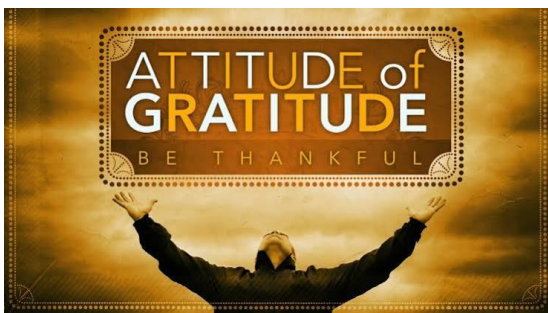




# CONNECTOR

#84 October 2026



We are thankful for the calendar of our Canadian lifestyle where we are given a day off to Remember. The majority likely just see it as a day off. Most of those days were based on the Christian Faith. We have just experienced Thanksgiving. The next will be Remembrance Day where we honor those who gave their lives for our freedom (those who died or were wounded or are living veterans). We have Christmas to remind us of the incarnation of God in the person of Jesus, then Easter, reminding us of the death and resurrection of Christ.

In this our 84<sup>th</sup> Issue of Connector, we want to remember you, our **POWER Team** members. You committed your lives to vocational service in the army of our Lord to bring peace to the hearts and lives of those you served locally or globally. There are those veterans who have graduated to their eternal home. There are those who have experienced the wounds of ministry, spiritually or with physical ailments of the aging body, and yet are serving where God has planted you.



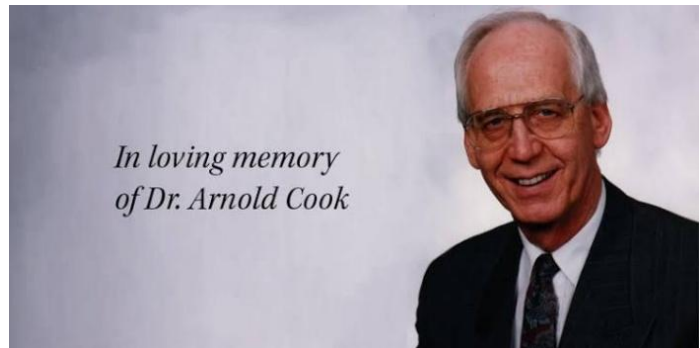
Our desire is that as you read through this issue, it will inspire you to connect with and honor those who have gone before you, or with whom you are journeying now in this stage of life, that have been an encouragement and support in your life of service.

We begin by an article written a few years ago by Joy Tira, about a former president of The Alliance. Joy himself served God faithfully, even when his physical body, the temple of God was debilitated.

**Joy wrote:**

Let us not forget our great leaders. Dr. Cook was a pastor, missionary, and educator. He was a respected global missions' strategist. As president of the Christian & Missionary Alliance Canada and Alliance World Fellowship, Dr. Cook worked "outside of the denominational box". He was also a Kingdom-collaborator, and on a personal level, Dr. Cook was my first supporter, a cheerleader of the work that God had put close to my heart, and a friend.

When I was young pastor, Dr. Cook recommended me and my wife to a Christian Foundation Study in Israel—the Holy land where the Master Jesus walked. Then, when others were skeptical about Diaspora Missiology, a field of study close to my heart, Dr. Cook encouraged me to "go for it with gusto!"



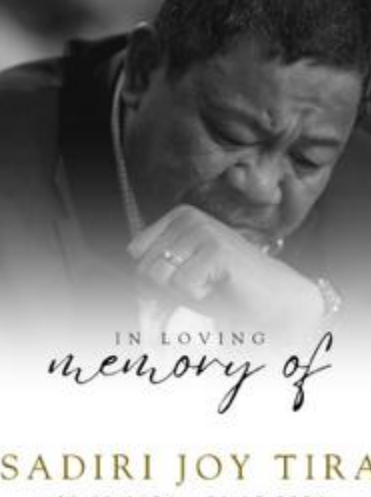
We were on the same page about Albert B. Simpson — the founder of the denomination, Christian & Missionary Alliance, and who we consider was the first C&MA "Diasporalogist." I was privileged to watch Dr. Cook's life modelling at close range while I served with him on the denominational board of directors.

My last unplanned conversation with Dr. Cook, was at an obscure Tim Hortons outlet between Lake Huron and Owen Sound, ON—there we had an hour for coffee and "do-nuts." I was honoured he let me buy him a "double – double. On our way out from the fast-food store, he inserted a \$50 bill inside my pocket. Dr. Cook was a generous Uncle Arnold!

In later years, I had the privilege of visiting him in his seniors home in Scarborough, ON. There he was alone and very weak, seated facing the window. He was silent, but he was not embarrassed to show his tears (only God understand those tears) and he whispered, "Thank you Pastor *amigo* Joy" after I prayed. I will always remember Dr. Cook.

The book I recently edited, *Regions and Around* (PageMaker, Canada. 2017) was dedicated to Dr. Arnold Cook on whose shoulders I was privileged to sit atop! On this Remembrance, I thank God for Arnold's life ministry and godly lifestyle. As I write this brief tribute, I pray that God would raise up, from a new generation, another Rev. Dr. Arnold Cook





IN LOVING  
*memory of*

**SADIRI JOY TIRA**

03.23.1956 - 09.15.2026

March 23, 1956 – September 15, 2026

He taught us to be lifelong learners, to “swim” beyond our own pond, and to see people not only in their brokenness, but for who they were through the grace of God. He often played devil’s advocate, pushing us to explain what we believed, consider other perspectives, and see the person behind the position.

fiercely advocated for people (especially those easily overlooked), reminding them they had something meaningful to contribute.

Ultimately, that is the story we want to tell. Not how far Dad travelled or what he accomplished, but that Jesus knew him, called him, walked with him through it all, and now welcomes him home.

**– Lorajoy and Tony** (Joy & Lulu's Children)

[illegible]

After 25 years of faithful ministry to Princeton Alliance Church, Pastor Boyd retired. From cleaning the floors, to becoming lead pastor at PAC, he impacted so many lives. All we can say is “thank you”!

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1D8jFeddnR/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



## **Eleanor Marion Keith** February 11, 1939 - September 10, 2026



It is with deep sadness and gratitude that the family of Eleanor Marion Keith says farewell to a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. We grieve the loss of someone who was such a deeply loved and special part of each of our lives. Our family is thankful that her struggles and suffering are over and that on September 10, 2026, she peacefully went home to be with Jesus.

Eleanor & Dennis served together for nearly 63 years.

Eleanor spent the first five years of her life in Glenbush, Saskatchewan, before moving with her family to Saskatoon, where she received her education. She graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1961 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and spent the next two years teaching nursing students, sharing both the knowledge and the art of caring for those who were sick.

A pivotal moment early in Eleanor's life occurred after a Sunday evening church service, when she placed her faith in Jesus Christ. It was a decision that shaped her choices, her service to others and the years that followed. On September 21, 1963, she married Rev. Dennis Keith, and together they built a life centered on faith, ministry and family.

As Dennis and Eleanor served in ministry with The Alliance in several Western Canadian communities, Eleanor became known for her generous hospitality, quiet wisdom, gifted Bible teaching and genuine care for others.

One of Eleanor's many favourite verses was: "My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart. He is mine forever." Psalm 73:26

The family suggested that any donations in honor of Eleanor would go to Woven International through The Alliance Canada, supporting women and girls affected by human trafficking in Southeast Asia.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 16, 2026, at Erindale Alliance Church, 310 Perehudoff Crescent, Saskatoon.

## **Richard L. Brust**    May 26, 1934- September 4, 2026



Richard was predeceased by his wife, Joan Vanderhorst Brust, in 2023.

Richard moved to Pittsburgh with his family when he was 9 years old and eventually graduated from Bellevue High School. He received a Bachelor of Sacred Music from Nyack Missionary College in 1958. He received NY State Teaching credentials from Ithaca College and taught High School Music in Odessa Montour High School. He continued his education, earning a Master's of Music in Vocal Performance and Choral Conducting at Manhattan School of Music in New York, NY. He studied at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in pursuit of a PhD in Louisville, KY. He was employed by Gulf Oil in Pittsburgh immediately following his high school graduation.

In 1964, the family moved west to Regina, Saskatchewan, where Richard became the Director of the Music Department at Canadian Bible College and Canadian Theological Seminary. In 1979, Richard and Joan returned to Nyack, NY, to Nyack College and worked for 4 years in the Development Department and another 4 years in the Music Department and as Director of Christian Service. He and Joan then spent another 7 years in itinerant concert ministry across North America, until 1994 when they moved to Columbus, OH as Minister of Music. From 1995 until 2001, He served as Minister of Music at First Alliance Church in Toledo, Ohio.

**From the CONNECTOR editor:** Many of our Alliance pastors and IWs attending CBC/CTS in the 60s & early 70's were trained in conducting, music theory and basic music knowledge. I was not in the music department but he was influential in having me be the Music Director of the Moose Jaw Alliance Church (Pastor Bob Willoughby was the Sr. Pastor). This was my first "paid" pastoral ministry taking the bus Thursday evenings to Moose Jaw for choir rehearsal and again on Sunday mornings (with Betty 1967-1968).

One conducting exam, he had every student go to the front of the class. He would pick a hymn out of the hymn book and the student had to conduct that hymn in front of the class. For some unknown reason he had it out for me. He picked a relatively unknown hymn for me. Once we got started I noticed that the 4/4 time switched half way through to a very different timing (I have yet to find that song in the old blue hymn book). At the end, the whole class was anxious to find out from Mr. Brust how it was supposed to have been conducted. Very sheepishly, he had to admit that I had nailed it. Maybe that is why he did not send a music student, but me, to travel through many snow storms to Moose Jaw that year.

### **POWER Team Veteran surfaced after many years**

Recently, **CONNECTOR** saw the name of Royal Hamel in social media, so the connection was made. Royal served faithfully in our Alliance Family for many years: Mica Creek, BC, 74-77, Westside Alliance in Regina, 80-83, Ramos Mejia, Argentina, 85-88, missionary to Mexico, 89-93, Guelph Alliance church, 93-2000, part-time youth pastor at Chinese Alliance Church in Kitchener, Ontario. 16-18.

What a delight to be reunited. Royal passed on to us the following article of his present journey.

## My four years as a quadriplegic -Royal Hamel

Four years ago, at 73, life was full and deeply satisfying. I was in excellent physical and mental health, played competitive table tennis at a senior's club, cycled Guelph's trails several times a week, and, though semi-retired from pastoral ministry, still preached regularly.

Then, in January 2022, everything changed. I was suddenly paralyzed from the chest down. Doctors believe years of blood thinners damaged my upper spine. One moment I was living my usual life; the next, I was in a hospital bed facing a reality I could scarcely understand.

My first months were spent in hospital because my care needs were too great for home. I then went to a rehabilitation centre in Toronto, hoping to walk again, but left with little improvement. I am an incomplete quadriplegic, with limited use of one arm and hand, and for the past three years I have lived in a retirement residence with round-the-clock care.

Since my youth, I have followed Jesus as Saviour and Lord, and this trial has tested my faith more deeply than anything else in my life. In those early months, I lived in shock and denial and at times wished for death. Yet in that darkness, the Lord met me in an unexpected and powerful way. During one of the most painful days I have ever known, I had a vision. I saw a figure standing before me in a dark suit, holding a book taken from his pocket. On its cover were words I will never forget: **Royal Hamel is loved by God**. In an instant, my heart turned from despair to praise and surrender. I came to receive this path as part of God's sovereign will, and Christ gave me grace to live one day at a time. My life goes on, and in my suffering, I will continue to bear witness to him.



God has carried me far emotionally, and over time I have come to accept many of these losses. My daily prayer is that my life would honour Jesus. Even here, the Lord has given me ministry. The home where I live recognizes me as a pastor and invites me to preach once a month. I also lead a weekly Bible study on my floor, usually attended by eight to ten people, and encourage staff through prayer, counsel, and spiritual support. The Lord also led me to begin a Facebook blog, which I have written for nearly three years.

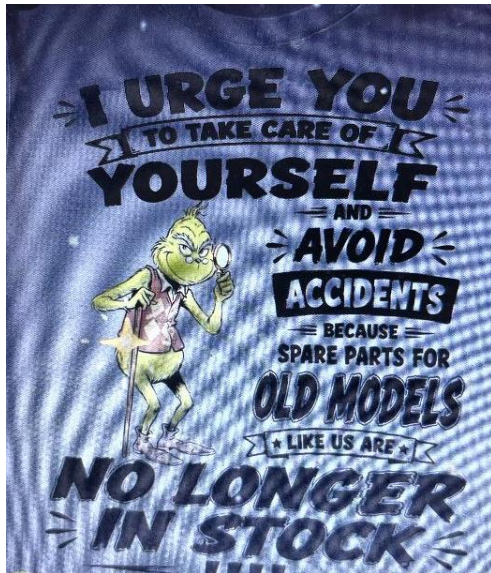
Through this valley, the Lord has deepened my faith and taught me to trust him more fully. In dependence on him, I have learned something of prayer and come not only to accept but perhaps even cherish the losses and crosses of life as a quadriplegic. My life is very different from what it once was, yet God has not ceased to be faithful. To him be the glory in all things.

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Recently I personally connected with Royal who is a **POWER Team** member that fell through the cracks with no communication for many years with his Alliance Family. I sure hope there are not more with the same alienation from the family they have served with. Royal's wife, Linda, has her own physical challenges including very poor eyesight so she is not able to drive (the 40 minutes) to visit Royal. Others have to drive her so they can be connected.

If you have known Royal and Linda in the past, we are sure they would love to connect with you, so, send him an email [vivacristo1517@gmail.com](mailto:vivacristo1517@gmail.com)

## A smile or two



**SCIENCE SAYS THAT WE NEED AT LEAST 4 BASIC ELEMENTS TO SURVIVE.**

1. Water
2. Air
3. Food
4. Light

**AND LOOK WHAT THE BIBLE TELLS US ABOUT JESUS.**

1. I am the Living Water
2. I am the Breath of Life
3. I am the Bread of Life
4. I am the Light of the World

**SCIENCE WAS RIGHT, WE NEED JESUS TO LIVE.**

8:53 am

**WHAT DO YOU CALL A MELON THAT'S NOT ALLOWED TO GET MARRIED?**

**CANTELOPE.**



**HAVE YOU EVER TRIED EATING A CLOCK?**

**IT'S REALLY TIME CONSUMING, ESPECIALLY IF YOU GO FOR SECONDS.**

**I tried to come up with a carpentry pun that woodwork. I think I nailed it but nobody saw it.**

**Wedding vows should include...**

**"Do you promise to always help him find his stuff that is right in front of him" because you will be doing that forever.**



Please send your contributions for the CONNECTOR to:  
[waynebettyk@rogers.com](mailto:waynebettyk@rogers.com) 647-408-4204

