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We note that this is our 75th issue of **the CONNECTOR**. This has been our way of connecting with IWs and Pastors who are entering, or have entered into that so-called retirement season of life (60 or so + years). Though many do not admit it, we are still very eager to claim the CPP or OAS or 55+ senior age at Shopper's Drug Mart or any other discount that is available.

We thank all of you who contribute writings or happenings to us. A few years back, we introduced a last page of "smiles" and have discovered that it is the most read portion of each **CONNECTOR**.



We want to thank each one of you for not only receiving the LOVE of God but having proclaimed by word and deed the LOVE of God to those under your care and have witnessed the transformation that God's LOVE brings.

Let this season of Valentines Day be a reminder of God's LOVE to you throughout the ups and downs of serving the One who sacrificed His very life for you and the world, as a supreme expression of LOVE.



Readings for Valentine's Day

1Cor 1-13. The Way of Love

John 3:13-17. For God So Loved the World

Mt. 22:34-40. The Great Commandment

1 John 4:7-21. God Is Love

1 Cor 1:18-30. Christ the Wisdom and Power of God: Love from the Cross

[Joel Tabora, S.J.](#)



*The leadership of **POWER** Team desire that in 2025 you will know more deeply, and express more freely the love of God in this season of your life.*

TURNING 80 or.....

There are many Baby Boomer **POWER Team** members that are closing out of their 8th decade (those in the 70s if you have trouble figuring that out) and entering their 9th decade. That is hard to believe that such numbers could ever be put next to our name.

Here is one **POWER Team** member who turned 80 in December and is leading the way for husband Nelson to join her next month in this new decade of their lives.

How to Celebrate Turning 80 by Jan Annan



“Oh, I really, really don’t think that is a good idea.” That was my initial reaction to my husband’s idea to celebrate his 80th birthday by paragliding! Jumping off a cliff and trusting a stranger with a flimsy nylon parachute to land him safely in a valley a thousand meters below seemed like a very dangerous birthday gift.

Our daughter, who is a risk-taker, thought paragliding was a terrific idea. She is also an academic researcher so began some careful investigation. The paragliding company she chose took tourists on flights but also conducted a school for paragliders. The well trained and experienced “pilots” were led by an instructor with 20 years of worldwide experience in paragliding. So, I changed my mind just hours before the event. By now it was not only my husband Nelson and our daughter going, but all five grandchildren, ages 11 to 19.

Driving up a 2200-meter-high mountain, we arrived at the ‘jump-off-point’. The view was breathtaking! The launching area was a beautiful ridge near Valle de Bravo, Mexico where our whole family was vacationing.

I watched as the skilled pilots prepared our family members to fly. Careful instructions were given including explanations as to how the thermal winds make these flights possible. They are the same winds that enable the eagles to soar higher and higher.

Each pilot is situated behind their novice who is comfortably harnessed in a firm hung chair that is securely attached to the pilot’s chair and parachute. Interestingly, although they are



so closely attached, the passenger cannot see the pilot during the flight. However, he



can communicate and hear the pilot's instructions and commentary via a transmitter.

“Take off” was extremely simple: when the pilot sensed the wind was right, he said “go.” One, two, three steps to the cliff and the wind immediately lifted the pilot and passenger. I watched as 7 from my family flew, circling around above, then continued soaring higher and higher up to 3000 meters.

From fear to faith to fascination! I went from not wanting my husband or any of my family to paraglide: to trusting the expert pilots; to thoroughly enjoying the process; to sharing the flyers' excitement.

Our paragliders were really glad they had taken the risk, even the two who experienced a little nausea. They flew like birds for 30 minutes, going higher and higher, enjoying spectacular views. Then gradually descending to the valley far below, they landed softly and smoothly. They trusted their pilots. Upon landing, they exclaimed: “It was the best experience!” and “It was awesome!”

While I was watching, I realized God was giving me a striking visual aid of coming to faith in Christ. Becoming a Christian is trusting completely in Christ, the unique Pilot. The ‘seeker’ needs to do thorough research to make sure the Pilot is qualified, truthful and trustworthy. Then to really begin to fly, it is necessary to take a leap (or at least a few steps) of faith; surrendering **totally** to the Divine Pilot who cannot be seen. But then as we live ‘in Christ’ by faith, we learn and experience that Christ is always there and always trustworthy.

Listening and then following His instructions are crucial. After those steps of faith, it is lift off. Now carried by the Wind (the Holy Spirit) one soars higher and higher. (The New Testament Greek word “pneuma” is translated both “Spirit” and “wind”.) This faith journey in Christ can never be accomplished through self-effort.



In Christ our Pilot, our life is better than awesome. In fact, it's supernatural and lasts forever! Even if the flight gets extremely bumpy or scary at times, Christ **never** leaves us alone. Best of all, eventually He will 'fly' us home to live with Him forever.

Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope **in the Lord**
will renew their strength,

Then they will soar on wings like eagles.... Isaiah 40:28-31a



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Graduands from the University of Life

now experiencing Eternal Life in God's presence.

Larry Hager Obituary

Larry Alan Hager passed away suddenly and unexpectedly, after having a heart attack on Monday, December 23, 2024 at the age of 67.

Larry was born and raised in Calgary, AB with his parents and three sisters. He attended Canadian Bible College in Regina, SK to become a pastor. He worked as a youth worker at Youth for Christ Edmonton, running Campus Life clubs in several high schools in Sherwood Park and Ardrossan. Larry also was a Youth Pastor in Edmonton and Abbotsford, BC, and a part-time Associate Pastor at Leduc Alliance Church.

He started a desktop publishing business in Edmonton at Crackmasters Leduc along with Renu Cycle. Larry would enjoy chatting with his customers while repairing their windshield or showing them the recumbent trikes.

Larry met his wife Alice while working together at Youth For Christ Edmonton. They worked together for close to 40 years until his passing.

He enjoyed the outdoors, camping, and reading Science Fiction. He was creative and was very proficient in desk top publishing, creating his own designs for work and pleasure. Riding his recumbent bike and then his trike was a passion of his. You could often see him riding down Highway 39, the Leduc paths and around Calmar. One highlight was when he rode his trike everyday for a full year, posting daily on social media, from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, even through -40 C weather, sickness, and travelling.

His friends were very important to him, he loved making people laugh with his goofy antics. His relationship with God was a priority and he was always ready to pray with people.

Larry will be dearly missed and remembered by his wife Alice (Ehrenholz) of 37 years, and his family

The funeral service was held at Leduc Alliance Church, January 3, 2025. Here is the full live stream of Larry's funeral. <https://www.youtube.com/live/d1EvKFnpZoc?si=q9-J7qqH-BrkNC92>

Gladys Schroeder October 31, 1931 – January 8, 2025

Gladys was born in Saskatoon, Sask. She met Jack at Western Canadian Bible School. After marriage in 1951, they began decades-long ministries at churches in Hearts Hill, Sk, Vermillion AB, Kelowna BC, Kamloops BC, Calgary AB, Cranbrook BC and Abbtstford BC.

After retirement, they remained in the Heritage Alliance church as dedicated attenders/supporters. Her funeral was held there January 25, 2025. Jack preceded Gladys to glory in August of 2021.

Here is the link from the funeral <https://hatv.ca/gladys/>

She lived with conviction, with determination and with faith.



Rev. Dr. Robert Henry June 28, 1933 – January 11, 2025



Robert Henry was born in Hamilton, Ontario. He is a graduate of St Paul Bible College in St. Paul Minnesota, where he met his wife Svea. In 1956 they commenced their ministry service in Vietnam with the C&MA. They were blessed with three daughters. The eldest, Karen Lynne (now deceased) was born 15 months before they set sail from New York for their first term. Daughters Lynda Lee and Virginia Jewel, a Down's Syndrome child

(now deceased), were both born in Delat, Vietnam. An informally adopted fourth daughter, Kien, a Chinese refugee from the tragic "killing fields" experience in Cambodia was taken into their family in 1980.

Due to Virginia's special needs, the Henry's returned to North America where Robert became a scientific linguist for the Foreign Service Institute of the U.S. Department of State. He taught the Vietnamese language for a short period of time in order to support his family. Later he served as a language consultant to the Institute for Behavioural Research in Silver Springs, Maryland, where he engaged in the development of a new approach to language study.

In 1968 the Henrys, along with over 30 missionary colleagues and their children, barely escaped with their lives in the infamous Tet Offensive. Most of their colleagues at Banmethuot, a nearby mission station, were either killed or kidnapped. Meanwhile, at Delat, the Henrys and their language students together with their small children, escaped Viet Cong encirclement only seconds before Viet Cong troops stormed in the buildings where they had been hiding.

At the end of that year, the Henrys were appointed to Sydney, Australia where Robert founded and directed the work of the C&MA in Australia. While there, he became a regularly invited speaker at several of the Australian Keswick conventions. After more than nine years of leadership in the Australian C&MA, including a short stint as a national conference speaker and evangelist of the C&MA in North America, he was called to be the preaching pastor of Sevenoaks Alliance Church in Abbotsford, BC. This rewarding but short appointment was interrupted in 1979 when he was elected Vice President for Church Ministries for the C&MA, headquartered at the time in Nyack, NY.

In 1984, Robert and his family relocated to Vancouver BC where he had taken a position at Tenth Avenue Alliance Church. Later the family moved to England, where Robert assisted in the reorganization for the British Missionary Alliance. He also took a sabbatical at Regent's Park College, Oxford, where he conducted research on notable British preachers of the Victorian era which was later published in 2006 as *The Golden age of Preaching Men Who Moved the Masses*.

Following this, Robert directed the work of World Relief Hong Kong among the Vietnamese boat people. In this capacity, he regularly spent time in Vietnam itself directing a program of relief and development on behalf of World Relief Corporation, U.S.A. He later became President of World Relief Canada. He eventually resigned from this position to spend a year preaching in colleges and

universities on behalf of English Language Institute China in an effort to recruit Christian English teachers to reach in universities in China, Mongolia, Laos, Tibet and Vietnam.

Robert & Svea retired and resided at Shepherd Village in Scarborough, Ontario where he continued to preach, write, and mentor Christians in the greater Toronto area before resting in the Lord at the age of 91.



Picture above: **POWER Team** member Jeanette Bucek catching up on life with **POWER Team** members Bob and Svea Henry. Jeanette and husband Gord (deceased) were church planters in New Zealand under the leadership of Bob when he was President of the Australian Alliance. At that time **POWER Team** members Jack and Jean Shannon were teaching in the Bible school there.

Picture above: Seated front left is Svea and her daughter Lynda. Those standing behind are Jean Shannon who prayed for Bob's salvation as she and a friend walked by his house in the Hamilton area. He came to Christ and the rest is History.

Next is Jeanette Bucek and then National **POWER Team** Coordinators Dorothy & Gerald Hogenbirk.
A lot of mission history with that little group.

Here is the link to **CONNECTOR** #60 July 2022 which honored the Henry's on their 70th Wedding Anniversary

[CONNECTOR-60-July-2022.pdf](#)

Betty Louise Freeman (nee Cobb) May 16, 1952 – January 18, 2025



Betty passed away suddenly on Jan 18th 2025 in her 73rd year. Betty is survived by her husband, David; daughter, Stacey Paul (Shawn) and son, Richard (Shannon), and four grandchildren.

Betty served many years as a medical office assistant, treating medical staff and patients alike with dignity and compassion. She spent several years teaching medical terminology at Mohawk College.

Betty was a passionate follower of Jesus; relentlessly representing him through her hospitality, always having space at the table for others; consistently praying for her family, friends and 'group of 7', and speaking up for justice. She believed, and is experiencing, that although she is absent from her earthly body, she is present

with the Lord.

Betty partnered with her husband as he served in pastoral and denominational roles for over 40 years. Whether in the nursery with infants, leading teens, hosting dozens of young adults in her home, or serving women's ministries, Betty's real gift was her ability to listen to and support others in their joys and burdens.

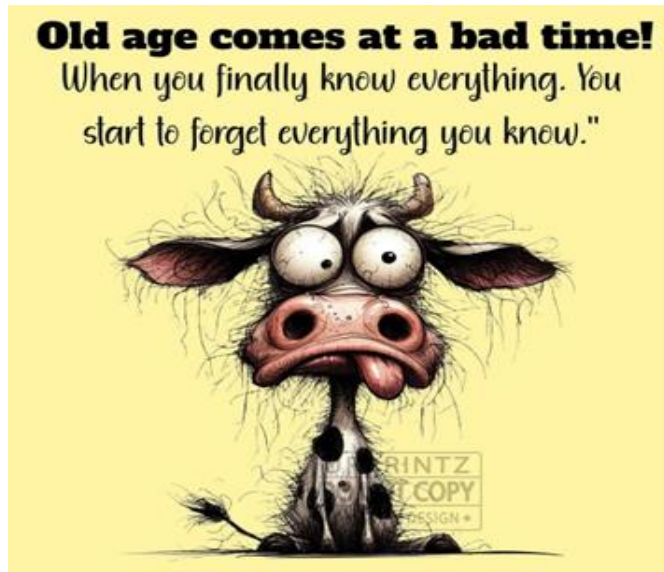
Betty influenced many lives as she loved, listened, and laughed, bringing joy, solace and sanctuary to whoever crossed her path.

Funeral Service took place at Gateway Alliance Church in Caledonia, Ontario, January 25th where David serves on the Pastoral team. . Link for the service is as follows
<https://www.youtube.com/live/3xbKM13Tguc?si=st5rzQAo-rQh4E0w>

A Smile or two after the sorrow and rejoicing of those whom God has called to Himself.



In a tremendous stroke of luck, Dr. Remley has the opportunity to perform surgery on the contractor who renovated his kitchen.



I used to look at my grandparents and think, 'I'll never be that old.' Yet here I am, livin' the dream.



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/>