



CONNECTOR

#79 November 2025



I have been rereading some of A.W. Tozer's books. What a blessing! They're great! He was Dorothy's Pastor at Avenue Road Church in Toronto when she was a young girl. No doubt you have a copy of one of his books—why not crack it open and be blessed.

As I read short excerpts, my heart is lifted to the centre of all—God Himself—to love and know Him more, and to practice the presence of Christ.

St. Patrick, in his confessions, said that he prayed a hundred times a day and he experienced Christ with him, around him and in him. What an amazing truth. "As for me the nearness of God is my good." "Because He is at my right hand, I will not be moved."

No matter what may come today, and during this advent season, we sing, "O come, O come Emmanuel" waiting for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, and waiting for Christ's second coming, but inviting Jesus in a new way to fill my heart with His presence.

Lord, I pray that you will bring about a renewed intense longing in my heart this advent season.

May the glory of God and the presence of Christ be with you dear **Power Team** family.



Warmly,
Gerald and Dorothy Hogenbirk, National **Power Team** Volunteer Coordinators

This **CONNECTOR** contains not only the greetings from our National Coordinators, Gerald & Dorothy Hogenbirk, but the Celebration of three of our **POWER Team** members whom God called to Himself. They all could say: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."*
2 Timothy 4:7-8



Patricia Joy Adrian

July 21, 1946 - October 17, 2025

The passing of Patricia Adrian (Abbotsford, British Columbia) leaves a void in the hearts of many, as we bid farewell to a loving soul who departed on October 17, 2025 at the age of 79

In the quiet moments of reflection, amidst the gentle rustle of leaves and the whispered song of the stars, we shall carry Patricia's memory with us, a guiding light illuminating the path ahead. May Patricia's journey be filled with peace and

serenity, and may she find rest in the embrace of eternity.

Pat, a pastor's daughter, married Arden, who would also become a pastor. Together they served in church ministries for four decades, with Pat blessing each congregation with encouragement and love

She is survived by her husband Arden, their two daughters and their families.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, November 8th 2025 in Abbotsford, BC
You are able to view it with the following link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p79xH3Ajn34&t=249s> .

Arden Adrian apadrian67@yahoo.ca

Bruce Edward Rushton

April 7, 1948 – October 8, 2025

Bruce passed away after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's.

Bruce will be lovingly remembered by his wife Luci of 53 years, a son, daughter and one grand daughter. Bruce is also survived by two brothers and sister Donna Thomas (Franklin) who is also a **POWER Team** member.

Bruce's father-in-law, Murray Downey (and mother-in-law, Edna Downey) was a long-time professor at Canadian Bible College in the area of evangelism.

Bruce grew up in Hamilton, Ontario and met his wife Luci Downey at Canadian Bible College in Regina, Sask. in 1969. They were married in 1972. Bruce pastored Alliance churches in Windsor Ontario, Sherwood Park & Calgary Alberta, and Surrey BC.

In 2001 he became a chaplain with the Vancouver Fire Department but volunteered in other departments in the Lower Mainland. He was involved in the development of the CFFF (Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation) and played the Last Post regularly at their annual gatherings in Ottawa which was livestreamed across the country.



Bruce made lifelong friends in the fire departments as well as in each of the churches he served in. He touched everyone who knew him. He was known also for his trumpet playing and musicianship in leading large productions, singing and playing in bands.

A Celebration of life service was held, on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at Sherwood Park Alliance Church, Edmonton, AB.

Luci Rushton luci87@telus.net

Dan DeGaris

December 18, 1958 - October 7, 2025

Dan was a man whose ministry for the Lord was in his DNA. He loved the Lord and he loved others. Dan and Joy shared a birthday on December 18, 1958.

They met in September 1977 and were married December 30, 1978. Dan & Joy then headed to Regina Saskatchewan where Dan attended Canadian Bible College for the next 3 years. Dan was drawn to ministry and was often found working in the church whether it be cleaning or setting up, assisting the pastors with odd jobs or working with the youth.



Shortly after Dan completed his college years, he began ministry as an Assistant & Youth Pastor for Woodward Avenue Alliance Church, then moved to Associate Pastor for the now Rosewood Park Alliance Church in Regina. About 10 years later, Dan accepted the position of Assistant Pastor for Sheridan Park Alliance which meant a move across the country to Ontario. There he worked doing discipleship and equipping as well as working with the youth.

After 5 years at Sheridan, he accepted the Pastor position for Brampton West Alliance Church in Brampton Ontario. After 20 years at Brampton West Alliance Church, Dan completed his work there. In 2014, Dan was led to the ministry of Family Life Canada, Power2Change. He worked with Joy to reach out and offer help & hope to marriages and families. It wasn't long before he was asked to take on the role of Director of Development, Indigenous Ministries and was tirelessly connecting and working with Indigenous peoples (now friends) across Canada.

Aug 1- 2025, Dan was diagnosed with aggressive Metastasized Melanoma throughout his body. God called him home October 7, 2025. One of his concerns was for the students. Serving God, being faithful in ministry & life was always his top priority. Because this is so important to Dan & Joy, the courses will carry on so others can be discipled and equipped.



A Celebration of Life Service was held November 1, 2025 at Harvest Hills Alliance Church Calgary. <https://youtube.com/live/O-wDqNTQz18?feature=share> link to service JoyDeGaris j.degaris@yahoo.ca

Some info from the book **A Grace Disguised**

There are a number of our **POWER Team** who have lost a spouse in 2025. One is a former Elder of Glencairn Alliance Church in Regina that I was pastoring. Lorne Fredlund (a **POWER Team** member) began his journey when his wife Peggy was called home to be with the Lord Valentine's Day.

Before my wife Betty was called home July 30th on our 59th Engagement Anniversary, Lorne phoned Betty and spoke into her life which was very significant for her. Since Betty's death, Lorne connected with me and shared significant insights as well as welcomed support for my new journey. He introduced me to the book, **A Grace Disguised, how the soul grows through loss**, by Jerry Sittser

I am taking the liberty to pass on to you some things I underlined that struck me. These sentences will not give you the context in which they were written but I am sure will be helpful for those of us who have suffered loss as well as all of us in our journey of life.

----- parts of the first two chapters-----

"Loss leaves the landscape of one's life forever changed".

"That torrent of emotion swept away the life I had held dear for so many years. The woman/man to whom I've been married for over two decades was dead".

"The steady seepage of pain that comes when grief, like floodwaters refusing to subside, finds every crack and crevice of the human spirit to enter and erode".

"I had no way of anticipating the adjustments I would have to make and the suffering I would have to endure in the months and years ahead".

"I knew that I was suspended somehow between two worlds. One was the world of my past, so wonderful to me, which was now gone. The other was the world of my future, which awaited me. The loss brought about by the end of her/his life, changed mine, setting me on a course down which I had to journey, whether I wanted to or not. One phase of my life had ended; another, the most difficult was about to begin".

"The results are permanent the impact incalculable, the consequences cumulative. Each new day forces one to face some new and devastating dimension of the loss. It creates a whole new context for one's life".

"My wife's/husband's absence touches almost every area of my life. At times, I feel almost desperate to find just one part of my life that was not affected by her/his presence and does not therefore suffer from her absence".

"No one will ever know the pain I've experienced because it is my own. The big question is, 'what meaning can be gained from suffering, and how can we grow through suffering?'" (to be continued in Next **CONNECTOR** –Wayne Kerr)

Maybe this will help us to pray for those who are on this journey, one we all will face.



October 2025 President's update -12.15 minute report from our president

[Presidents Update October 2025 on Vimeo](#)

CONNECTOR is open for receiving submissions you feel would be of interest and a blessing to our fellow **POWER Team** members.

Pass them on to Wayne Kerr – waynebettyk@rogers.com 647-408-4204



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. Jn 3:16



....with the joy of the Lord being your strength and song. Continue to ***“let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven”***.