

## Grandparent's Day is September 12<sup>th</sup>

All of our **POWER Team** people are grandparents in one form or another. We have had the privilege of raising children and seeing the next generation come along. Others of us have had the privilege of being adult parents and grandparents to the children of others. With our mobile society, families have been separated by their jobs or by personal decisions to move to other cities, provinces and even other countries.



In our ministry, Betty and I had the privilege of being called “my Canadian Parents/Grandparents”. When we have been separated from our children or grandchildren, we have been so blessed to have others step in and allow us to be surrogate parents and grandparents. Our desire and prayer have always been from Psalm 71:18



***Even when I am old and gray,  
do not forsake me, my God,  
till I declare your power to the next generation,  
your mighty acts to all who are to come.***

The following is good information to apply to our daily lives.

## Even to Your Old Age There is New Life for Christian Grandparents.

**Article by William Farley**

What does the Bible say about grandparenting? Very little. Although past generations matter significantly to the biblical authors, the Bible does not give grandparents specific attention.

The word *grandparent* does not even appear in the English Bible. Nevertheless, we know this role is essential to God, our extended families, and our local churches.

Most of today's grandparents recognize that they face challenges previous generations did not. Old age is respected less, families are shrinking, and the desire to flee to permanent vacation tempts those with the resources.

## Challenges of Old Age

My grandfather was born in 1891 and died in 1983. In 1951, when he was 60, youth culture did not exist. William Manchester dates the emergence of teen culture in North America to the 1950s (*The Glory and the Dream*, 720-25). The word *teenager* was first coined by Bill Hailey and the Comets, but not until 1957. That was only sixty years ago.

**“We are sons and daughters of the living God. Whether old or young, that is our identity.”**

The aged were esteemed and admired back then, but this is no longer the case. In his book *Being Moral*, Atul Gawande notes that when people were asked their age in previous generations, they exaggerated upward. “The dignity of old age was something to which everyone aspired. But, today, people exaggerated downward. No one wants to be old or admit to being so. Disrespect for the aged was not such a challenge in previous generations as it is in our own. So, today's grandparents have great need to remember that we are sons and daughters of the living God. Whether old or young, that is our identity.

Another challenge is the falling fertility rate. Families used to be large. In 1955, the average Christian might have five to fifteen grandchildren. Today, it is not uncommon to have three or fewer. Our role in the lives of the next generation can feel especially thin.

A final challenge is our cultural wealth and life expectancy, which tempt many Christian seniors to go on permanent vacation. There is nothing wrong with travel or vacations in themselves, but spending our last decades on perpetual vacation is inconsistent with the gospel. In the words of Sam Storms, “The call to obedience, fruitfulness, holiness, witness, learning, leading, prayer, and worship is lifelong. It ends only when life does...The call of scripture...is to live as fully as possible for God's glory until one's dying breath.” (*Packer on the Christian Life*, 195)

Despite the passing of decades, one challenge hasn't changed. The world is fallen, relationships can be fractured, and extended family members can be selfish, greedy, insensitive, or uncaring. The world is not what it's supposed to be.

## Opportunities with Old Age

With these limitations in mind, what does it look like for grandparents to “live as fully as possible for God's glory”? It means a heart-attitude to serve with grace and flexibility---a disposition that shouldn't change with retirement. Consider a few of the opportunities in front of us.

### **LIVE AS A PASSIONATE EXAMPLE**

First, longer life expectancies provide us a golden opportunity to be personal examples to our grandchildren. Most importantly, this means exemplifying passion for Christ. A retired friend recently

told me, “I want my children and grandchildren to see me reading God’s word and praying. I want my example to convince them that Christ is the Treasure buried in the field, the Pearl of Great Price.”

## **GROW DOWNWARD IN HUMILITY**

Second, grandparenting is an opportunity to demonstrate humility. In the words of the late Dr. Packer, spiritual fruit in old age means growing “downward...into profounder humility, which in healthy souls will become more and more apparent as they age” (Finishing Our Course with Joy, 95). Humility means thinking more highly of God and less highly of yourself.

*“Let your children and grandchildren watch you sacrificially loving the local church.”*

Growing downward also means increasing in wisdom—a virtue inseparable from humility. Biblical wisdom pursues God’s great end (his glory) with God’s means (the laying down of our lives and egos). This pursuit does not cease at retirement. In fact, Psalm 92:14 promises that the righteous will “still bear fruit in old age...ever full of sap and green”.

## **DISPLAY YOUR HOPE**

Third, besides passion for Christ, humility and wisdom, grandparenting is an opportunity to exemplify hope. Life is short. Decades of experience have taught you this in ways that your children and grandchildren do not yet understand. They need to see you not living in the past, but looking forward to “a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Corinthians 5:1).

Our decades of experiences in the past will tempt us to live there, but God wants us to live in the present, for the future. “Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14). Amen!

## **DISPLAY CHRIST’S SUFFICIENCY**

Fourth, communicate with words and actions that, no matter how bad your circumstances, Christ is sufficient. Your children and grandchildren should remember you trusting God to work all things together for good (Romans 8:28). As your body breaks down, seek God for grace to radiate “joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory” (1 Peter 1:8).

I’m thinking of an 88-year-old wheelchair-bound Christian with oxygen tubes coming out of his nose. His halting speech was full of joy, hope, and praise. His whole demeanor proclaimed one simple message: “My God is big and all-sufficient.”

## **LOVE THE LOCAL CHURCH**

Fifth, love the local church. If you have lived long enough, a local church has probably hurt or disappointed you. The temptation is to withdraw. A friend recently told me that his parents, both professing Christians, had done this. He was deeply concerned, not only for them, but for the effect their example would have on his children. Please don’t drift away from the church. Yes, the bride is

not yet what she is supposed to be, but let your children and grandchildren watch you sacrificially loving your local church, warts and all.

## PRAY, PRAY PRAY

Sixth, pray resiliently. When we don't see immediate results, it's easy to get discouraged and quit praying for children and grandchildren. But that is a mistake. I met a young woman who recently became a Christian. "What brought you to Christ?" I asked.

"My parents are not Christians" she responded. "I did not grow up in the church. Still, for twenty years my paternal grandmother has consistently prayed for my conversion. I am convinced that this explains my faith in the gospel."

## INVEST IN GRANDCHILDREN

Last, take every opportunity to build a relationship with your grandchildren. Here, family traditions and customs are crucial. Some take their grandchildren to lunch each year on their birthday. Others attend their concerts, games, and recitals. I know grandparents who hosted dinner for their extended family every Sunday afternoon.

## Even to Old Age

Strive not to be intimidated by today's emphasis on youth. Yes, you are slowing down. Yes, your memory isn't what it used to be. But don't forget that Noah began his life's work past 500 years old, Abraham conceived Isaac at age 100, Caleb inherited Hebron at age 85, and the widow Anna, serving in the temple day and night, prophesied over baby Jesus at age 84.

The same God who sustained you in your mother's womb, and has now sustained you for decades, is the same God who will "not cast [you] off in the time of old age." He will forsake you not when your strength is spent (Psalm 71:9). Rather, he will walk with you "until [you] proclaim [his] might to another generation, [his] power to all those to come" (Psalm 71:18).

Even as old age and gray hairs point to our life on earth drawing to a close, in Christ we can appropriate this promise to ourselves' "Even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save" (Isaiah 46:4). This is our hope.

William Farley is a retired pastor and church planter. He and his wife, Judy, have five children and twenty-two grandchildren. They live in Spokane, Washington. He is the author of seven books, including Gospel-Powered Parenting. You can read more of his writing at his website.



# 70, 80, 90+

There are many of our **POWER Team** members that are crossing the line into the next decade. How has that happened? "How did I get here?" **CONNECTOR** is not aware of everyone who is celebrating such milestones. Only those who inform us or if found on Face Book, get to the editors' attention. We have been made aware of one **POWER Team** member in 3 of our districts across Canada who have had such a celebration.



## Ray Downey -CP District 80

-missionary, pastor, professor, VP of C&MA for missions, **POWER Team** leader

Too often we hear nice things said about a person at their funeral. Here is a tribute to Ray Downey sent to him by his daughter Kristen

Mon père, papa, today it's the big 8-0. Happy Birthday !! Waou, what a "parcours", as we say, an adventure, that you have lived, and continue to live!

This is my tribute to you today, and I want the world to know just how awesome you are. Jacques D had his way of counting the years, bless his soul, "8 + 0 égale 8". So let me share 8 reasons why I love you, in random order:

1. You are my role model on leadership, on professional values, integrity and humility - your career through to the end, at the top, always a leader...leading in service to others.

2. You taught me patience: learning to take a step back, to assess, to let be. At the same time, to question, to not be afraid to step outside the box.

3. You live in the present. How many times, do you tell me, "daughter", be all there, where you are." Live in the present. Even when my mind takes me back or I press for the future.

4. You are a man of tradition, of family. Your family counts above the rest. You have shown time and again that we - my siblings and I, the grandchildren - we matter most.

5. You love my mother, beyond measure, and hold her above all else, what a role model in love and commitment in this world of complicated relationships and heartache.

6. I have inherited so many of your solitary traits...my reflection, my quiet, my introspection, the comfort I have in my own company. So grateful to have that spirit within, to be ok, at peace, with myself.

7. And your quirks, your need to "have the last word", your wise cracks, your super confident "know it all, I'm usually right" attitude...your display of confidence, all yours, and mine.

8. You are a Godly man; you've dedicated your life to Him, and in my little girl eyes, you will always be the closest to being perfect, in His image, in this world.

So, in a nutshell, I feel pretty blessed, on this day, your 80th, to call you, my dad. I love you very alot. Happy Birthday!

By daughter Kristen Downey

## Stuart Lightbody CC District 80

-missionary, pastor, professor, VP of C&MA for 20 years overseeing Canadian ministries



What a delight to have a few **POWER Team** members in the London Ontario area surprise Stuart with an 80th birthday celebration. What a joy to hear the highlights of each of his 8 decades of living, serving and ministering. "How did I get here?" will be the theme of future gatherings, we are sure.

Here in the right photo, Nelson (taking the picture) & Jan Annan, Hope Reichert, Betty & Wayne Kerr, Joanne & Stuart Lightbody, have had the privilege of serving our Master in many countries of the world and are now serving in various capacities in "retirement" from the London Ontario area.

# Lorna Monroe EC District 90



-missionary in Indonesia

Shown in the picture with **Lorna Munroe**, former international worker in Indonesia, are **Ruth Stanley** (far left), former international worker in Zaire, and **Peggy Lee** (at back), former international worker in Indonesia.

Earlier this summer, Lorna celebrated her 90th birthday on the outdoor porch of her long term care home in Ottawa. Friends arranged for a "drive-by" visit and many of her church friends stopped by

with cards and words of encouragement.

**Ruth Stanley** writes:

"All the way my Saviour leads me,  
what have I to ask beside.  
Can I doubt His tender mercy,  
who for life has been my guide?"

"This was the song which burst from Lorna's lips a couple of months ago after we had spent an hour talking about old times. Her speech was limited, her ability to express herself in complete sentences very poor, but the words of this old hymn, clear and complete, sprang from her heart without hesitation. She is confined to a wheelchair but is happy and at peace."



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**All of our days are numbered.**



**John Pak Yuen Lee -Sept 26/47-Aug 14/21**

## Remembered with Love

John Pak Yuen Lee died on August 14, 2021 at the age of 73. He is survived by his wife, Elaine Lee.

John was born in Hong Kong. John's mother was a devoted Christian and had a great influence on John's eventual dedication of his life to the Christian ministry. His parents moved to Edmonton.

John comes from a long line of respected servants of God as well as well-respected businessmen and scholars. John loved Jesus even as a child. In grade 7 he took correspondence bible lessons which enabled him to understand God's salvation and

to accept Christ. He was very active in the student ministries during his time at St. Paul's College and later at Hong Kong Technical College (now known as Hong Kong Polytechnic University).

John came to Winnipeg in 1970 to study at the University of Manitoba where he obtained a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree in 1974. He then worked for Bell in Edmonton for a few years before returning to the University of Manitoba to continue his Masters degree program in 1978. Hoping to get a job in engineering in order to bring his fiancée, Elaine, to Canada from Hong Kong, he moved to Regina and worked for SaskTel as an Electrical Engineer in 1981. They got married in 1982.

While John was working full time, he took classes at the Canadian Theological Seminary and actively served at the Regina Chinese Alliance Church. He was an Elder leading the Missions committee, visitation program, caring initiatives and preaching when needed. Responding to the need at Moose Jaw Chinese United Church, he travelled to Moose Jaw and preached to their congregation twice a month for several years. John finally got his Masters degree in Missions and fulfilled his dream to serve Jesus full time. He joined the Winnipeg Chinese United Church (WCUC) in 2002. During the four years with WCUC, he experienced God's grace to see the growth in both English and Chinese congregations. He was excited to see more than 20 young people accept Christ and be baptized.

In 2006 he decided to return to the Winnipeg Chinese Alliance Church (WCAC) of which he had been a member since 1970. Encouraged by Rev. Tran, he applied to the C&MA to be a lay pastor at the WCAC and was ordained in 2012. He enjoyed his service at WCAC, in particular the fellowship of many brothers and sisters. John's accomplishments in his Christian ministry were all by God's grace.

John underwent heart valve replacement surgery in March 2019 which unfortunately led to many complications and his health had deteriorated ever since. He fought against his sickness courageously. He was grateful to all those who cared for him.

John was a source of tremendous love, a love that was reciprocated. He was a friendly, generous, loving, and caring pastor who touched many people's lives. His love for his wife, Elaine, was beyond words. He loved his church, his family, his brothers and sisters in Christ. He said many times when he was hospitalized, "I have no complaints and regrets. God has been gracious to me. I have peace". Finally, John completed his life journey and went to the Lord on August 14, 2021, peacefully. A Funeral service was held on August 28, 2021. Special thanks to the staff at Winnipeg Chinese Alliance Church.



At time of printing, we just heard of the following. Next issue we will pass on more information.

**Jack Schroeder** -CPD died August 6<sup>th</sup> . August 28<sup>th</sup> memorial service at Heritage Alliance Church in Abbotsford

**Rae Winston Hunter** -CPD, service held at Sevenoaks Alliance.

## A note from our National POWER Team Volunteer Coordinators.



This is not a COVID-19 hair style. This was being in touch with his time.

### 44 years ago. August 20/77 & Still in love

We'll always remember Urbana 2009 when Patrick Fung, the leader of OMF International was interviewed. He spoke of D.E. Hoste, the humble successor to Hudson Taylor, as General Director of China Inland Mission.

He was not a flashy person, but he knew every one of the 1200 workers by name, their needs, their ministries and

their children. He was loved.



He spent hours praying for them and caring for them. On his tombstone were etched the words, “**He lived to be forgotten, so Christ could be remembered.**” Wow, what a powerful epitaph to put under the dash between the first and last date!

Some of the most important workers for the Kingdom in the 21st century are the nameless people. “They make Christ visible, not themselves.” Perhaps many of us had visible roles in our ministries. That may not be the case today. Many have forgotten or are unaware of the ministries we were able to have, but Christ knows.

As **POWER team** members, much of what we do may not be visible, but that’s fine. To listen, to love, to laugh, to care, to reach out, to give, to be grateful and content, to pray and to live so Christ will be remembered is not in vain.

There will come a time in each of our lives, as in the whole of human history, when the angel will sound the trumpet and declare, “No more time”, but until then dear friends, there is still time.

*Live to be forgotten, so  
Christ can be remembered.*

May each one of us in our own unique ways, circumstances and situations live to be forgotten, so Christ will be remembered.

Gerald & Dorothy Hogenbirk  
National Power Team co-coordinators.

## District Leadership Changes

**CP District** -Errol Remple chose not to run for a 3<sup>rd</sup> term as District Superintendent.

**Mark Peters** is the CP District's new Superintendent.

Mark has been involved in pastoral ministry for 23 years, serving on the staff team at First Alliance Church (Calgary) and then as Lead Pastor at North Shore Alliance Church for 13 years.

Mark is passionate about Scripture and theology; he is particularly interested in the intersection between Christ and Culture. Mark is a strategic thinker and a collaborative leader who enjoys identifying, equipping, and empowering others.



Mark is married to Naomi and has two children, Luke (beginning university) and Anna (High School). Mark loves sports of all kinds (long distance running, soccer, tennis, and golf) and he is also a woodturner in his free time.

**CC District.** -Stephen Harbridge chose not to run for another term as District Superintendent. He has retired to live in the Windsor Ontario area. Stephen writes: "One of my retirement projects has been to launch a new blog site entitled "The Foolish Gospel". It's my new pulpit 😊

My hope is that my weekly posts will be a blessing and encouragement to your faith, and to the faith of many.

If interested, please check it out. The link is [www.thefoolishgospel.com](http://www.thefoolishgospel.com) and if you like what you read, please subscribe, and share it with your friends and relatives.

**Ian & Joyce Trigg** resigned from a 20 year ministry as Lead Pastor of Foot Hills Alliance



Church in Calgary and has been appointed as the new District Superintendent of the CCD. They have moved east and have taken up leadership as of September 1, 2021.

Ian has served in many capacities, as a Youth Pastor, Associate Pastor and of course, Lead Pastor. He also served in the Philippines

Ian is married to Joyce, which he says was the best decision of his life! Together they have three children – Kyle, Zakk and Emily

– and 2.75 grandchildren – Charlotte, Alex and TBA!! This family loves to travel and simply being

together.

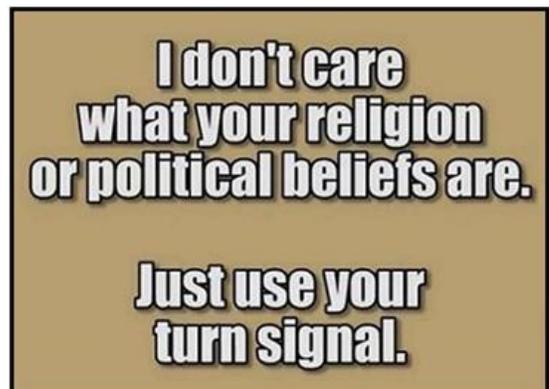
If you want to join Ian in some fun, he loves sports! Particularly, golfing, baseball, hockey and football. He also enjoys hiking, camping, gardening and reading.

Ian has yet to develop a taste for coffee but predicts that the driving situation in Ontario may change the coffee deficit in his life!

We look forward to **POWER Team** members praying for and supporting the Triggs & Peters in their new ministry challenges.



"It's still wobbling."



We did include this exam in a former CONNECTOR. We had little response from you so did not forward the answers to the questions as promised. For those who are interested we give you the exam once again with the answers. Try answering before you look at the answers.

## NEW SENIOR EXAM

We are only sending this to the brightest of our **POWER Team** friends

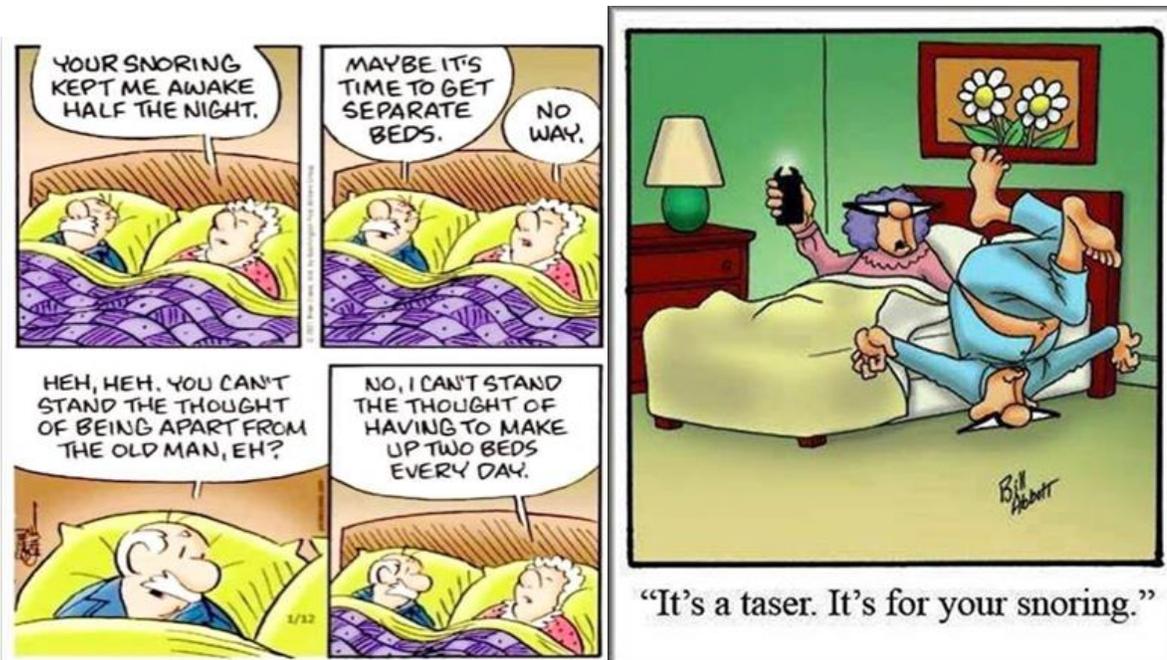
**This test will keep that dreaded disease that effects your memory at bay!**

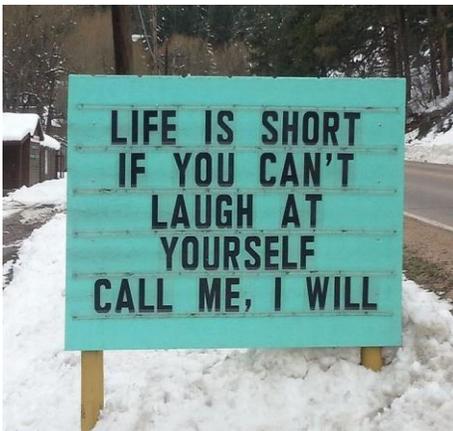
New Senior's Exam, you only need 4 correct out of 10 questions to pass.

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What color is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the color of the black box in a commercial airplane?

Remember, you need only 4 correct answers to pass.

Check your answers below ....





### ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last? **116 years**
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats? **Ecuador**
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut? **Sheep and Horses**
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution? **November**
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of? **Squirrel fur**
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal? **Dogs**
- 7) What was King George VI's first name? **Albert**
- 8) What color is a purple finch? **Crimson**
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from? **New Zealand**
- 10) What is the color of the black box in a commercial airplane?

**Orange (of course)**

What do you mean, you failed?

**(If you try to tell me you passed, you LIED!)**

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**CONNECTOR compilers** -Wayne & Betty Kerr [waynebettyk@rogers.com](mailto:waynebettyk@rogers.com)

-your contribution to CONNECTOR is welcomed.

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Date to put down -July 5-8, 2022 -General Assembly at Sherwood Park Alliance Church (Sherwood Park Alberta) A special **POWER Team** gathering is being planned.