



CONNECTOR

#77 June 2025



2025 seems to be moving past quickly. Here we are, already at the end of June with a heat wave that is making the vacationers of water sports very happy.

It is also the month that most of our districts have their District Conferences. I had the privilege of attending part of the CCD Conference held in Milton Ontario to hear the Presidents Report along with the Presidents of Ambrose and the President of ETAQ in Quebec.

It was a joy to attend the Ambrose Luncheon led by Marva (Parsons) Goertzen with President Bryce Ashlin-Mayo (see picture on right) bringing us up to date on what is happening at Ambrose. Both Marva and Bryce are CBC Alumni but at present do not qualify to be **POWER Team** members (though Marva is now a grandmother).



One part that caught my attention was that....

Ambrose University is no longer offering a BTH degree

-what? that is what I and President Bryce received from CBC

Read on.....

Ambrose University is reimagining ministry education to meet the needs of today's church

Ambrose University has announced a bold reimagining of its ministry education programs to better serve the church in today's complex cultural and spiritual landscape.

The announcement includes the launch of three new initiatives:

- Ambrose HUBs,
- a nationwide network of local learning communities called Start Strong. Finish Free.,
- an accelerated, cost-effective pathway to ministry leadership,

In a year of both milestone achievements and significant challenges—including the university’s largest-ever graduating class—Ambrose is taking decisive steps to adapt to the changing landscape of ministry education. With declining demand for the traditional Bachelor of Theology and shifts in how denominations are developing leaders, Ambrose has suspended intake into the Bachelor of Theology program. As a result, some faculty and staff positions have been reduced—a difficult but necessary decision to ensure long-term sustainability. Moving forward, Ambrose is launching these three new initiatives to serve the needs of today’s students and the future of the church in Canada.

“A large percentage of clergy are nearing or reaching retirement age and there simply aren’t enough new pastors to replace them,” said Bryce Ashlin-Mayo, Ambrose University President. “That’s why we’re committed to forming the next generation of Christian leaders with deeper training, greater flexibility, and stronger partnerships with the local church.”

New Ambrose Ministry Education Initiatives:

1. Ambrose HUBs Launching this fall, Ambrose HUBs will bring theological education directly into local churches, camps, and ministries across Canada. Students will remain embedded in their home ministry contexts while completing a Certificate of Christian Discipleship and/or a Diploma in Christian Ministry online—combining academic rigor with hands-on experience. These HUBs represent a new model of collaboration between the academy and the church.

2. Start Strong and Finish Free This innovative pathway enables students to complete both a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies and a Master of Divinity in just five years. The program includes practical ministry internships and offers significant financial support—including a fully funded final year through the Finish Free MDiv Scholarship. Credits from the Ambrose HUBs Diploma can also be applied toward this pathway, creating a seamless journey from local ministry training to graduate-level leadership preparation.

3. Church of the Nazarene Modular Course of Study As the official educational provider for Nazarene ordination in Canada, Ambrose University is now the sole Canadian provider of the newly developed Modular Course of Study—a non-degree, video-based program designed to equip mid-career leaders for ministry in the Church of the Nazarene. The Nazarene Modular Course of Study also flows into either the Master of Divinity, Master of Leadership and Ministry, Master of Intercultural Ministries or the Master of Christian Studies programs providing 24 credits of advanced standing with credit—providing students with seamless options for continuing graduate level education.

“We’re making faithful, forward-thinking decisions to ensure Ambrose remains a strong, Christ-centred place of learning, and a reliable partner to meet the needs of today’s church,” said Ashlin-Mayo. “We invite the church to pray with us and partner with us in this important work.”

I was encouraged to see what Ambrose is doing to prepare future Pastors and IWs. They depend heavily on our local churches to encourage their youth and young adults to know God’s calling on their lives and commission them to attend such a school as Ambrose.

-by Wayne Kerr

Graduands from the University of Life

now experiencing Eternal Life in God's presence

Brandon Davis Healey

The son of John & Connie Healey (**POWER Team** members -Pastoral, IWs, District Superintendent),



Brandon, graduated to his eternal home. Good Friday, April 18, 2025 at the age of 36.

He leaves behind his dear wife Julianne and 4 month old Walter. A celebration of life service was held May 19th, at RockPoint Church, Bears paw Campus, Calgary.

Brandon was a truly unforgettable person, and someone deeply loved by countless people. Please join us as we grieve together, commemorate the remarkable life he lived, and celebrate the impact he had on the lives of thousands of people.

Vern Delmar Dueck

January 30th, 1958 - April 23rd, 2025

After 67 years of life and a tough, 9-year battle with Parkinson's Disease, Vern Delmar Dueck has passed to a life free from suffering. Surrounded by his family, Vern was welcomed into Heaven by his Saviour, Jesus Christ.



Vern deeply cherished Lorna, his wife of 45 years, and his children, Adam and Elise. He sought out joy and brought laughter to his family daily. He taught his family to relax and to enjoy all the beauty and fun life has to offer. He worked to fill their lives with adventures and practical truths.

A University of Manitoba graduate in Physical Education, Vern began his career as Dean of Boys at Rosthern Junior College in Saskatchewan and then moved to Steinbach, Manitoba, to pursue business. After a successful career as a pizza franchise owner, Vern enjoyed new discoveries of his careers in Ontario. Vern loved earning his Certified Financial Planner designation and working in Wills and Estate planning and finally as owner of Stewardsway Financial.

Vern was an avid runner, he loved tennis, and he coached the school basketball team to a championship win. Vern also served his church as an elder and treasurer. He served the Canadian Alliance family in financial matters for many years

Celebration of Life was held May 1st, 2025 at Wellspring Church, 4457 New Street, Burlington, Ontario. <https://youtube.com/live/O3qQhVuFBZU>



Gerald Fowler

September 5, 1931 - April 13, 2025

Gerald Lemuel Fowler, beloved husband of the late Gladys (Schmick) Fowler went to be with his Lord on Sunday April 13, 2025 at the age of 93 years. Gerald was born in Calgary Alberta on Sept 5, 1931.

Gerald & Gladys are survived by both children who are **POWER Team** members, son David (Cheryl) Fowler, daughter Sandy (Tim) Cook. He is also survived by his brother Gordon (Eleanor) a former pastor and District Superintendent of the Alliance who are also **POWER Team** members.

Gerald also was delighted when his grandson Jeremy Cook recently became lead pastor of Sherwood Park Alliance Church in Edmonton.

Gerald graduated from the University of Alberta in April of 1952 and started teaching with the Calgary public school system until Dec of 1980.

Gerry was a founding member of the Alliance Church in Calgary. During his time with the Calgary Public School system, he rose to the level of Deputy Chief Superintendent in the second largest school district in Canada before moving to Toronto to serve as Vice-President of the Alliance in Canada under President Mel Sylvester's leadership for 9 years. Gerry was what they - in the old days - called a "church-man." A "churchman" was someone that we might describe as someone who is a fully engaged member and active supporter of the church who demonstrates devotion, sacrifice and uncommon commitment to the people of God.

He was fully engaged at First Alliance Church where he was a board member, Sunday School Superintendent and organist. He loved music and from his days in college he played the organ or piano for church services, radio programs such as Sunrise Gospel hour and many Youth for Christ events. He continued to actively play the piano and organ up until mere days before his passing. He also was heavily involved in the founding and acted as the first Director of Camp Chamisall.



After concluding his time in the national office of the Alliance, he returned to First Alliance as the Executive Pastor and retired in July of 1996. He loved the Alliance and the Canadian Alliance ministerial training schools, Canadian Bible College and Canadian Theological Seminary where he served as the chair person of the board during the college and seminary presidency of Rexford Boda.

We are reminded of the words of 1 Corinthians 15:20 where Paul writes that *"in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died."* Praise God that Paul is right and those words are true. Gerry Fowler joined with His Saviour, face to face, 2025 Monday of Holy Week. Praise be to God for the life he lived!

A memorial service was held May 17 in Sherwood Park, AB.

Live streaming may still be available.

[Gerald Fowler Funeral Livestream](#)

Roy Batchelor

1927 -2025

Celebration of Life Service July 26 11 a.m. at East Gate Church in Ottawa which he founded.

Roy was born August 15, 1927 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. At the age of 10 his family put all their belongings in the old Model T Ford and drove to Lulu Island, British Colombia. He later apprenticed in publishing in Victoria, B.C. He became a master bookbinder, but ultimately responded to God's calling and attended Canadian Bible College in Regina, Saskatchewan.



Known for his excellent tenor voice in the choirs and men's singing groups, he met his wife of 49 years when he was asked to sing a duet with Constance Beth Archer. They married in 1951 in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Together responding to God's call to the ministry, Roy and Connie began a lifetime of service in the CMA in 1952.

Pastor Roy opened the first Alliance Church in Vernon, B.C. in 1953 and went on as Minister to Alliance Churches in Salem, Oregon (1956-1960), Spokane, Washington (1960-1966), Winnipeg, Manitoba (1966-1975), Owen Sound, Ontario (1975-1978), Ottawa, Ontario where he launched Eastgate Alliance as well as a daughter church (1978-1988), and Barrie, Ontario which he also pioneered (1988-1993). Although retiring he and Connie remained active through other forms of ministry until her death in 2000.

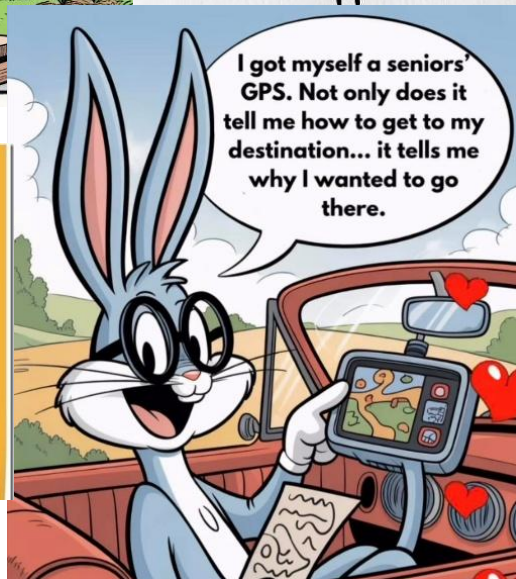
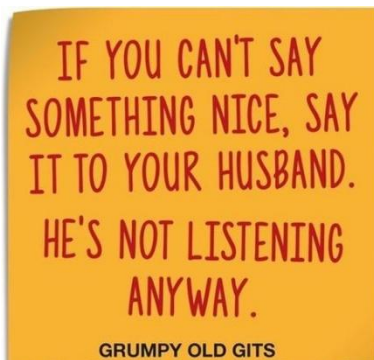
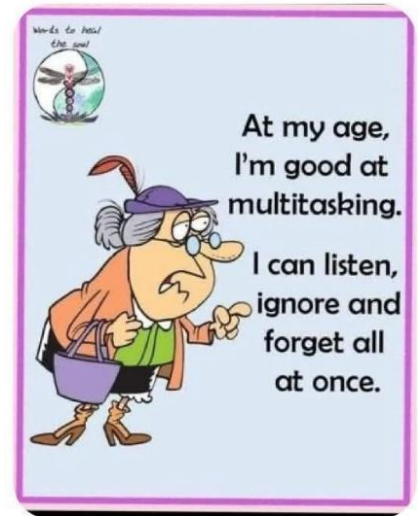
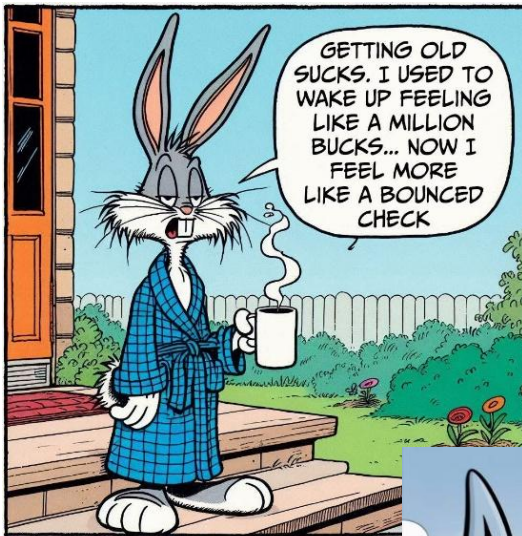
In 2002 Roy married Marilyn Reuber and they were active in the Cedarview Alliance Church until her passing in 2020. Roy moved to Midland where he lived with his daughter Judy until 2025, attending the Midland Alliance Church.

Roy always praised God for, "battles fought and won throughout the years and for the privilege of knowing so many of His precious people". He was always very grateful that, "God picked him up from a broken home and that He has used him regardless of his faults and limitations.

He expressed daily how grateful he was to God, and how happy he was to be a father to Judy, Carol and Debbie and grandfather to Taylor and Case. "I am a very fortunate man". He will be deeply missed by all those who knew him and experienced his deep faith, kindness, sincerity and generosity of spirit.

. If people are interested in watching livestream, email info@eastgatealliance.ca and you can receive the link when we are closer to the time.

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



My wife and I decided to never go to bed angry at each other. We've been awake since Thursday.



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/>

Your contributions to the **CONNECTOR** are appreciated.

Forward to Wayne & Betty Kerr waynebettyk@rogers.com 647-408-4204

