT SAYS IF YOU
CAN'T SLEEP AT
NIGHT IT IS BECAUSE
YOU ARE AWAKE.

This morning, I accidentally
changed the GPS Voice to
"Male." Now it just says,
"It's around here somewhere.
Keep driving."

So I was in a shoe shop
this morning trying on
a shoe, I said to the
assistant "It's too
tight".

She said "Try it with
the tongue out"
I said "It'th nho ghooed,
it'th thtill thoo thight".

One day, I'm going to judge
a spelling bee.

I'll ask one of the kids to
spell the word "there."

When he asks for it in a
sentence, I'll say...

"Their car is parked over
there and they're late."

When a man says
he'll do anything
for a woman, he
means fight bad
guys and kill
dragons, not
vacuum or wash
dishes

**9 out of 10 times
when I lose
something...
it's because I put
it in a safe place.**

I think I may
need
professional
help...
A chef, a butler
and a maid
should do it.

**Procrastination is
totally a good
thing. You always
have something to
do tomorrow, plus
you have nothing
to do today.**

Sometimes I like to
mess with my husband
and hide his stuff
where he can't find it.
Like I put his shoes
in the shoe closet, his
jacket on the hanger
and his keys on the
key hook.

I'M PROUD TO ANNOUNCE
THAT I HAVE COMPLETED
THE 1ST ITEM ON MY
BUCKET LIST



I HAVE THE BUCKET

Got up at 5am, 8km run
completed, came back
prepared a vegetable
smoothie for
breakfast....
Don't remember the
rest of the dream....

A police officer came to my house and asked me where I was between 5 & 6. He seemed irritated when I answered: "Kindergarten"

Husband takes the wife to a disco. There's a guy on the dance floor break dancing, moonwalking, back flips, the works. The wife turns to her husband and says, "See that guy? 25 years ago he proposed to me and I turned him down."

Behind every husband who thinks he wears the pants... Is a wife who told him which pants to wear.

After turning 60 our brains are slower because we know so much. It takes a while to recall something from that giant storehouse of information.

Husband says, "Looks like he's still celebrating!"



"Look at those dang fool teenagers, wearin' their pants hangin' down low like a couple idiots!"



Some say life begins at 40, others say 50...
Nonsense!
Life begins when you decide to quit worrying about what everyone else thinks.

