



# CONNECTOR

#69 January 2024



We have embarked on a new year which God has given us to live for His Glory. This issue is more personal to your **CONNECTOR** compilers, Wayne & Betty, with our own personal experiences and what we might think of as losses as we have embarked on 2024. We have this **CONNECTOR** focused on Step #3 of **POWER Team, which is.....**

## ...Providing our Workers Excellent Resources

-that means, the “**workers**” are those still on the front line of ministry.

“**resources**” are the **POWER Team** members, cheering on those who are following us and being the next generations greatest cheerleaders (Step #1 point 3)

God has not promised a smooth ride in our lives. In fact, in Acts 9:15-16, God informs Ananias about Paul, that “this man in my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel, I will show him how much he must suffer for my name”.

No doubt many of us have experienced some of this suffering during our years of ministry, or in this season of life faced the physical challenges of life.

Betty and I are presently on a journey of **Knowing the God of the Mountain** as well as the **God of the Valley**. We have also been greatly encouraged by experiencing the family of God using their gifts to walk with us, learning to not only be givers to others throughout our ministry but receivers of love and care when we have been in need. On top of that, a series of messages “Under the Circumstances: Holding onto God when it appears God is no longer holding on to you”, by Andy Stanley has been an encouragement to us.

<https://ca.video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=Andy+Stanley%2C+Holding+onto+God+when+He+does+not+seem+to+be+holding+onto+you&type=E210CA0G0#id=2&vid=ce96ab26b64640818d90a9a1b994248d&action=click>

Our journey started ramping up August 23<sup>rd</sup> when Betty was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer (page 2). Then we got good news of two celebrations, that of TV Thomas 50 years of service and Lulu & Joy Tira's being honored for starting up the PALM ministry (page 7). Both of these men and spouses have been dear to us over many decades. Then in January, already, we have had the sudden death of Martin Sanders (page 3) who was on staff with us when we pastored Glencairn Alliance Church in Regina. Most recently, we were informed of the glorious entrance of Don Scott (page 5) into Heaven. Don and wife Nola were in our LifeGroup at Rexdale Alliance in Toronto.

Two songs that have helped us on this journey are God on the Mountain and Find us Faithful

## God On the Mountain

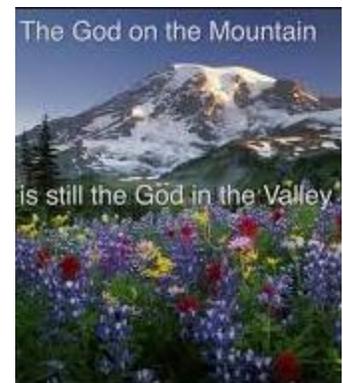
[Bill & Gloria Gaither](https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=bill%20&mid=E4033AC1949F91904FB9E4033AC1949F91904FB9&ajaxhist=0)

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=bill%20&mid=E4033AC1949F91904FB9E4033AC1949F91904FB9&ajaxhist=0> -sung by Lynda Randke

Life is easy, when you're up on the mountain,  
And you've got peace of mind, like you've never known.  
But things change, when you're down in the valley  
Don't lose faith, for you're never alone.

(Chorus)

For the God on the mountain, is still God in the valley  
When things go wrong, He'll make them right  
And the God of the good times, is still God in the bad times  
The God of the day is still God in the night



You talk of faith, when you're up on the mountain,  
But talk comes so easy, when life's at it's best.  
Now it's down in the valleys, of trials and temptations,  
That's where your faith is really put to the test.

(chorus)

Our journey began with a phone call from the Doctor stating that Betty has pancreatic cancer.

**God of the Mountain:** The family of God stepped up resulting in our connection with the President and CEO of Pancreatic Cancer North America (who has kept her promise to walk with us throughout this journey), the Chief of Radiologist at a Toronto hospital for an MRI, and the top pancreatic surgeon, all resulting in an operation within 5 weeks.

**God of the Valley:** the wheels fell off as 3 days after the operation, Betty was rushed in for an emergency operation due to a malfunctioning staple resulting in her being septic and nearly losing her life. Recovery had many setbacks. In November, we had an early Christmas with the whole family and what we thought would be the last time for grandchildren and great grand children to see grandma. Mid December there was an amazing turn around and today she is nearly 100% back with us. All those walking with us through this valley along with medical people are amazed at this recovery.



Yes, we are grateful for over 50 years of serving together and we have both entered our 80th year when we are promised “3 score and 10 years”. Paul said: *“For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me I desire to depart and be with Christ which is far better. But it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.”* Phil 1:21-24

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Here are **POWER Team** members God has chosen to take to Himself.

## Welcome Home Celebrations in Heaven



### **Gordon Nelson June 19, 1937 – December 16, 2023**

Gordon pastored the Burlington Alliance Church before serving with World Vision Canada and Christian Blind Mission International.

Gordon enjoyed teaching the Bible and helping others to enlarge their spiritual life.

The last number of years he lived at CAMA Woodlands in Burlington, Ontario. Funeral service was held at Sheridan Park Alliance Church in Mississauga, Ont.

### **Martin Sanders -January 8, 2024**



Martin played a significant role in the lives of many of our **POWER Team** members and many who are close to joining our ranks.

Martin was a professor at Canadian Theological Seminary in the 80s so he taught many of us there as well as through many conferences in the Alliance.

Martin’s wife Diannah died 9 years ago.

Martin was special to Betty and myself since he served as part time Pastor of Pulpit Ministries at Glencairn Alliance Church in Regina when we pastored there (1975-1990). Ever since his days in Regina, he always attended or showed up at General Assemblies to teach a seminar or just connect with many whom he was mentoring.



We were also blessed to pastor the family and see Martin and Diannah's children develop and eventually have significant ministries for the Kingdom. Son Bo, is a pastor today in Oregon and



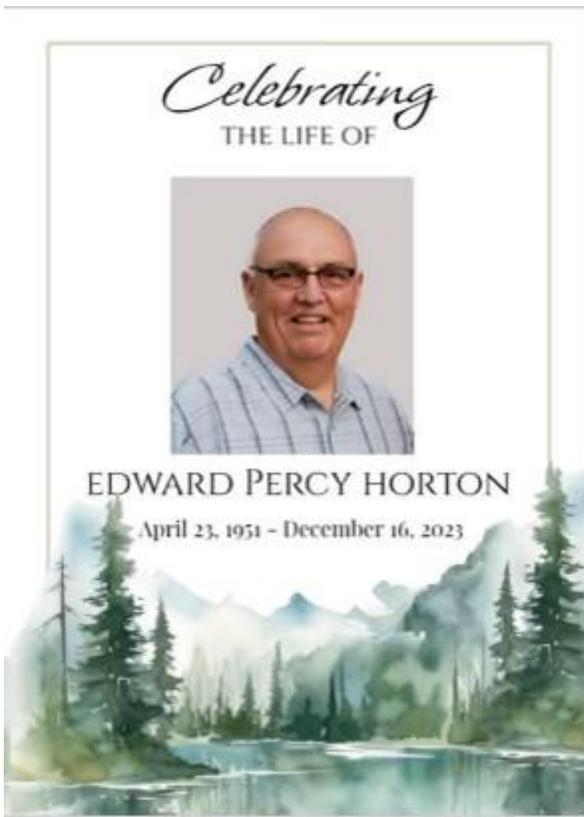
wrote: "We lost our dad this weekend. I am reduced to rubble. He was my hero and mentor and deepest friend. Most of who I am either comes from him or is directly related to him. A huge part of my heart is vacant now. This picture is from a doctoral class that I had the honor of teaching with him six times at Alliance Theological Seminary. Undoubtedly one of the highlights of my entire life."

After leaving Regina, Martin was the Founder & President, Global Leadership Ministry at Alliance Theological Seminary. He also directed the Doctoral program there.

Martin died following a brief illness. February 23, at 2 p.m. at Long Hill Chapel in Chatham, NJ "A Life Worth Celebrating".

Global Leadership sent out a notice and said "Martin is a man worthy of honor. He lived a Godly life marked by God's presence and he impacted countless numbers of people. We will celebrate his life together. We do plan to have a livestream link available as well that we will share closer to the date." <https://www.lhcnj.net>

## EDWARD PERCY HORTON 1954-2023



**EDWARD PERCY HORTON (TED)** went to be with his Heavenly Father on Dec 16, 2023... surrounded by his loving family after a long, courageous battle with cancer... Ted was born in Comox, BC on April 23, 1954 and lived all of his life in British Columbia.

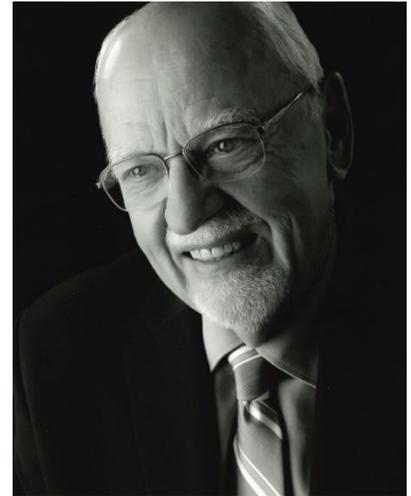
He was a jack of all trades and was never afraid to try something new. He was a Pastor, Mechanic, Teacher, Truck driver, Excavator Operator, Water and Septic Technician.

Wherever he went or whatever he did ... he was a Pastor at heart. He pastored at the Smithers Alliance and Elkford Alliance Churches. After Elkford he served with Fairhaven Ministries in the Vernon area.

Ted's wif Heather, shared many wonderful years with him , working faithfully by his side, spurring him on to hope as he battled cancer .

## John “Don” Scott -September 15, 1938-January 15, 2024

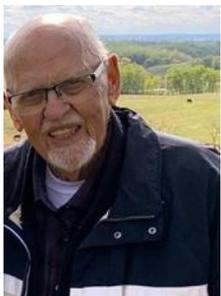
On January 15th, 2024, John Donald Scott—Don—completed his final lap of a marathon battle with leukemia. True to his nature, all day Don was fielding phone calls, encouraging people, thanking everyone who helped him, giving glory to God, reminiscing with his precious Doris, blessing his kids and grandkids. As his family, we will miss him deeply, but we take great comfort in the fact that Don, though he is gone, is now fully healed and alive with Christ as promised in John 11:25.



Don was born in Edmonton. He and his siblings were in foster homes, lacking stability until God intervened and provided a loving family for Don when he was 16. At that time, Rev. Emil Axene and his wife took Don and his brothers into their small home after their mother had succumbed to leukemia. It was under the loving, godly guidance of this pastor that Don gave his heart to the Lord.

Don served in the Canadian Navy for three years, then went on to graduate from Canadian Bible College in Regina, Saskatchewan. He was ordained by the Christian & Missionary Alliance in 1964 and served three years as a pastor in Saskatchewan before he and his first wife, Nola, went to Laos as C&MA missionaries in 1964. In 1971, he joined World Vision where he helped to expand World Vision’s work in Asia and Latin America until he and his family returned to Canada in 1983 where Don continued to work for World Vision Canada. Don was president of World Vision Canada from 1987 until 1995 and then worked closely with World Vision International leadership until he retired in 2003.

Don was married to Nola for 56 years. Together they served the Lord around the world and raised their kids with humour, grace, and deep love. It is because of our parents’ examples and witness that each of us loves Jesus. Don always said that it was because of Nola that he became the man God intended him to be. Nola suffered with dementia for ten years, and Don faithfully cared for her throughout that difficult journey until she passed away in August 2014. Dad was our role model as we cared for him these past three years.



Don was a great storyteller. He loved to share about the impact the years of walking the mountains of Laos had on his life. He would tell of the miraculous events that transpired in the last days before the fall of Saigon. Every story demonstrated his love for God and for people as well as his evangelist’s heart. We saw this same commitment to love God and people and share Jesus as he walked hospital halls in Edmonton and Wetaskiwin over these past three years.

Don leaves behind his precious wife, Doris Pearson Scott; his grown children he loved very much, As a family, we give glory to God. Don—Dad—finished his race well, by the grace of God. He always said that he never feared death because of his faith in Christ. He was believable, and we will miss him so much. A service of gratitude to God in memory of Don was held on Friday, January 26th at 1:30 pm at New Sweden Mission Church in Wetaskiwin. A livestream of the service will be available. <https://youtube.com/live/oQJoxpy2v0U?feature=share>

# POWER Team members who are being honored and still...

## ...Step #3 Providing our Workers Excellent Resources

Read/Listen and meditate on this song. Ask, "How am I doing Lord"

### Find Us Faithful

[Steve Green](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eERKnxzNzwg>

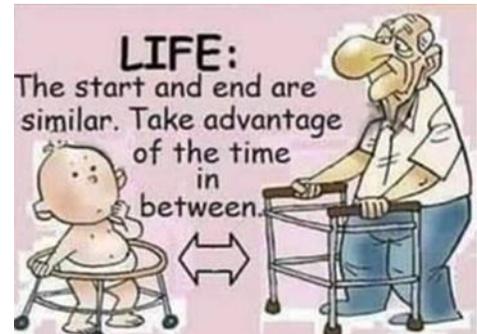
We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road,  
And those who've gone before us Line the way.  
Cheering on the faithful, Encouraging the weary,  
Their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace.

Surrounded by so great A cloud of witnesses,  
Let us run the race Not only for the prize,  
But as those who've gone before us. Let us leave to those behind us,  
The heritage of faithfulness Passed on through godly lives.

O may all who come behind us Find us faithful,  
May the fire of our devotion Light their way.  
May the footprints that we leave, Lead them to believe,  
And the lives we live Inspire them to obey.  
O may all who come behind us Find us faithful.

After all our hopes and dreams Have come and gone,  
And our children sift through all We've left behind,  
May the clues that they discover, And the mem'ries they uncover,  
Become the light that leads them, To the road we each must find.

(Chorus)



# TV Thomas Celebrates 50 years of ministry



Rev. Dr. TV Thomas was born in Malacca, Malaysia of South Asian parents. TV makes his home in Regina, Saskatchewan, with his wife, Mary and three children, Victor, Molly and Melanie.

He began his ministry as an itinerant evangelist in 1974 before he was appointed as the Professor of Evangelism for the Murray W. Downey Chair of Evangelism at Canadian Bible College and Canadian Theological Seminary from 1984-1994. Currently, TV serves as the Director for the Centre of

Evangelism & World Mission. He serves on numerous national and international boards. He is the Chair of the North American Council for South Asian Christians (NACSAC) and President of the Fellowship of Canadian Evangelists (FOCE).

His deep commitment to world evangelization calls for extensive national and international travel to minister to camps, churches, colleges/seminaries, retreats, seminars, conferences and consultations as an expositor of the Word, an evangelist and educator. [tvthomas@accesscomm.ca](mailto:tvthomas@accesscomm.ca)



## Joy & Lulu Tira Honored for launching PALM



Nov. 3, 2023 – was PALM'S 20th Anniversary at CEAC (former First Filipino Alliance Church where the history of PALM Ministry Association began) was a memorable night and God glorifying.

Lulu writes to **POWER Team** members Harold Klassen and Ron Brown: "Every part of the program showed how God orchestrated the ministry of PALM including us in the picture. It was a night of remembrance of God's faithfulness not only for PALM but to all of us. I wished all our ministry partners were there to witness the event.

Wow, God surely directed you (Harold & Ron) with the program. You are commended. It is inspiring. THANK YOU SO MUCH for honoring us. We saw the love of God and we are humbled that in spite of our weakness, limitations and shortcomings, He still can use us.

We appreciate the African attire you gave us. It is colorful.  
The flowers you gave me symbolizes “crowns” that I will put at the feet of Jesus during the “Reward Day” in heaven.

Please pray that we will finish well, that in spite of our limitations we will continue loving and serving God.  
May God empower PALM to reach to many.

For God’s glory”,  
Lulu

(leaders of PALM now are **POWER Team** members, Harold & Maureen Klassen [pmahk2@shaw.ca](mailto:pmahk2@shaw.ca) )

## **POWER Team members who have retired recently now retreaded/re-assigned**

### **Step #3 Providing our Workers Excellent Resources**

-remember, the “**workers**” are those still on the front line of ministry.

“**resources**” are the **POWER Team** members, cheering on those who are following us, being the next generations greatest cheerleaders (Step #1 point 3)

Here are two EXAMPLES of Step #3 being realized. One newly retired already back in the game and **POWER Team** members in the CP District providing a special ministry to those coming after them.

## **#1 Why did POWER Team not prepare me for retirement?**



Retirement for Fiona and I meant a succession plan as we departed Owen Sound Alliance in Ontario and moved to Nova Scotia along the Bay of Fundy.

Since arriving we were asked to meet with an independent church in Cape Breton wanting info about the Alliance. That was last January, less than a month into retirement.

Since then, this church has joined the Alliance and we have traveled up once a month to speak and encourage them.



The church is called Grace. It's located in Sydney Mines which is 571 Kilometers or 5 hrs and 44 minutes from where we live. Just get on the trans Canada and when you run out of road in the east you're there. They have planted another church, started a Christian school, a women's shelter and actively try to make Jesus known.

Why is it no one in the **POWER Team** warned me that retirement would be filled with the wonder of He who said, “I will build my church”?

Jeff and Fiona Senstenstein Youngs Cove, Nova Scotia [sensenstein@gmail.com](mailto:sensenstein@gmail.com)  
Please pray for Grace Church looking for an Alliance pastor.

## #2 POWER Team members in the CP District, produced a special ministry to those coming after them.



**Focal Point** is a support ministry, especially interested in helping small churches. It is a desire that resides in each of the four members of the team. After years of ministry in the local church, denominational leadership, and missions, Focal Point grew out of an ongoing love for the church and a desire to use God-given gifts, talents, and experiences to support small churches.

**Focal Point** does not charge small churches for its services, but is there as a resource. **Focal Point** wants to be a source where church leadership can ask questions, get some clarification, be encouraged, and get training including in areas like:

- Pastoral leadership
- Personnel Development
- Policy
- Soul Care, Pastoral Care, and Church Health
- Board Leadership Training
- Human Resources
- Charitable Law (CRA regulations)
- Conflict Resolution
- Finances
- Strategic planning

Working primarily in British Columbia, **Focal Point** ([focalpointmsn.ca](http://focalpointmsn.ca)) operates to help small churches regardless of denominational affiliation.

To date most of this ministry has responded to Alliance churches in the Canadian Pacific District. Through the district office, the D.S. and his team asking for assistance, the **Focal Point** team has been able to provide encouragement and support to church leadership.

### Meet the team:

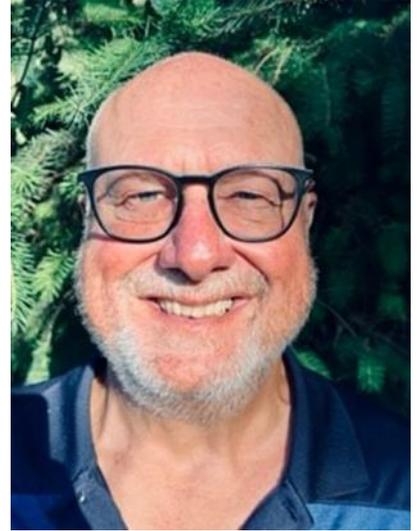


#### **Dean Cooper – Team Leader**

After a 30 year successful career in radio and television broadcasting, where he held a variety of positions, including President and Owner, he moved into church and para-church leadership. After serving as Pastor of Administration at Peace Portal Alliance Church, Dean retired following a brief ministry as Director of Finance in the Canadian Pacific District

## Brian Derksen

Brian began his career in Advertising sales at two Okanagan newspapers until his call to Pastoral Ministry in 1985. He has served in various roles in the church and district office with the CMA for over 33 years. Brian is currently the Transitional Lead Pastor at Tsawwassen Alliance Church.



## Peter Klenner

Peter has been involved in Christian Leadership for 40 years. Eight of those years as the Western Australia Executive Director of Youth for Christ. Moving to Vancouver B.C. he continued his theological studies and in 2000, Peter was ordained as an Anglican Priest and is currently the Pastor of All-Saints Community Church in Crescent Beach as well as serving the Anglican Church of the Congo as Missionary Bishop to Canada.



## Brian Thom

Brian has been in ministry for over 50 years. In that time Brian has served in local churches in various ministry roles along with roles in denominational district, university and national offices. He has served in para church roles and in missions overseas. Currently Brian is the volunteer coordinator for the Canadian Pacific District **Power Team**.



Check out: <https://focalpointmsn.ca/>

Another Resource for us: [Why Should Ministry Veterans Mentor Young Men? \(churchleaders.com\)](http://churchleaders.com)

Why Should Ministry Veterans Mentor Young Men?

By Andrew Hess -October 1, 2015

Good Link for Step #3



## **Ambrose University President Chosen:**

On behalf of the Board of Governors of Ambrose University, we are delighted to present:

**Rev. Dr. Bryce Ashlin-Mayo** as the new President of Ambrose. Rev. Dr. Ashlin-Mayo will begin his new position on May 6, 2024. This will allow him time to complete his portfolio as Dean of Theology and fully acclimate in his new role as President, Ambrose University.



We are grateful to Rev. Dr. Gordon T Smith for his commitment and passion over the last twelve years. We also appreciate his engagement in this time of transition. Your board was witness to God's hand in this entire process. A hearty welcome to Bryce and Laurie as they embrace this new opportunity. We look forward to serving the mission of Ambrose University together.

Rev. Dr. Bryce Ashlin-Mayo is currently the Dean of Theology and Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology at Ambrose University. Bryce graduated with a Bachelor of Theology (Honours) from Canadian Bible College (now Ambrose University) in 1998, a Master of Divinity from Taylor Seminary (Valedictorian) in 2008, and a Doctorate in Ministry from Portland Seminary in 2013. Before coming to Ambrose, Bryce served for twenty-five years as a pastor with The Alliance Canada. Bryce's research and writing focus primarily on pastoral ministry and digital media. Bryce has written several books, including his most recent, "Digital Mission: A Practical Guide for Ministry Online." Bryce is married to Laurie, and they have three adult children.

Kind regards,  
Debi Mills  
Chair of the Board of Governors of Ambrose University

## POWER Team members still involved in ministry write...

### Jeanette Bucek [bucekjl@gmail.com](mailto:bucekjl@gmail.com)

Jeanette is heavily involved in her church's senior ministry. She wrote recently: "the letters people submitted for the latest **CONNECTOR** were so inspiring! I wish some of them lived closer to speak to the 50 people who attend Seniors & Friends at Paramount Drive Alliance Church. Some who reach 70 think they are past their prime. Any suggestions from you and your net work of good speakers in this area and outside of our church or even the Alliance".

Jokes at the end - 😊

Thank you again for sending the **CONNECTOR**

(**POWER Team** has responded to Jeanette suggesting a number of available **POWER Team** members)

### Bob Beasley [bbeasley@bibleleague.ca](mailto:bbeasley@bibleleague.ca)

Thank you for another very "newsy" and interesting **CONNECTOR**. It is so encouraging to read about how active many who have been retired for so many years have lived long and rich, Kingdom-impacting lives. I am now 68, at Bible League Canada we have just hired a younger man to take on many of my responsibilities. Once he is onboarded, by the end of August this year I will pull back. I'm still planning of serving with Bible League Canada, but with a lot less travel and responsibility for our global ministry. I'm not talking retirement yet – I am blessed with good health and lots of energy, so will keep going in ministry for the foreseeable future. **NO SUCCESS without SUCCESSION**

My reason for the email is because I smiled when I read the first line of the S.O.S. Slower, Older, Smarter. It begins with "An Airbus 380 is on its way across the Atlantic. It flies consistently at 800 km/h at 30,000 feet." I remember hearing an Air Canada pilot say exactly the same thing while on a flight a few years back and I smiled thinking "how Canadian is this. It perfectly mixes metric and non-metric measurements in one line – traveling speed in kilometres, height in feet." Then I read the same thing in the "S.O.S". How Canadian indeed. I'm wondering how many reading it will even notice. 😊

Blessings **Rev. Bob Beasley**, UE Senior Vice President  
C: 519.350.4580

**Nelson & Jan Annan** -former pastor, IWs, Professor, now residing in London Ontario.

-as **POWER Team** Coordinators in the CC District's SW Ontario area, Nelson and Jan facilitate 2-3 gatherings of **POWER Team** members to connect, fellowship, eat and pray. As the picture shows, this was our pre-Christmas gathering (with Betty in the recovery journey).  
Left to right: Betty & Wayne Kerr, Mary EcElhone  
Back row: Gord & Cathy Brown, Nelson & Jan Annan, Joanne (Stuart taking the picture), Deb Wilkins and Hope Reichert.



We encourage **POWER Team** members to enjoy the blessings of gathering together geographically if possible. You all are leaders, so here is your chance to start, even with one other **POWER Team** member or couple. *"Encourage one another unto faith and good works"*

# A Smile

Why is it so much easier to fall asleep on the couch unintentionally than to fall asleep in bed intentionally?

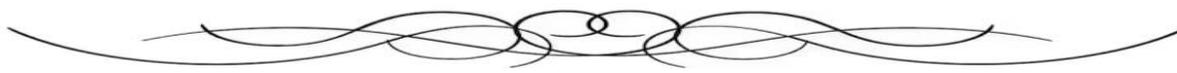


My coffee cup reminding me why I shouldn't have a donut with it.



"It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone." Andy Rooney

"The older I get, the better I used to be." Lee Trevino



**CONNECTOR** -We delight to hear from you as you share His story in your life. Remember, He is the God of the Mountain and He is the God of the Valley. Let us hear what you are learning in this season of your life. [waynebettyk@rogers.com](mailto:waynebettyk@rogers.com)

**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/>