

CONNECTOR

#65 March 2023



Branding shift

We started a branding process that began in 2019. Some things, like the logo below, have already been rolled out.



Branding shift (again)

Since January 1, 2023, we have changed how we refer to regions and countries.



The Five “S” language (Sun, Sand, Silk, Spice, and Sea to Sea) served a specific purpose for a time. Many of our church lobbies or prayer boards may proudly still display it—that’s ok! We aren’t going to force churches to stop using it—but after January 1, we have changed how we refer to regions and places.

Mostly, the branding was unclear and brought more confusion than clarity. Whenever we had conversations—even with internal staff—we had to clarify what we meant. For example, the Silk Road region didn’t include historical countries associated with the silk road. But the Five “S” language has also rightly received criticism for oversimplifying regions and people.

Our national communication now use new language to describe countries and regions. Don’t worry—you won’t need to learn new alliterations or memorize new Alliance jargon.

We'll use language that almost any English speaker already knows whether or not they go to an Alliance church: the United Nations geoscheme. For example, we'll start calling Europe, **Europe**, Asia, **Asia**. The Sea-to-Sea region will be called **Canada**. If it is safe to refer to a country, we'll use that country's English name. If it's a region, we'll refer to it with a similar naming scheme to that the United Nations uses, such as **Latin America** to describe Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. Desert Sands is now **Africa**.



This change will be gradual, but you'll start seeing it in 2023.

We are delighted with our new President Darren Herbold and his wife Naomi.

He has been travelling the country and having Circles of Dialogue in various regions of each district. We trust that you have taken advantage of these times to meet younger pastors and IWs on home assignment.

Circles of Dialogue

In these Circles of Dialogue, 4 questions were asked by Darren...

What is right with the Alliance in Canada?

What is broken?

What is confusing?

What is missing?

In the future, we are looking forward to a report on these 4 questions. In fact, President Darren would be delighted if you took the time to answer these questions and forward them to him.

darren.herbold@cmacan.org.

[Circles of Dialogue ~ Cercles de dialogue Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)



As the **CONNECTOR** distribution person and as the Volunteer Coordinator of **POWER Team** for the CCD, I was delighted to participate in the Circle of Dialogue in London Ontario. Darren gave me personal time and I am delighted to say he wants to support **POWER Team** and its leadership in honoring you who have served the Alliance ministry in Canada and around the world.

So much is changing in our world and he is committed to leading us through the challenges our churches and leaders are facing today.

He is committed to the Alliance doctrine and biblical practice for following after Christ. Please pray for Darren and his wife Naomi as they are transitioning into this ministry and living in a new province.

POWER Team members, pray for your Pastor.

In this season of our lives, most of us are not the lead pastor and carrying the weight of the overall leadership of the church. We as **POWER Team** members are reminded that our 3-point goal is

1. **Knowing how to be a Christian when we are not in control.**
2. **Having our identity in Christ and not in our ministry.**
3. **Being the next generations' greatest cheerleaders** (when church and liturgy is not the same as it was when we were leading).

Here is an article Tim Cox wrote that will encourage us to live out these 3 challenges:

According to recent studies... 4,000-5,000 pastors quit each year. They don't quit because they have a lack of faith in God. They don't quit because they don't believe in the calling God has placed on their life. Most don't even quit because of financial reasons. Pastors quit because they are overwhelmed with mental exhaustion.

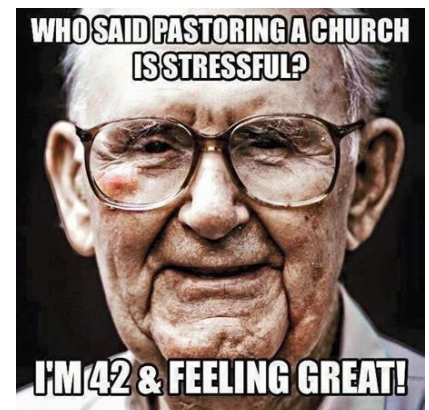


Until you're a pastor you'll never fully understand what it's like to carry spiritual burdens for people. Getting up in the middle of night, praying for your family of faith. Awakened in the middle of night with someone on your heart. Overwhelmed with concern by a person's absents or distance. Your mind continually occupied with the presentation of the upcoming Sunday message - how to preach it, what to teach on, how do we apply it? Getting critiqued on a continual basis. Being told you need to do better or that some areas of the church simply need to be better.

Pastors invest their whole life into people and yet people will turn their backs on their pastor at the first sign of a storm, usually without a conversation. Pastors stand in the middle of disputes. Pastors stand in the middle of gossip. Pastors counsel broken marriages. Pastors comfort those who have suffered loss. Pastors navigate the waters of imperfect people with a desire to see each one thrive in their faith. They long for spiritual breakthroughs. Your pastor craves the very best for you. All of this, while trying to battle their own flesh and grow in their own relationship with God. Pastors see the posts. Pastors hear the whispers. Pastors endure the negativity. Pastors are continually caring for the sheep while fending off the wolves. Pastors pour out and pour out - rarely being poured into.

What keeps a pastor going? You. You - the person who is genuinely hungry. You - the person who worships with passion and freedom. You - the teenager who is striving to be a follower of Jesus. You - the single mom who understands the beauty of the hope found in Christ. You - the one who walks through the door for the first time because you're in search of peace, hope, and community.

Pray for your pastor. Serve with your pastor. Talk with your pastor. Encourage your pastor. They are human. They need you more than you think.



WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL ABOUT THE
WORDS OF THE MUSIC WE SING
AND ENSURE THAT THOSE WORDS
COMMUNICATE TRUTH.

R.C. SPROUL

Alliance Celebrates 100 years in Cambodia

David Ens, son of Norman & Marie Ens wrote:

“The Christian & Missionary Alliance has been active in Cambodia for one hundred years. We hailed this fact with a four-day Centennial Celebration. The Cambodian Prime Minister spoke as did his son (who will most likely succeed him soon). There were thousands of Christ followers from the countryside who came to join the city folks. The last two days were a multid denominational festival commemorating a century of the gospel in this kingdom. It was exhilarating.”

It was Alliance missionaries who came in 1923 and who translated the Bible into the Khmer language. Subsequent years saw the beginning of the spread of the gospel, but Christianity was almost extinguished during the terrible years when the Khmer Rouge were in control (1975-1979). God’s word promises “A smoking flax he will not quench.” After the ousting of the Khmer Rouge in 1979, that “smoking flax” has flared into a huge flame, and now nearly 3% of the population believe in Jesus.



What a celebration it was as members of hundreds of churches gathered to praise the Lord for all He has done! At least 10,000 gathered in the open air. Indeed they “made his praise glorious” (Ps.66:2). Prime Minister Hun Sen opened the ceremonies on the first of two days of celebration. He ended his discourse by saying, in Cambodian of course, “May Jesus Christ bless you. Amen.” This brought a smile to the faces of everyone present.



A number of our **POWER Team** have served in Cambodia. The longest serving ones have been Norman & Marie Ens. Norman’s sudden death could have finished the Ens ministry. The rules of the day that IWs had to retire at 65 could have brought Marie’s ministry to an end but she said, “In 2001, I returned to Cambodia after having been invited to retire. I came



back not knowing what amazing plans the Lord had. Soon we registered our NGO with the Cambodian government. What started as a project to help a few families coping with AIDS has developed into 3 Orphan Centers and 3 University Dorms”.

Go to Youtube and search for Encounters with God - Marie Ens Episode 31 to hear about the beginning of it all.

[Encounters with God - Marie Ens - Episode 31](#) -her transition into her present ministry

[Encounters with God - Marie Ens - Episode 1 - YouTube](#) -start of Marie’s journey

[Encounters with God - Marie Ens - Episode 2 - YouTube](#)

February 6th on Facebook Marie wrote “In 140 months I will be 100 years old. The months fly by fast. “So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom” (Ps. 90:12). Marie is numbering her days.



POWER Team member **Blaine Sylvester**, son-in-law of Marie Ens and son of Mel & Miriam Sylvester is the key leader in Canada for Rescue and recently led a vision group to Cambodia.
Rescue Cambodia rescuecambodia@shaw.ca

Marie's desire for each of her fellow **POWER Team** members is summed up in this poem for Robert Browning:



“Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be,
the last of life,
for which the first was made.
Our times are in his hand
who saith, 'A whole I planned,
youth shows but half;
Trust God: See all, nor be afraid!’”
-Robert Browning, (1812-1889)

Miriam & Roy Taylor return to Milan Italy



It's hard to believe that it's been nearly 3 years since Roy & Miriam left Milan and MILAN BIBLE CHURCH because of Covid 19 and the restrictions that were being placed on church gatherings and the public in general. For all of 2020 and well into 2021 Roy prepared complete online services from their

home in Canada for the congregation at the regular service times each Sunday.

The Taylors left for Milan the end of February with return tickets on May 16th, just a few days short of the three month tourist visa allowance. At least this way they don't have to go through the arduous task of applying for Italian visas.

They are serving in Italy under the auspices of CROSSWORLD CANADA but paying their own living expenses. Pray for them as they seek to secure permanent pastoral leadership for the church.



Note: Roy graduated from CBC 1968, 54+ years ago and still ministering strong.

Matheson family gets award for the most POWER Team members



Ray and Dee Matheson:

Dean of Men, CBC; Dean of Students CBC; Professor CBC; Pastor of Evangelism and Missions, Pastor Congregational Care, Interim Senior Pastor on 2 occasions, First Alliance, Calgary, Alberta. Dee various teaching, prayer, leadership ministries. Retired in Calgary

Joyce and Floyd Grunau:

Together they ministered in Mica Creek, BC and Oliver BC; they were International workers in Indonesia working with Dyack youth and teaching at Jaffray School of

Theology; they were Missionaries in Residence, CBC; Floyd was Pastor of Personal Care, Hillsdale Alliance, Regina; Professor at Alliance Biblical Seminary. They were church planters in Manila, Philippines; Missionaries in Residence at First Alliance, Calgary; Craig was Associate Pastor, North Shore Alliance, North Vancouver; together they developed ministries to immigrants and refugees in Toronto. Joyce was also a therapist in North Vancouver. Retired in Calgary

Mora and Craig Bundy:

Youth Pastor, Assistant Pastor, Interim Pastor, (licensed by CMA) Edgewater Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois; he and Moira were Missionaries in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Quito, Ecuador, North Africa; Craig was Pastor of Share Ministries (Overseeing Missions, Immigrant Ministry, Community Impact) First Alliance Calgary, Alberta. Retired in Calgary

Gerry and Betty Matheson

Youth Pastor Owen Sound Ontario, he and Betty pastored in Tillsonburg Ontario; Gerry was Pastor of Small groups & Pastor in Care Ministries at Sherwood Park Alliance, Sherwood Park Alberta; Volunteer RCMP Chaplain in Strathcona County, Alberta. Retired in Sherwood Park

Marion Ratzlaff:

Pastor's wife Dartmouth NS, Niagara Falls and Hamilton Ont; CBC faculty wife, Advisor to Student Wives Fellowship; District President Alliance Women Central District; Coordinator Parish Nurses in the Alliance, Care Coordinator and Case Management Educator in Home Care. Retired in Hamilton.

Ruth and Morris Dirks:

Director Youth for Christ, Regina; Faculty CBC; Youth pastor Seven Oaks Alliance Church, Abbotsford, BC; Youth Pastor Salem Alliance Church, Salem Oregon; Senior Pastor Salem Alliance Church; Senior Pastor Wooden Vale Alliance Church, Seattle, Wash, founder Soul Formation. Ruth: Physiotherapist; private counselor. Reside in Portland Oregon

Dave Matheson:

Senior Technical Support SPSS/IBM, Chicago; Retired in Calgary.



Called Home;

Joan Brust.

Joan & husband Richard were in charge of the music department at CBC/CTS in the 1960s. They have been living in Indiana, Pa.



Lorna Munroe, former international worker (MK teacher) from Indonesia died last Feb. 24 at the age of 90. Her celebration of life service was held at Cedarview Alliance Ottawa March 10th

[PRINT](#)

Lorna was born in 1931 in Apple Hill, Ontario the youngest daughter of four born to John and Ida Munroe. Lorna loved: hats, scarves, and jewelry (she was a lady of style), art (appreciating it and making it), laughter, family, children (especially the mischief-makers), cats, ginger ale and chips, chocolate, music. But most of all she loved her Lord and Savior, Jesus. Her desire to see everyone know and love Him led her to become a missionary. For 36 years she served the Lord in Indonesia. And for many more she faithfully served wherever she lived.



A car accident in 2014 slowed her down but did not stop her. She had Bible studies at the first retirement home and had the many helpers at the second read the Bible to her. And she prayed – could she pray. She would want all of you to know her Jesus so that this would not be “goodbye” but “until we meet again.”

Picture on left: IW **POWER Team** members Lorna Munroe & Ruth Stanley -Ottawa



Lorna enjoying retirement rest.

in



Earla Felts, wife of Tom Felts died March 13th in Kingston Ontario. Tom and Earla pastored an Alliance Church in Smithers B.C. after graduating from CBC. They pastored in Alexandria in Ontario before Tom began his career as chaplain Federal prisons, his last being at the Kingston Penitentiary. He served at the Kingston penitentiary for a long time until retirement.

Dallas Strangway -Sept 18, 1928 – March 13, 2023



Dallas was born in Gainford, Alberta and graduated to his eternal home having lived the last number of years in Edmonton. He placed his faith in Jesus at Whitewood Beach Bible Camp an outreach of Beulah Alliance Church when he was 17. He attended and graduated from Prairie Bible Institute and then Western Canadian Bible Institute.

He married his first wife, Olga Wiebe in 1956 and they had three sons together. Merle, Gary and Ric. Merle has pastored an Alliance Church in Georgia and has a ministry there called [The Learning Edge, Inc.](#) [Merle Strangway - President - The Learning Edge, Inc. | LinkedIn](#). Son Ric has pastored Alliance Churches in Canada and is a professor at Ambrose Seminary in Calgary. He leaves behind his second wife Lil of 15 years.

Dallas started Westgate Alliance Church in Saskatoon. He went on to pastor Alliance and North American Baptist churches in Moose Jaw, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Fort St. John and Devon. Dallas was known for his loud “Amens”.

The great passions of Dallas’ life were his own family and serving Jesus through pastoring His churches. He faithfully served as a pastor for almost 50 years. Dallas will be greatly missed by his family



Miriam Charter has been on a ministry tour of both the west and eastern part of Canada, sharing her ministry story as an IW and challenging young and old to be on mission.

Some **POWER Team** members had the privilege of connecting with Miriam at one of her speaking engagements in London Ontario.

(Picture: Wayne & Betty Kerr, Miriam, Hope Reichert, Joanne Lightbody)



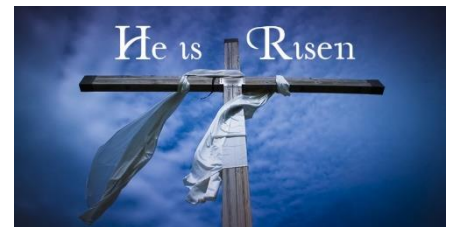
Sometimes we reminisce about the past, with feelings of joy and sadness—what could have been.

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus, “stood still, their faces downcast.” “**We had hoped** that he was going to redeem Israel.” Their former was over—the glory days were gone. After listening to the resurrected Christ, their eyes were opened, hearts burning within them, they got up. It says they were bursting with new life. “It is true!” The Lord has risen!! (Luke 14)

Nostalgia is immersion in the past. Nostalgia traps us, one foot in the present, one foot in the yesterday.

In her book, The Gift of Years, Joan Chittiser writes, “Nostalgia is a dangerous temptation to confuse love for part of life with love for all of life. It substitutes the delight of the present for the fantasies of the past.

Nostalgia is pining and yearning and longing for what was good for us in the past, but which would be totally out of kilter with the here and now.”



Jesus opened their eyes from the temporal past to the amazing gift of His presence now and forever! Wow! What a change of countenance in the disciples—downcast to bursting with new life!

Nostalgia takes us out of the present and immobilizes us in the past. The blessing is that nostalgia can serve to remind us that just as we survived all of life before this, grew from it, laughed through it, learned from it as well, we can also, through the presence of our resurrected Christ, live through this age in our lives with His grace, wisdom and courage in all the wonderful opportunities Jesus sets before us **today**.

Dear **Power Team** member, may our eyes be opened, hearts burning within us, as we seize and love today and live in all its forms with our resurrected Lord! Press on! Christ my hope in life today (and forever)!

HAPPY EASTER!! Gerald and Dorothy Hogenbirk
National Power Team Volunteer Coordinators

Encouraging you with a Smile

Baby Boomers will get this 😂
Too Funny!!



Nobody told me that when you get a husband the ears are sold separately.

I've come to the conclusion that I have a memory like an Etch-A-Sketch... I shake my head and forget everything!



I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.

My wife and I are sitting on the couch watching tv and I hear a text, realizing I left my phone in the kitchen, I get up, go to the kitchen to check it...

and its a text from my wife:

Please bring the chips on your way back

When you see one thing, BUT... it's ANOTHER

Used to be rock around the clock, now it's limp around the block.



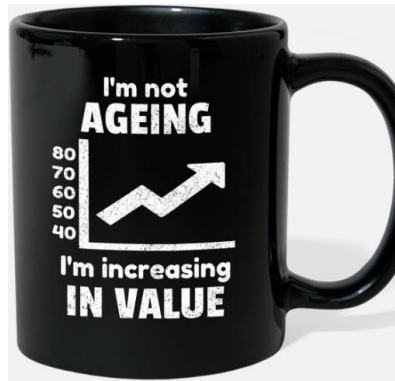
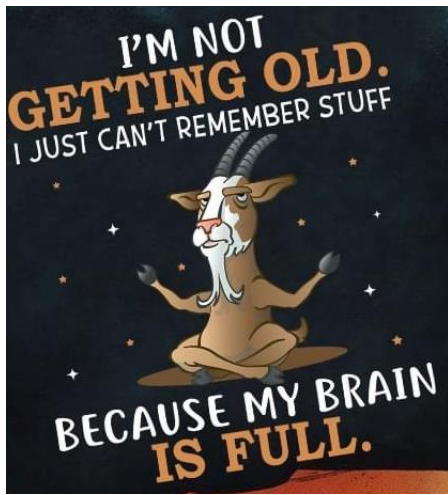
**RESPECT YOUR PARENTS
THEY PASSED SCHOOL WITHOUT GOOGLE.**



**I'm on two diets now...
I wasn't getting nearly enough food on just one**

Finally my winter fat is gone, now I have spring rolls.

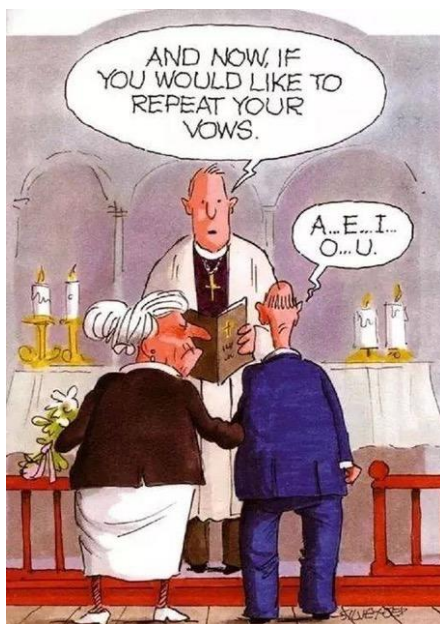
(continued)



Another romantic evening comes ... and goes



The excitement is overwhelming!



Always make sure **SOMEONE** in the relationship has good credit. That's why it's called **SIGNIFICANT** other. Sign/if/I/can't.

On our way to church, we asked our grandchild why is it important to be quiet in church. She said "Because there are people sleeping!"

I've found marriage to be very educational. For example, I had no idea there was a wrong way to put milk in the fridge.



May you have a great celebration..
.. of the RESURRECTION OF OUR SAVIOUR
...of Mother's Day in May
.. of Father's Day in June