



POWER **TO** CHANGE

ISSUE 3 // SUMMER 2018

Following
Faithfully

Differences
& Drift

Hollow
Places

Conflux

Contents

Feature

14 | HOLLOW PLACES

LeaderImpact helps marketplace leaders find their anchor in Christ as Calgary is rocked by an economic downturn.



6 | FOLLOWING FAITHFULLY

Fern Cyr explores how to combine faith and business for a life of greater impact.

9 | BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

FamilyLife shares their favourite books for strengthening your marriage and family.

10 | DIFFERENCES & DRIFT

Neil Josephson shares wisdom for the challenges every marriage will face.

22 | CONFLUX

Lives converge to bring clean water and hope to over one million people in Benin.

27 | IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

Kari Leoganda chats with Power to Change Magazine about her journey as a mother, entrepreneur, and ministry founder.

30 | MINISTRY QUESTION

Members of WHEN reveal their passion for "heart-engaging" ministry.

POWER TO CHANGE MAGAZINE

REAL. LIFE. CHANGE.

Issue 3 | Summer 2018

MINISTRY MISSION

Power to Change helps people know Jesus and experience His power to change the world.

Power to Change has been seeking to fulfil the Great Commission since 1967.

FEEDBACK

20385 64 Ave
Langley, BC V2Y 1N5
P2C.COM
604.514.2000
feedback@p2c.com

SOCIAL

Facebook @powertochangecanada

Instagram @powertochangecanada

Twitter @powertochange

P2C MAGAZINE

Editor: Danielle Kinvig

Art Director: Chris Montgomery

Copy Editor: Erica Shelley

Graphic Designer: Daniel Giesbrecht

Photographer: Chris Montgomery

Staff Writer: Stephanie Cooper

Contributing Writers:

Fern Cyr

Neil Josephson

Erica Shelley



It just so happened...

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

When unusual circumstances align perfectly, is it mere coincidence?

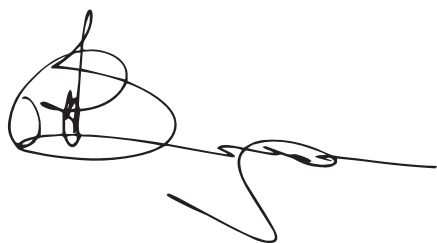
I believe that God cares deeply for His creation; therefore, what seems like coincidence may be the sovereign Lord at work in our lives. The Bible is full of these “it just so happened” moments, including Ruth gleaning in Boaz’s fields, Abraham’s servant meeting Rebekah at the well, and Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem prior to Jesus’ birth.

In this third issue of Power to Change Magazine, I am struck by how God orchestrated the details to bring the message of the gospel to people in need. In our feature story, “Hollow Places”, the city of Calgary reels from the economic downturn, but LeaderImpact is there to help hurting marketplace leaders anchor their identity in Jesus Christ. In another article, a woman—whom I met in Benin—prays and God brings not only drinking water, but also living water to her village.

I hope you will be encouraged and inspired by these stories and glimpses of our God at work. As it says in Proverbs 3:5-6: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

It is a privilege to serve alongside you to help people know Jesus and experience His power to change the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rod Bergen', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

ROD BERGEN
President



Power to Change

* HIGHLIGHTED
IN THIS ISSUE

ATHLETES IN ACTION (AIA)

Reaching people with the message of Jesus through sport.

CHRISTIAN EMBASSY

Inspiring political and diplomatic leaders with the Person and values of Jesus.

CONNECTING STREAMS

Equipping and mobilizing the Church to help society's marginalized know Jesus and experience His power to change the world.

DRIME

Helping people encounter Jesus through drama and meaningful, gospel-centred conversations.

* **FAMILYLIFE**

Providing help and the hope of Jesus to marriages and families in every stage of life.

* **GLOBAL AID NETWORK (GAIN)**

Demonstrating the love of God in both word and deed to those living in crisis and facing injustice.

THE JESUS FILM CHURCH PLANTING STRATEGY

Using the *JESUS* film to introduce people to Jesus, disciple new believers, and plant churches.

* **LEADERIMPACT**

Helping leaders explore the relevance of faith in God in their professional and personal lives.

POWER TO CHANGE – STUDENTS

Engaging students with Jesus' life-changing message and equipping them to live for Him for a lifetime.

THE LIFE PROJECT

Walking alongside people online to help them know Jesus.

* **WOMEN'S HEART-ENGAGING NETWORK (WHEN)**

Connecting women in their heart language to each other, Jesus Christ, and the local church.

Clean water changes everything.



REVEALING HOPE. RESTORING LIFE.

Global Aid Network demonstrates the love of God in word and deed.

globalaid.net



Following Faithfully: Fern

Fern Cyr

Contributing Writer

As Power to Change celebrates its 50th anniversary, there are a multitude of stories to share. God's faithfulness can be seen through each of these accounts. Below is one such example from Fern Cyr, chairperson of LeaderImpact's Calgary City Team.

I was living two different lives.

As an executive in the male-dominated industry of oil and gas, I was a driven businesswoman focused on efficiencies and profit margins. At home and in my community, I was a woman who loved family and God. No one saw my full personality.

However, when I was 30, my two worlds collided. I was pregnant, and when I shared this news with my colleagues, their response was, "Wow, I thought you were just a career woman."

That hurt. I realized then how segmented my life had become. I hadn't let anyone at work see my love for children, let alone my passion for Christ. In that moment, I made the conscious

decision to share all of myself wherever I went.

Previously, as a woman in high-level leadership in Calgary, I chose my words and timed my comments carefully. When I began to bring my whole self to the table, however, I grew confident in sharing my values openly. I was no longer Fern, career woman—I was Fern, a woman passionate about leadership, faith, family, and fitness.

Throughout my career, positions of leadership gave me a platform as a person of faith and as a woman in the marketplace. At one point, I managed a production unit in the oil fields, which was an unusual job for a woman at the time. I also had the occasion to work in the United Kingdom as a finance director, in a culture where women rarely rose to senior positions. These opportunities to forge the way for women helped me realize that we all have untapped potential. I was a woman in a powerful position showing other women that it is possible to live out your values and succeed in the business world. As the years passed, I saw the difference I could make not only as a woman, but also as a passionate follower of Jesus.

In the corporate environment where I worked, talking about religion was taboo. We weren't even supposed to say "Merry Christmas." As a manager, I needed to be especially careful about my words as we were



expected to demonstrate compliance. However, I found a way to live out my faith at work while still following the rules: vulnerability. The more I shared about myself, the more others approached me directly about matters of faith. Once, after I introduced myself and my values to a new team, a young woman came forward to ask me for a church recommendation. Sharing my priorities opened the door to talking about faith.

Several years ago, around the time I retired from my career in the oil and gas industry, I was introduced to LeaderImpact, a ministry of Power to Change. I began connecting with other marketplace leaders in Calgary on a weekly basis about our shared passion: integrating faith and leadership.

I am a firm believer that if you commit to something, you should give it your very best. So after a year of involvement with LeaderImpact, I became the chairperson for the Calgary City Team—a group of likeminded leaders who have a vision to transform the city of Calgary with the message of Jesus Christ.

While I had spent years leading others in the business world, LeaderImpact helped me develop as a spiritual leader. When I first became involved with the ministry, I was uncomfortable praying aloud in groups, and much preferred to pray in private conversation with God. The weekly meetings with my contemporaries helped me appreciate the power of prayer, and I became increasingly comfortable praying in public. Now, I pray with more confidence and have even been so bold as to pray with people over the phone.

My involvement with LeaderImpact has resonated deeply with my commitment to be one person everywhere. God has created

each one of us with a unique purpose, and I've learned that part of mine is to be a strong female leader. I am passionate about helping people become more competent in their leadership capability, but more importantly, I am committed to being a leader who demonstrates the love of God.

Love is not a word often uttered in business. But if we can show love and compassion in how we act as business leaders, we can present a powerful witness of Christ without even using words.

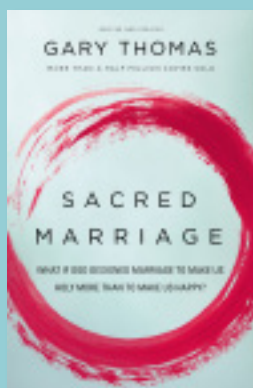
When sharing the gospel, I've learned that it's not "one size fits all." It comes down to being mindful of who you're talking to and their reactions. Body language is also very important. When I travelled to Colombia with LeaderImpact recently, my business background opened the door to talking to people, but it was my commitment to living out my faith wherever I went that really intrigued people and led many to commit their lives to Christ.

I have come a long way from being the woman who didn't dare show her whole personality. Now, as I continue to share my faith with others, I pray that God will show me the way, equipping me with the right words at the right time. I strive to live my life with care, and to show others how the love of God can change your life—not just your work life, or your home life, but your *whole* life.

Love is not a word often uttered in business. But if we can show love and compassion in how we act as business leaders, we can present a powerful witness of Christ without even using words.

Book Recommendations

FamilyLife shares their favourite book recommendations
to enrich your marriage and family relationships.



Sharol's Pick

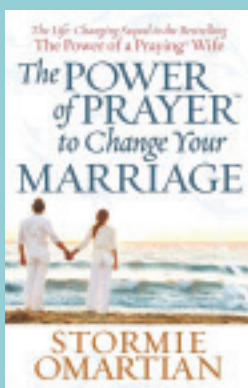
Sacred Marriage

by Gary Thomas

Gary Thomas speaks as a theologian to guide us to the true purpose of marriage, and as a pastor to help us rethink our attitudes and behaviours in marriage. More than how-to's and tips, this book inspires readers to think more deeply about their own lives and relationships. Every Christian couple should read this book.

Sharol Josephson

National Director



Neil's Pick

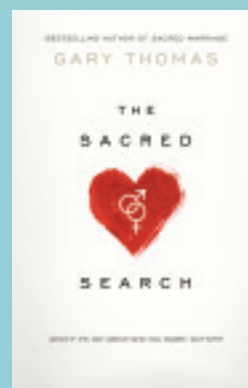
The Power of Prayer to Change Your Marriage

by Stormie Omartian

This is the kind of book that you don't need to read cover to cover in order to benefit from. Simply look at the table of contents, find the chapter you need to read (topics include money, children, anger, sex, in-laws, plus many more), and dive in. Each chapter offers wisdom from the author, relevant Biblical passages, and suggested prayers. It's like having a spiritual director for your marriage.

Neil Josephson

National Director



Mindy's Pick

The Sacred Search

by Gary Thomas

"What if it's not about who you marry, but why?" Gary Thomas offers sound advice and practical tools for those considering marriage at some point in their lives. He challenges cultural norms and adds a valuable Biblical perspective to the purpose of marriage. Take the time to discover your relationship style and find out why "being in love" may not be the best predictor of a lifelong satisfying relationship.

Mindy Black

Director of Operations

FAMILYLIFE 



Differences & Drift

Wisdom for the challenges every marriage will face

Neil Josephson
Contributing Writer

Why is marriage so natural and easy at one moment, and so difficult and complex at another? Why do some marriages grow in love and finish together, while others grow cold and end in divorce? Two words: differences and drift.

Dealing with differences

One of the greatest marriage myths today is the belief that conflict in our relationship is proof that we married the wrong person, that we are a bad couple, or that we have no future together.

Let's explode that myth right now! Research from the Gottman Institute reveals that couples who are unhappy in their marriages estimate that 69 per cent of their marital conflict is over perpetual issues—essentially, over fundamental differences such as personality, expectations, gender, family backgrounds, and spiritual gifts.

The same study asked happily married couples how much of their conflict was over perpetual issues and they replied...69 per cent! Happy couples have just as many differences as unhappy ones; they've merely


learned how to deal with them.

Here's the typical scenario: at first, the differences are what attract us to the other person. We find the disparities intriguing—even cute—so we try to accommodate them. But after a while, the behaviours or habits that used to amuse us begin to annoy us, and we set out to eliminate them. Often, we try to change our partner with toxic tools like criticism, shame, or withholding love.

Trying to eliminate differences is fruitless and painful, leading many couples to look for the exit. But there is another way—a path every couple that grows in love for a lifetime has discovered: **deal with differences by learning to appreciate them.** You really can be better together.

If your partner is quieter and calmer, be grateful—they help keep you on an even keel. If your partner is louder and more emotional, be grateful—without them life could be dull. Spenders and savers can be a great team if they learn to appreciate each other's perspective. Logical thinkers and emotional processors can be twice as smart, but only if they will learn to appreciate their differences instead of eliminating them.

Remember this: **the goal is to be together, not to be the same.** If you are feeling the rub of differences between yourself and your spouse, you're normal! Recognizing differences is not the beginning of the end; indeed, it can be



the road to a great marriage of mutual appreciation and enhanced strength. This is what Billy Graham was describing when he said of his lifelong marriage, “Ruth and I are happily incompatible.”

Navigating drift

Early in marriage, couples are most often surprised, confused, and then discouraged by their differences; later in marriage, the number one challenge couples contend with is navigating the drift. There is a spike in divorce rates among couples who have been married for 20 to 30 years, and it is almost always rooted in this issue.

It shows up in comments like, “*We don’t love each other anymore*”, “*I feel like I don’t know him/her anymore*”, “*Nothing is terribly wrong, but it just doesn’t feel like it used to*”, or “*We’ve grown apart*”.

The fact is that couples don’t grow apart, couples drift apart. Navigating drift begins with identifying the different currents in our lives that may be pulling us in opposite directions. These can be

cultural currents, such as a pervasive pessimism and cynicism about marriage, leading to temptation and encouragement to leave. We are also influenced by external currents such as schedule, family, and friends. Alongside these cultural and external currents, the internal current of our own brokenness and sinful selfishness can also cause distance.

About 20 years into my marriage to Sharol, we had drifted so far apart that we were almost completely out of touch with each other. While we were not immune to cultural pessimism about marriage nor unaffected by our own internal baggage, the biggest contribution to our drift was the external currents.

We had two careers that were going strong and demanding more and more of our time, including over 120 nights a year apart due to business travel. We had two sons in elite athletics necessitating multiple weekends of travel and competition, often in different cities. We were volunteering in our community, as well as playing a role in a church plant that began meeting in our home. We were running so far over

the redline for so long that we lost touch with each other.

The turning point came when we went away for a weekend intending to have fun and found ourselves staring at each other, sad and distant and more than a little lost.

Here are two strategies we used, and continue to use, to reverse the drift and to reconnect:

Keep your eye on the destination. In that cold and distant place we found ourselves that weekend, we did know this: we wanted to grow old together with a lifetime of love and memories and an undivided family around us. We didn’t look at the gap between us and give up; instead, we pictured a lifelong marriage and a future together with our kids and grandkids. That is a vision worth working towards.

Schedule regular time to reconnect as a couple. It was clear to us that if our external currents (our schedules and work) were causing us to drift, we would have to make changes. We had to fight the currents, take charge of our schedules, and deal with the drift.



Here is a simple formula we adopted to battle drift in the midst of busyness:

- ~ 10 minutes a day of couple talk (not about kids or chores and *no devices*).
- ~ A half day or evening a week spent together. This is what some refer to as “date night”, but don’t feel trapped by a specific activity like going out to dinner and a movie. Instead, this should be a time to do something that you both want to do, something that creates closeness, whatever that may be. If that is a traditional date night, go for it. Anything will do if it helps deal with the drift resulting from busyness.
- ~ One day every month doing something that renews your relationship. Think back to what you did together when you were dating or newly married. Learn

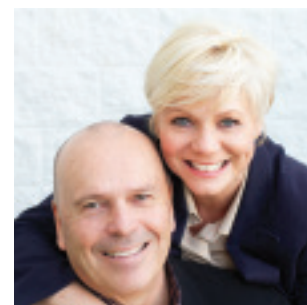
something new together, hike, garden, golf, ski...what you do is unimportant as long as it is something you both find significant.

- ~ One weekend a year to renew your relationship and learn some new tools to improve your marriage. A FamilyLife Canada Weekend Getaway would be a perfect choice for this, or you can make up your own weekend.

Differences and drift. No couple is immune to these two realities, but every couple can learn to deal with the differences and navigate the drift. My wife and I, along with several other couples, would love to help you on this journey. Check out familylifecanada.com for more resources and a schedule of live events.


Equipping couples with the tools they need to help their marriages and families thrive, Neil and Sharol Josephson are the National Directors of FamilyLife Canada, a ministry of Power to Change. For more than 25 years, FamilyLife Canada has been teaching, training, and equipping families to grow closer to each other and to God. They believe that the ultimate and lasting strength of every marriage and family is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

We didn’t look at the gap between us and give up; instead, we pictured a lifelong marriage and a future together with our kids and grandkids. That is a vision worth working towards.





HOLLOW PLACES



Calgary's core has been hollowed out, and with it, the identity and purpose of many marketplace leaders.

Stephanie Cooper & Danielle Kinvig
Staff Writers

When gas and crude oil prices plummeted in 2014, Alberta was sent into a tailspin. Companies' bottom line projections went deep into the red, triggering massive layoffs.

In downtown Calgary, hundreds of employees were escorted from their desks in a single day. The fortunate ones were still employed, but with uncertainty looming each day. The unfortunate ones saw their entire companies go under. No one in Calgary was untouched.

Four years into the downturn, a city which boasted one of the highest concentrations of corporate headquarters in North America now has a downtown vacancy rate of 27.4 per cent—by far the worst of any major Canadian city. 1.1 million square metres of office space remains idle and unused. Calgary's core has been hollowed out, and with it, the identity and purpose of many marketplace leaders.

LeaderImpact, a ministry of Power to Change, has been helping marketplace leaders in Calgary—and across Canada—explore the relevance of faith in their personal and professional lives. More than 15 years of faithful ministry has positioned LeaderImpact to respond to those who have lost everything and point them towards true significance: a relationship with Jesus Christ.

In the spring of 2017, Bruce Edgelow was expecting to transition into a new senior management role with ATB Financial, a company he had been with for 14 years. In the stairwell on his way to a meeting, he felt God reach out to him with the message, “You’re about to be packaged”—industry slang for being laid off.

Minutes later, he walked into the meeting room, looked directly at the two men waiting there for him, and said, “I’ve got to share something that just

happened to me in the stairwell. God told me I’m about to be packaged.”

The men exchanged glances and replied, “You better sit down.”

Three years into what some consider the worst downturn in a generation, Bruce found himself alongside 100,000 others in the city: unemployed.

“I experienced the reality of what many in this town have gone through,” he says. “Somebody told me, ‘I don’t need you anymore, you’re done.’”

Yet, instead of shock and despair, Bruce felt peace, knowing that he was about to embark on a journey.

“My Heavenly Father told me this was going to happen. When He speaks, I listen,” Bruce explains. “I have built up enough confidence that when those things happen, I just have to get out of my own way and say: ‘God, what are we doing today?’”

Over the last 15 years, Bruce’s spiritual journey has been intertwined with LeaderImpact—going back to a golf tournament with Canadian hockey icon and LeaderImpact founder, Paul Henderson.

At the event, Bruce was introduced to Tibi Ribí, Alberta Area Director for LeaderImpact. “The day I met Bruce, he had a big beard, a golf hat, and a stogie hanging out of his mouth,” Tibi recalls affectionately. “He was a very successful business guy, and a little bit intimidating.” The men connected, and were soon discussing spiritual matters.

“Bruce was in the early stages of discovering what it means to walk with the Lord,” explains Tibi. “He was starting to understand God in a more meaningful way. He was hungry spiritually, but still stuck in his old ways.”

Tibi invited Bruce to join him and other marketplace leaders in Calgary for a weekly meeting to discuss matters of faith alongside leadership principles—a group which members eventually dubbed, “Wednesday Morning Group.”

Engineer and entrepreneur Jeff Campbell joined Wednesday Morning Group in 2008, and refers to it as “Ground Zero” for LeaderImpact in Calgary.

“It’s business leaders with a common focus: learning leadership from Christian principles, but it’s also a support system and ultimately about bringing people to Christ,” he says.

At the time, Jeff ran a small oil and gas company called Rock Energy in downtown Calgary. When prices crashed in 2014, he reassured his staff that they could make it through the year. But as the downturn wore on, changes had to be made.

“The worst thing about being a leader in an industry is laying off staff,” he says. Two months after celebrating a staff member’s 10th anniversary with the company, Jeff had to let him go. “It’s tough. Being a Christian does not shelter you from worldly things. You have Christ in your life to lead, direct, and support you. You strive to do His will. But that doesn’t mean fun, games, and prosperity all of the time.”

In 2016, Jeff’s company went through a power struggle between an activist shareholder and the Board of Directors. The decision was made to sell the company.

“I remember saying, ‘We can’t sell the company, this is the worst downturn in our generation! Our stock has gone from almost eight dollars to one dollar. We can’t sell now.’ It didn’t matter. We ended up selling the company for a big loss. So, not only were we not making money because prices were down, but everybody got laid off.

“Bids were due the week oil prices reached a record low,” adds Jeff. “I look back and go, ‘Wow, it was the perfect storm.’ But you know what, God was there the whole time.”

As Jeff’s office at Rock Energy emptied out, Fern Cyr, another member from Wednesday Morning Group, made an exit of her own. However, hers was voluntary.

After 36 years as a high-level executive at ExxonMobil, Fern made the decision to retire early to seek out God’s plan for the rest of her life.

Throughout her career in the oil and financial industries, Fern forged her way in positions typically held by men. Early on in her work life, she assimilated to the male-dominated culture. However, as she matured in life and leadership, she realized she was living two different lives.

When Fern joined LeaderImpact’s Wednesday Morning Group in 2015 alongside Tibi, Bruce, and Jeff, she resonated with the ministry’s vision for integrating faith and business.

“God has created each one of us with a unique purpose, and I’ve learned that part of mine is to be a strong female leader,” she says. “I am passionate about helping people become more competent in their leadership capability.”

In the time Tibi has known Fern, he has seen her share her leadership acumen freely. “She has a great heart and passion to pass that on to younger women in the professional world,” he says. “She is able to draw near to God and that becomes contagious as she influences other people, and as she helps give direction in LeaderImpact.”

Sam Boguslavsky, President of Sable Developments—a local Calgary real estate development company—joined Wednesday Morning Group in 2008, early on in his journey as a follower of Jesus.

Bruce Edgelow & Sam Boguslavsky



For most of his life, Sam didn't have to rely on anyone but himself. "I played sports, did well in school and business, and leadership came somewhat naturally," he says. "I worked hard on those skills, and I attributed my success to myself. I got my education and took some risks—I've created this. It was the 'I' identity."

However, alongside challenges that arose in his business, there came a breaking point. "I was sitting on the dock with my wife Lorraine at our summer house and a friend took my eight-year-old son, Markus, jet skiing. There was an accident about 150 yards away. Markus had tipped and his shorts were caught in a bar. He was struggling to stay afloat," Sam says quietly, his voice breaking. Sam jumped in the water, but he was too far away. Miraculously, his son figured it out on his own. "I never got to him, but God was already there lifting him up. God saved him," says Sam. "Shortly after this accident, I realized I'm not this island and this mighty guy that I think I am."

Pastors from a local church in Calgary and his close friend Rick journeyed alongside Sam through this time. One morning, he announced to his wife that he wanted to be baptized, after she had been praying for him for over a decade.

"These 10 years have been a journey of growth and ups and downs. Sometimes I feel like I'm not everything that God wants and needs me to be," admits Sam. "But, that's the thing with LeaderImpact, there's no formula. We want people to journey with God and that's what I'm allowed to do."

Trusted inner circle

Since the early days of Wednesday Morning Group, Bruce, Jeff, Fern, and Sam have gone on to lead several other groups of their own—some focused on young leaders, and others for the senior executive ranks in Calgary.

The economic downturn has affected group dynamics over the last four years, and LeaderImpact has shifted in response to the changing needs of marketplace leaders.

"The city's gone through turmoil and sometimes we're quiet about it," says Sam. "With job loss comes loss of identity, especially for men."

Untethered, many leaders in Calgary have sought greater purpose and a place to belong—which is exactly what LeaderImpact provides. Group numbers have surged over the last several years as individuals search

"There is something more stable than the price of oil and gas and the business dynamic. Christ is the place to anchor when the wind and waves come."

for work, community, and significance.

"People came expecting a new network or access to a job, but found a family of people who supported them in personal development and shared faith experiences and challenges," Fern says.

In Jeff's group, 14 of the 17 members are from senior management positions in the oil industry; 10 have lost their jobs in the last four years, and five are still without full-time work.

"As you build your relationships within LeaderImpact and the core weekly groups, you build this support system," says Jeff. "It's your trusted inner circle."

"We explore where we are putting our trust," adds Bruce. "There is something more stable than the price of oil and gas and the business dynamic. Christ is the place to anchor when the wind and waves come."

Owning the vision

There came a time when Bruce, Jeff, Fern, and Sam knew they needed to join forces to expand the ministry of LeaderImpact in Calgary.

"We had a good anchor from Wednesday Morning Group," says Bruce. "We needed to do more in the city with respect to faith and leadership. We also needed to let Tibi spread this work to other cities in Alberta."

Under the direction of Fern, the Calgary City Team for LeaderImpact is (not surprisingly) run like a business. Comprised of a chairperson and three coordinator positions overseeing events, groups, and training, the City Team's vision is to have 20 groups by the year 2020. With eight groups currently, the Calgary City Team is well on its way to modelling the growth LeaderImpact wants to see across Canada.

“When people not only have a heart and vision, but also get to make decisions, they become owners,” explains Tibi.

The ownership and passion in the Calgary City Team members is visible even in conversation. “We’re a lot more than just weekly groups or events,” explains Sam. “We’re a creative bunch looking to reach all those who want to hear the message of God, understand and improve their leadership skills, and be part of something greater than themselves. Most significantly, we learn how we can achieve these things when we have a relationship with God.”

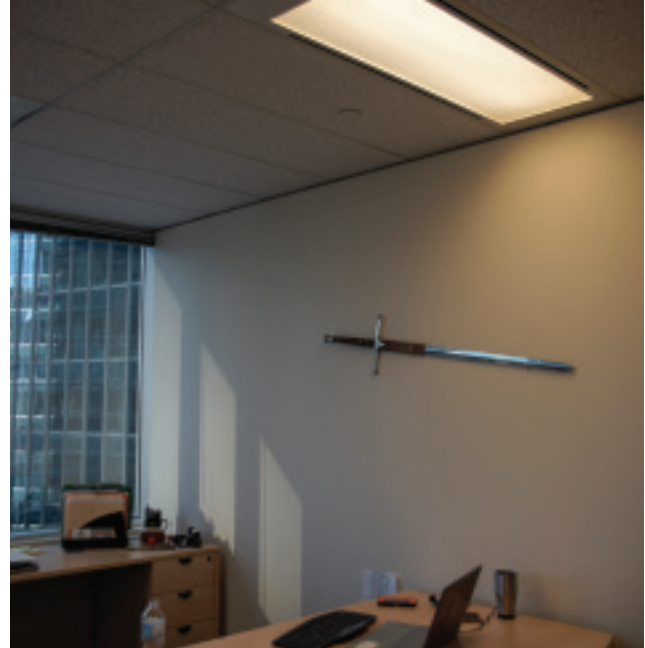
Seeing ministry go beyond the pastor or the staff member is “the fun element,” Tibi says. As he works alongside the team in Calgary, he has been able to turn his focus to building new City Teams across Alberta. The Red Deer City Team launched early in 2018, and Tibi continues to search for key leadership in Edmonton, with the hopes of expanding to Lethbridge in the near future.

After his stairwell moment with God last spring, Bruce had the opportunity to prayerfully consider his next steps. He and a business partner started their own firm, and he continues to lead a weekly LeaderImpact group, alongside several other commitments in the community.

Life is beyond busy, he admits. Yet, he’s never had so much fun. With every twist and turn that life can bring, Bruce is certain of one thing: God has a plan. Each day is an opportunity to seek the Lord’s direction, and every conversation is an opening to talk about Jesus—in business meetings, on stage in front of hundreds of industry professionals, and even with his dance group.

However, Bruce still has struggles, regrets, and pain. “Life is not perfect. And yet in all of the things we find ourselves in, God has a plan, He wants to protect us, He wants to give us guidance. This is by no means utopia... but it doesn’t matter.”

In Bruce’s corner office, overlooking the heart of downtown Calgary from the 20th floor, he has a curious item mounted on the wall above his desk: a replica of William Wallace’s broadsword depicted in the film *Braveheart*. On the hilt of the sword are the words, “Wild at Heart”, the title of John Eldredge’s first book. For Bruce, it represents the daily spiritual battle, and reminds him to consider his legacy and what he wants to be remembered for.



Bruce Edgelow's replica of William Wallace's broadsword depicted in the film Braveheart.

Each day is an opportunity to seek the Lord's direction, and every conversation is an opening to talk about Jesus.

Bruce’s office itself is curious. Only two years ago, it was occupied by Jeff at Rock Energy. In this very room, the Calgary City Team sought the Lord together in prayer and made plans for the future. Just down the hall, weekly LeaderImpact groups used to meet.

“God’s faithfulness—and sense of humour—have not gone unnoticed,” laughs Bruce. “LeaderImpact has taught me that God really is very alive and well and He does want a place in my life.”

Outside of Bruce’s office, boxes filled with files and office supplies are still piled high in the empty spaces. Signs from former companies lean against the walls, and offices remain dark. There is an empty feeling that still pervades downtown Calgary.

And yet, even with the fluctuation of the market, there is the certainty of God’s presence. His Spirit is at work in Calgary, drawing people to Himself and filling the hollow places.



Connect with
LIKE-MINDED LEADERS.

Invest in your
**PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL,
AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT.**

Join or start a
**LEADERIMPACT GROUP IN
YOUR CITY TODAY.**

LEADERIMPACT.COM/GROUPS



*Helping leaders explore the relevance of faith
in God in their professional and personal lives*

LeaderImpact is a ministry of Power to Change.

1,000th

Well Celebration

FEBRUARY 2018



5



1. GAIiN CEO, Ray Sawatsky, and GAIiN's Water for Life Initiative Manager for Benin, Patrice Lavagnon, share a word of encouragement with the people of Koudjinnada.

2. A singer performs for the crowd in Koudjinnada for GAIiN's 1,000th water well celebration in Benin.

3. A woman fills her bucket with clean water from a new solar-powered self-pumping well.

4. The GAIiN Benin team pictured with Power to Change and GAIiN leadership, and Seidou Adambi Samou, the Benin Minister for Water, Mines and Hydraulics.

5. DRIME performs in Koudjinnada before a presentation of the JESUS film, a few nights after the well celebration.

6. Hands raised to indicate decisions for Christ after the JESUS film is presented in Koudjinnada.

6



**watch a video
from the trip**

p2c.sh/1000wells





Conflux

noun **con·flux** \ 'kän-çfləks \

1. a coming or flowing together, meeting, or gathering at one point
2. the flowing together of two or more streams

Erica Shelley

Contributing Writer

As a young woman in search of education and opportunity, Jean-Marie left her quiet home village of Guede Codji, Benin, for the bustling economic hub of Cotonou. Though fearful and uncertain of what the future would hold, she was desperate to escape a life of poverty. Like many other young Beninese flocking to Cotonou, she felt forced to trade in the familiarity of home and take a chance on the unknown.

Jean-Marie had no idea how her years in the city would change her life forever. It was there, amidst the concrete buildings and the endless mazes of shops and shacks, that she found love, meeting and marrying her husband. However, their union and youth were quickly tainted by devastating loss as Jean-Marie helplessly witnessed the death of every baby she bore. One after another they died, for reasons she could not understand. In a culture where fertility is prized and children are treasured, Jean-Marie felt her identity and her dreams slipping away.

Neighbours reached out to Jean-Marie in her isolation. They were Christians from a local Bible-believing church, and they broke through her despair with a message of hope. They shared the gospel of Jesus Christ with her, and the clarity of that truth stood in stark contrast to the murky superstitions and fears of voodoo that had marked her upbringing.

Jean-Marie surrendered her life to Christ, experiencing freedom and a power that eclipsed the tricks of witchcraft she had known before. No longer fearful, she devoted herself to prayer, and to her amazement, Jesus answered her pleas and worked miracles.

“After I accepted Christ into my life, things started changing. The children I gave birth to didn't die. None of them! With Christ, I could feel peace in my life. I was not afraid anymore,” Jean-Marie says, reflecting on that time. “I understood that only Christ can free people. I stuck to Christ and decided that nothing in this world could separate me from Him.”

Unfortunately, Jean-Marie's husband did not understand her commitment to Christ and it caused friction between them. Her marital

problems worsened until she found herself retracing her steps; in 2002, she and her children moved back to Guede Codji to seek refuge.

Despite the years she had spent in the city, the village had always remained her home. In Guede Codji, people walked barefoot along the dirt paths, and the constant drone and choking smell of Cotonou's traffic seemed to be a world away. Here, time moved slowly and very little had changed in Jean-Marie's absence. The villagers still relied on a hand-dug well to draw their water—a polluted source which caused great distress among the people.

However, Jean-Marie was aware of a need greater than the poverty and sickness around her. She sensed an aching spiritual emptiness, and could feel the darkness of voodoo hanging over the people she loved. Since the moment she became a Christian, her heart burned with a desire to see her own people saved. For years she had been praying constantly that the light of Christ would shine here, and that a Bible-believing church would be planted.

As the months passed after her return, Jean-Marie persevered in her daily invocation, unsure of how God would respond. Little did she



know, across the world the answer to her prayer was already being set in motion.

‘No such thing as a coincidence’

In the same year that Jean-Marie returned to Guede Codji, various currents in North America began to flow in the same direction.

Ambassador Joël W. Adechi, the permanent representative of Benin to the United Nations, had a timely dinner meeting with a leader from Campus Crusade for Christ International. Benin was in dire need of clean water, and the ambassador spoke about the hardship plaguing his country.

The plea for a water program eventually reached the former president of Campus Crusade for Christ Canada (now Power to Change), Marvin Kehler. Strangely, this was not the first person to raise the issue with him. Only weeks before, Marvin had received a call from Frank Rempel, a Canadian businessman specializing in farm equipment manufacturing. Frank had rebuilt an old drilling rig and wanted to donate it to help provide access to clean water in Africa.

While Marvin considered these requests, Frank hosted a tour of REM Manufacturing Ltd. in

Saskatchewan for the Christian Embassy, a ministry of Power to Change. The tour was meant to showcase innovations in industry, and among the group of visiting leaders was the Benin ambassador to Canada, Francis Loko. When Ambassador Loko learned of Frank’s drilling machine, he immediately requested it be sent to Benin.

Marvin couldn’t help but be struck by the various pieces falling into place. It seemed that God had provided a drilling rig, and the machine was already earmarked for use in Benin. He contacted Global Aid Network (GAIN), a ministry partner that had recently conducted experimental well-drilling programs in China and India.

“We had talked often about getting our own machine and starting a verifiable drilling program,” recalls Bill Blaney, CEO of GAIN from 2003 to 2017. “We decided that Benin, based on the request by Ambassador Adechi, would be the place to go. Honestly, I’ve learned in my years with GAIN that there is no such thing as a coincidence. It is really God’s sovereign hand on His purposes and His plan.”

In 2004, GAIN signed an agreement with the Beninese government and the drilling rig

For years she had been praying constantly that the light of Christ would shine here, and that a Bible-believing church would be planted.

arrived on the country’s shores. However, before the Water for Life Initiative could begin in earnest—and the *JESUS* Film Church Planting Strategy alongside it—local Beninese needed to be trained.

“We felt strongly, and still do as an organization, that people need to hear the gospel from their own people and in their own language,” Bill explains.

By 2005, the Beninese staff had been trained, adding to the tide of people God was using to minister in Benin. Finally, the program was poised for action. One of the first villages on GAIN’s list was Guede Codji.

Living water

In Benin, Jean-Marie continued to pray diligently, waiting upon the Lord to meet the physical and spiritual needs of her people. However, when the GAIN team arrived in Guede Codji promising a future well, they were met with skepticism. The people of the village

had heard such promises before. Every election, politicians pledged to dig a new well, but after the votes were cast their commitments appeared to be forgotten.

When the GAIN team returned, this time with a drilling rig, the people took them seriously. In November 2005, the well was completed, providing the people with clean, disease-free water just before the onset of another long dry season. Impressed by fulfilled promises, community members were willing to listen to the message that the accompanying *JESUS* film team had to share. Plans were made to present the film in the centre of the village.

For everyone in Guede Codji, the changes that the GAIN team brought were a surprise. Help and hope had seemed to materialize out of the dusty landscape. Jean-Marie, however, immediately recognized them as answers to her years of prayer.

“I was so happy because the arrival of the well and the *JESUS* film team were answers to my prayer to God,” she says. “The day that the *JESUS* film team came in, my brothers and I were the people who welcomed them warmly and even set everything up for the *JESUS* film to be shown.”

Beside the new well, villagers gathered for the presentation. In their own language, they heard the promise of living water to be found in Jesus Christ. When a Beninese pastor from a nearby village asked if anyone would like to become a Christian, many came forward. The next Sunday, the pastor led the new believers in a service under a tree. Right before Jean-Marie's eyes, a church was born in her home village.



From its infancy, the new church faced various obstacles. Meeting regularly beneath a tree was not sustainable, the members quickly recognized, as the heat of the sun or a downpour of rain could interrupt them. Jean-Marie and the new believers prayerfully sought God's direction for a meeting place, as well as a shepherd to guide their church community.

In response to the need, local Christians donated land and built a temporary shelter covered in palm branches. Pooling their resources, the church members also decided to send one of their own to receive training and return as a pastor for the area. Basile Guede, a young man who had received Christ after seeing the *JESUS* film, volunteered. With the financial support of the congregation, he left the village and attended seminary; when he returned three years later, he was equipped with the Biblical training needed to guide the church.

When *JESUS* film team members returned to the village to follow

up on the church plant, they were happy to see that the gospel had firmly taken root. The commitment of the believers was evident, as was their need for a church building. Bringing in metal sheets and teak, GAIN helped build a more permanent structure. The Christians of Guede Codji were bolstered by the gift, and decided that they could add to what they had been given. Each member contributed, and the congregation was able to hire local craftsmen to build around the structure. A wall was erected and painted, putting the final touches on Eglise Baptiste du Benin.

"Christians from the church did not just stop at the number we were at the beginning, but we have tried to reach out to other people in the village," Jean-Marie explains, standing in front of the church structure. "Today many of the people in Guede Codji village are worshipping God in this building, and even other people from outside this village come to worship in the same place. Praise God!"

God's sovereign hand

The well in Guede Codji was the second well drilled in GAIN's Water for Life Initiative. In February 2018, GAIN celebrated 1,000 wells in Benin, which provide clean water to approximately one million people in the country. To date, 379 Beninese churches have been planted through the *JESUS* Film Church Planting Strategy.

Looking back, GAIN team members can't help but be amazed by the lives and circumstances that converged to bring the light of Christ to Guede Codji. Stirred by the prayers of Jean-Marie, equipped by the donation of Frank Rempel, and set into motion through a constellation of well-timed conversations, all the pieces came together to form a larger story.

"What this story shows to me is that God, first and foremost, listens to the prayers of the people. Secondly, He uses His servants to carry out His will," says Bill. "There is no way to explain all this, except for one thing—and that is God's sovereign hand on everything that occurred here. In the world that GAIN works in, this story is one of thousands happening every single day."

"There is no way to explain all this, except for one thing—and that is God's sovereign hand on everything that occurred here."

As the humanitarian partner of Power to Change, Global Aid Network helps to reveal hope and restore life through relief and development initiatives for people living in crisis and injustice. Their mission is to demonstrate the love of God in word and deed.

As of April 2018, GAIN has provided a total of 1,757 water wells in Benin, Tanzania, Togo, Ethiopia, Southern Sudan, and Thailand.



If not now, WHEN?

Kari Leoganda has a passion for connecting women to each other and to God. Out of her own pain and personal struggles, she developed a deep desire to help women discover their true source of strength in Jesus Christ.

Armed with this vision, Kari connected with Janet Fierbach of Power to Change (P2C). With Kari's business acumen as a financial planner and entrepreneur, and Janet's ministry experience, a dream began to take shape.

Now, a decade and several hundred transformed lives later, Kari and the members of Women's Heart-Engaging Network (WHEN) are providing opportunities in English, Spanish, and Cantonese for women to gather, share their stories, and encourage one another.

Power to Change Magazine sat down with Kari to hear more about her journey as a founding member of WHEN, and what God has taught her about faith and leadership.

Power to Change: Tell us more about your faith journey and how you became passionate about God.

Kari Leoganda: My first child, a daughter named Natalie, was born without hearing. I entered a difficult season wondering where inner strength truly comes from. When my family moved from Hong Kong to Vancouver, I met a group of godly women who invited me to a Bible study. The Word of God strengthened me, giving me an anchor and direction in my life. My heart was on fire for God, and I stopped focusing on my pain. I realized that inner strength is from the Lord, and I came to believe that He has a very special plan for me and my daughter.

“We decided to gather more friends, and soon had 16 women from different churches wanting to share their faith on a bigger scale. We kept saying, ‘We should do something!’”

P2C: What led you to focus on outreach to women?

KL: In my career as an insurance advisor, I met many women who did not know Jesus and I developed good relationships with them. I initially thought I could provide them with financial solutions, but I realized that money couldn't solve all of their problems. So I started to share the gospel with them. They showed interest, and my heart for outreach became very strong.

P2C: Where did that passion for evangelism lead?

KL: Once my daughter entered her teen years, I had more time for outreach. I shared my passion with friends and we started talking about organizing events to help people meet Jesus. We decided to gather more friends, and soon had 16 women from different churches wanting to share their faith on a bigger scale. We kept saying, “We should do something!”

P2C: How did you connect with Power to Change?

KL: My pastor heard about our outreach idea and suggested that I look into Power to Change. Within two weeks, two other people also suggested that I connect with the ministry to start our group. One of them introduced me to long-time staff member, Janet Fierbach, and we instantly clicked.

P2C: How did your ministry focus take shape?

KL: We wanted our ministry meetings to be very intimate and heart-engaging times. At the end of our first brainstorming session, we came up with the name WHEN. We wanted to be a Women's Heart-Engaging Network, and our key phrase was, “If not now, WHEN?” The acronym was perfect, and it came into place so smoothly.

P2C: Why was it important for you to organize WHEN outreach events outside of the church?

KL: Our focus is to reach women who aren't ready for church. We desire to create something where women want to attend, where they know they'll have good company and a nice meal, and where they'll want to bring others as well. We are doing outreach, but ultimately our goal is to connect women to Jesus and back to the local church.

P2C: How did WHEN's various language groups form?

KL: We started with Cantonese because most of the women I shared my passion with were from the Chinese community. The friends they wanted to reach out to were also of the same nationality. People attended

the Cantonese event, enjoyed it, and wanted more. It wasn't long before we began to see that this format could work for women in many different languages. Our second team began an English outreach, as many people in the Canadian-born Asian community did not speak Cantonese. A friend who spoke both English and Spanish came to that event and liked it so much that within a year she started a team to reach the Spanish-speaking community. At that same time, a group of Filipino women tried the strategy in Edmonton. Now, their team invites English-speaking women from many cultures to enjoy wonderful Filipino hospitality while they hear about Jesus' love and forgiveness.

P2C: What do you enjoy most about WHEN?

KL: We are a group of ladies who hold each other accountable. We can all grow in leadership together. We pray together, eat together, share the Good News together, travel together, go to conferences together, and do Bible studies together. Each one of us that steps out to serve in ministry has a bigger Kingdom perspective. We don't belong to any denomination, and we never focus on denominational differences. We focus on common ground, which is to serve Jesus and reach out to women.

P2C: What does WHEN's 10th anniversary mean to you?

KL: Ten years is minor compared to eternity. The number isn't huge to me. WHEN is a continuing work, and as long as God's hand is in it, it will continue to grow.

I know the best is yet to come.

P2C: What have you learned over the years as a WHEN leader?

KL: If God has called us to do something, we need not hesitate or overthink. Don't focus on your fear, or wonder if you are faithful enough or popular enough or wealthy enough. People are hesitant to do God's work because we think we are doing it alone. When God gives us a desire, He surrounds us with people to do it. We are never working alone. It is not we who do it, but God who orchestrates it. When we think of ministry this way, it is a joy instead of a burden. We can conquer our own fear. Fear is the biggest element that holds us back.

“When God gives us a desire, He surrounds us with people to do it. We are never working alone.”



MINISTRY QUESTION

How do you engage the hearts of women who come to WHEN?



"We encourage and empower each other to share our stories so our lives can be transformed by the love and grace of God."

Rana Chui
Coquitlam Cantonese team



"We create a warm, welcoming environment where women feel they can be honest about where they're at in life, and then we continue to journey with them in Discovery Groups—sharing both joys and struggles as we help women connect with Jesus."

Jeanne Manire
New National Director



"We want women to know that they are loved and accepted for who they are, regardless of their past or ethnicity. When they know they are accepted, they are open to engage at a heart level."

Teresa Lao-an
Edmonton Filipino team

WHEN

Women's Heart-Engaging Network

Women's Heart-Engaging Network (WHEN) is committed to providing opportunities in various languages for women to hear, experience, and embrace the grace of Jesus Christ. Through volunteer-led events, ordinary women share their extraordinary stories, building friendships and connecting women to the local church.

www.whennetwork.ca | contact@whennetwork.ca | 604-514-2034

GREAT MARRIAGES
DON'T *Just Happen*

FAMILYLIFE 
weekend getaway
marriage conference

REGISTER AS A GROUP AND SAVE!



BC

WHISTLER VICTORIA
NOV 16-18, 2018 MAR 8-10, 2019

AB

JASPER LAKE LOUISE
NOV 16-18, 2018 APR 12-14, 2019

ON

BLUE MOUNTAIN NIAGARA FALLS
NOV 2-4, 2018 MAR 1-3, 2019

SK

WASKESIU LAKE
APR 6-7, 2019

QC

MONTREAL
APR 6-7, 2019

NB

ST. ANDREWS
MAY 3-5, 2019

familylifecanada.com

1-800-247-3180 | events@familylifecanada.com

PARTNER WITH POWER TO CHANGE

*There are multiple ways
you can make a difference.*

PRAY

Pray for those who don't yet know Jesus, and for workers seeking to reach the unreached. Pray our ministry would be effective in making disciples who make more disciples.

SERVE

Join a group of like-minded individuals seeking to make Jesus known. Volunteer with any of our ministries as we serve in Canada and around the world. Apply for a position in the field or in our office.

p2c.com/serve

GIVE

Consider supporting the ministry of a staff member through monthly or annual giving. Donate to the Power to Change ministry of your choice and fund specific initiatives. Through your financial partnership, we are proclaiming Jesus' name in Canada and abroad together.

Toll-Free: 1.855.722.4483

Mon-Fri, 7 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. PST


Email: give@p2c.com

p2c.com/donate



 [@powertochangeCanada](https://www.facebook.com/powertochangeCanada)

 [@powertochangeCanada](https://www.instagram.com/powertochangeCanada)

 [@powertochange](https://twitter.com/powertochange)



50 POWER
Change.