



POWER **TO** CHANGE

ISSUE 1 // FALL 2017



Following
Faithfully

50 Years of
Power to Change

Intangible Meets
Unchangeable

God Jams
A Gun

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POWER TO CHANGE MAGAZINE

REAL. LIFE. CHANGE.

Issue 1 | Fall 2017

MINISTRY MISSION

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

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

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Inspired and encouraged

Our dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

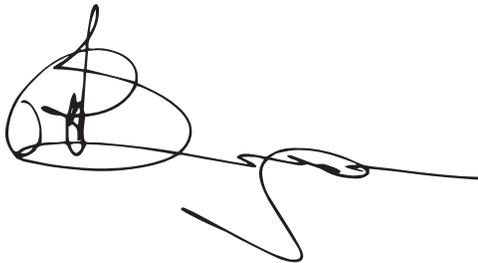
It is my pleasure and privilege to introduce the first issue of Power to Change magazine. Our hope is that you will be inspired and encouraged by what God has done, and continues to do, through our family of ministries.

At Power to Change, it is our privilege to help people know Jesus and experience His power to change the world. Through our ministries, we seek to do as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:22, “To the weak I became weak in order to gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that by all means I may save some.” Our ministries connect with people where they are so that they might know Jesus as their Lord and walk with Him forever.

In these pages are stories from uniquely different individuals. Their perspectives and experiences reflect the amazing work of God in their lives. We know that without Christ’s work on the cross, none of these stories are even possible.

Praise God for allowing our ministries to be used by Him to reach out to those who are lost! We are thrilled we can share these stories of God’s grace with you.

Sincerely in Christ,



ROD BERGEN
President



Power to Change

* **FEATURED IN
THIS ISSUE**

ATHLETES IN ACTION

Reaching people with the message of Jesus through sport.

CHRISTIAN EMBASSY

Giving political and diplomatic leaders the opportunity to discover Jesus and become ambassadors for Christ.

* **CONNECTING STREAMS**

Mobilizing and equipping 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 hope of Jesus to marriages and families in every stage of life.

GLOBAL AID NETWORK (GAIN)

Demonstrating the love of God, in word and deed, to hurting and needy people around the world.

JESUS FILM CHURCH PLANTING STRATEGY (JFCPS)

Bringing the message of God's love through showing the *JESUS* Film, discipling new believers, training new leaders, and planting churches.

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

* **POWER TO CHANGE – STUDENTS**

Sharing the message of Christ's love with students and equipping them for a lifetime of ministry.

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Walking alongside people online to help them know Jesus.

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Following Faithfully: Dorrie

DORRIE MANU

Guest Writer





As Power to Change celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, 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 a staff member of Power to Change – Students, Dorrie Manu.

When I arrived at the Queen's University campus in the mid-1990s, I was greeted by people drenched in purple dye holding signs saying, "Your mama can't help you now, frosh!" This encounter was my abrupt introduction to Frosh Week and the university experience.

Prior to arriving at Queen's, I was warned that 50% of university students fall away from their faith, so I immediately started looking to join a Christian group on campus.

My search soon led me to Power to Change – Students, at the time called Campus Crusade for Christ Canada. I remember attending their first weekly meeting when the emcee said, "We are here to change the world by turning lost students into Christ-centred labourers." That statement instilled both excitement and fear into my heart. I learned their members actually approach students on campus and start spiritual

conversations with the hope of sharing the gospel with them. Despite my fears, I signed up to stay connected to other believers and to share my faith with others.

During my first year at Queen's, I saw how students were truly interested in the gospel. Upper year students faithfully administered and collected spiritual interest questionnaires, and we had 120 students express interest in knowing Jesus personally. As we followed up, I found that one in three people would come to know Christ.

In my second year, I encountered a student pursuing a Masters in Philosophy. She declared herself an atheist, but wanted to know more about the existence of God. It was intimidating for me, as atheism wasn't truly trending as it is today; she was quite novel. She sped-read one of Michael Horner's articles called "The Existence of God." When she got to the end, she said simply, "Makes sense." All she needed was a rational reason to believe.

I asked whether she would like to know God personally, and then I presented the gospel message to her. At the end, she bowed her head and prayed to receive Christ. Wow! I realized that in spite of my preconceived notions and fears, God is powerfully at work in the lives of those around us!





Dorrie Manu with
her son Kweku

Nearing graduation, I learned that some Canadians were invited to a global partnership through Power to Change in East Asia. The Student Ministry had agreed to invest in East Asia long-term by sending missions teams, interns, and international campus staff. I was part of the first group of Canadians to take up the challenge to serve one to two years overseas. In 1997, we were excited to begin our journey and participate in the Great Commission!

It seemed as though God was opening up the floodgates after years of intercessors praying specifically for that part of the world. During my two years in East Asia, we saw rapid multiplication with 150 students coming to know Jesus! It was exciting to be part of the transformation of a region that is now home to the fastest growing group of believers in the world.

As the new millennium dawned, I came back to Canada and noticed a shift in the spiritual climate on university campuses. During my reintegration into ministry in Ontario, I saw fewer students coming to faith in Christ. There was greater jadedness and passivity towards the gospel.

In response to this change, our ministry in Ontario zeroed in on spiritual multiplication as a key indicator of success. Our goal was to multiply the doers, so that once again we would see a growth in evangelism on our campuses.

At the same time, I was also a part of Power to Change – Students' National

Campus Leadership Team, which aimed to increase the number of campuses we were on across Canada. In Québec, for instance, we were only in Sherbrooke and Québec City. One of my roles was to drive expansion, and Montréal was a key priority on our list. I remember praying and pondering as to why no one was taking up the challenge to launch a ministry in such a strategic city. Suddenly, there was that still small voice saying, “Why don’t you go?”

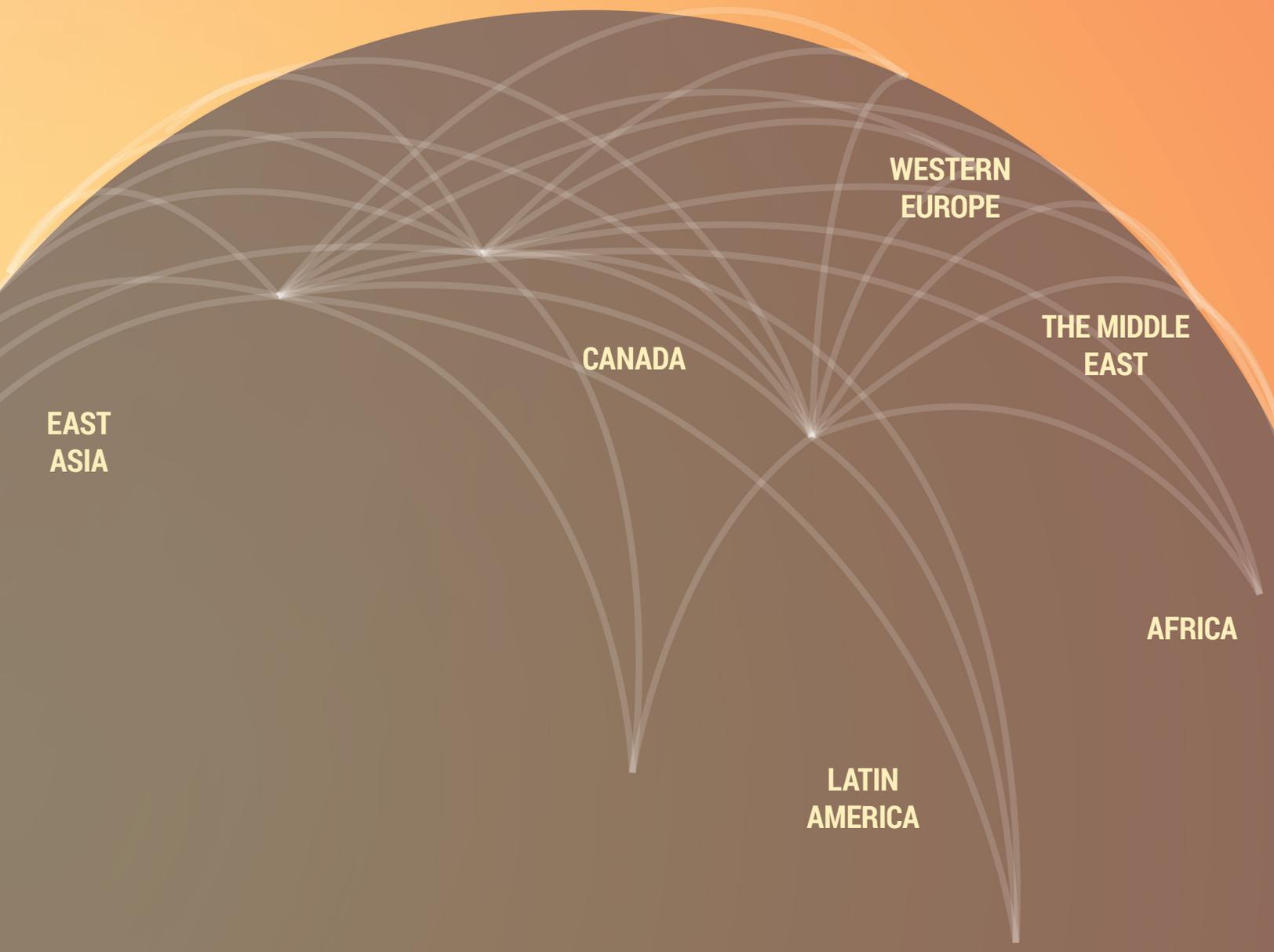
Over the next five years, we saw ministries birth at McGill, Concordia and Université de Montréal. Université de Montréal offered opportunities to engage and disciple a first generation of Québécois students, equipping them to reach out to students who had never heard of the gospel. The weekly meeting for McGill went from a handful of students in my living room to a classroom full of students equipped to share their faith and disciple others. Students from all three campuses took up the challenge to participate on missions trips; our global partnerships would end up taking students to Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Western Europe and Latin America.

During my 20 years at Power to Change, I have travelled to 25 countries, pioneered ministries and launched partnerships. I have lived in various cities and have had over 50 roommates. God has taken me on an adventure that I would never have expected and walked me through opportunities that only He could orchestrate.

As we continue to move forward with local campus ministry as well as global missions, it is our prayer that we would be able to see every student know the glorious gospel of Christ. We want to see the whole world reached!

This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations.
- Matthew 24:14 (NIV)

GOD HAS TAKEN ME ON AN ADVENTURE THAT I WOULD NEVER HAVE EXPECTED





CELEBRATING
50
YEARS

1967 **Campus Crusade for Christ Canada** is granted legal status as a charity by the government of Canada.

1972 **The national office relocates from** Toronto to Abbotsford, B.C. and Peter Dueck assumes leadership.

1974 **Athletes in Action (AIA) pro ministry** begins, organizing outreaches, chapels and Bible studies for professional athletes.

Marvin Kehler becomes national director, placing focus on leadership development and building partnerships with the church.

1976 **Leadership ministries begin by hosting** the first annual executive conference in Vancouver. This ministry is known today as LeaderImpact.

"I found it! You can find it too!" That offer appears on billboards, bumpers, and in newspapers, radio and TV ads across the country. Working with local churches, it is one of the largest evangelistic campaigns in Canadian history.

2003 **Leonard Buhler becomes President** of Campus Crusade in Canada after leaving his business in Manitoba.

1998 **Global Aid Network (GAiN) is launched,** bringing humanitarian aid, clean water, disaster response, and development to areas in need around the world.

1996 **TruthMedia is launched, an online ministry** that creates evangelistic content in multiple languages. Today, this ministry continues as The Life Project.

1988 **FamilyLife launches marriage conferences** in Canada, supporting and rebuilding relationships across the country.

1984 **Christian Embassy begins in Ottawa,** building relationships with Canadian political leaders and foreign ambassadors.

1980 **The JESUS Film makes its debut** in Canadian theatres. Within a year, millions of North Americans in 2,000 theatres see the film. It is the most viewed and most translated film in history.

2006 **Connecting Streams officially launches** to equip and mobilize the Church to reach society's marginalized.

2007 **Campus Crusade for Christ Canada** changes its name to Power to Change Ministries to reflect its far wider breadth of ministries.

DRIME, an established ministry in Vancouver that uses drama for a new and more effective twist on street evangelism, joins the Power to Change family.

2008 **Women's Heart Engaging Network** starts their ministry of connecting women to Jesus Christ and to the local church in their own languages.

2016 **Rod Bergen is named President** after several years in leadership at Power to Change and 14 years of executive leadership at the Jim Pattison Group.

2017 **Power to Change – Students begins** its 50th full year on Canadian Campuses in September. Join us in our year-long celebration!

Reaching Out Beyond the Walls of the Church

Connecting Streams is a catalyst that helps the church reach out intentionally to the marginalized – currently in Edmonton, Langley and Ottawa. Donna Mitchell, Connecting Streams' National Director, recently sat down with Power to Change to talk about the ministry.

P2C: How did Connecting Streams start?

DM: Connecting Streams was started in October 2006 through much prayer and seeking the Lord. It was birthed out of a desire to help the church move beyond the four walls and reach out intentionally to others. The Lord showed us that He has a special place in His heart for society's marginalized: people who are hurting, broken, in crisis, in a lot of pain, and sometimes forgotten and pushed to the edge of society. When the church reaches out intentionally to society's marginalized, both end up coming to life.

P2C: Society's marginalized, who does that term include?

DM: In Scripture, the term 'society's marginalized' is not used, but in Psalms 146 the Lord refers to His heart for those who are orphaned, widowed, in prison or strangers in the land. In today's society, there are marginalized people in long-term care facilities, in the inner cities stuck in addictions, widows in our community, new Canadians and refugees, and of course those who are in prison. They are those in society who are set aside: hurting, invisible, and vulnerable. We added the term society in front because 'the marginalized' is not who they are. It's not their identity, but it's how society treats them.

P2C: What are some of the ways Connecting Streams reaches out to the marginalized?

DM: All of our ministry is done in teams. Believers want to reach out and make a difference. But sometimes they are afraid, apprehensive, or they don't feel that they know enough. We will take way bigger risks together than we will by ourselves. We do ministry in groups so there is a taste of what community can feel like. For example, in a long-term care facility, when a team goes in, they can gather residents together, hear the Word and share their own stories in the context of community.

P2C: Why is it important to reach out?

DM: When the Lord shared His heart for society's marginalized, what we underestimated was His power to change lives. All through Scripture in Jesus' interactions with people, we realize that He had a heart for outcasts. Sometimes we get the idea. We don't want to reach out to society's marginalized because we feel sorry for them. We want to make it clear that God does not see them that way. He sees the potential of what He can do to transform, and He values every person even when society treats people without dignity. The Lord treats them with dignity.



"When the church reaches out intentionally to society's marginalized, both end up coming to life."

P2C: You don't do this work alone, but you walk together with the local church. Would you expand on that?

DM: We didn't want to create a ministry that was in competition with the church, but we wanted to create opportunities that would extend the ministry of local churches. When volunteers come on a team with Connecting Streams, they are an extension of their local church. People from different denominations are learning from one another and spurring each other on even though they are coming from very different backgrounds.

P2C: If you could say something to local church pastors, what would you share with them?

DM: We recognize that they take their role very seriously and are committed to doing the best for their people. I would just want them to know that we share their passion and want to help them with that mission. We want to partner with them. We believe in their passion to reach their community, to disciple their people, and to teach their people how to share their faith and stories.

P2C: What has God been teaching you through ministry?

DM: One of the themes that the Lord has been speaking to me about is the theme of maturity. He is calling us to mature, to grow, to stand firm. When individuals volunteer with us, our prayer is that they will mature in their faith as they volunteer. When we reach out to society's marginalized, we realize the struggles and the opposition in their pathway. It calls us to a deeper level of maturity in our faith. The stronger we become in our own faith, the more we can help others. When I look back in my own journey, there have been people that were deeply rooted in their relationship with Christ. When I was failing or at risk for going back into my addictions, there were people along the way that helped me stand firm, helped me believe God, and helped me see the bigger picture. I want to encourage us as volunteers to mature and grow strong in our relationship and trust in Christ.

We will never drift into the life that God has called us to—we have to take intentional steps. With our current culture and the warfare that we are under, there is a lot of pressure to actually stay safe. Unless we take intentional steps, it's just not going to happen. Apply what the Lord is asking you to do and take those intentional steps so that it becomes a way of life.



INTANGIBLE

MEETS

UNCHANGABLE

The conversation with a non-Christian starts at just building trust, to show that Christians aren't crazy weirdos.



Sociologists, marketers and journalists are hurriedly trying to define the next generation of young adults, namely those born after 1995. Labelled “Generation Z,” they have already been dubbed with various nicknames: the iGeneration, the Plurals or the Post-Millennials. Whatever the moniker, this group of young people is set apart by its unique characteristics—they are known as tech-savvy skeptics, and their formative years were wrought with financial and global insecurity.

Generation Z is now arriving on our campuses.

While cultural norms from generation to generation change, the need for the gospel among young people remains. Step onto a Canadian college or university campus and you'll find this to be true. Beyond the polished exterior of classes, causes and youthful zeal, you'll find a generation that is struggling for hope. Students desperately need Jesus, but shifting values require that we adjust our approach in how we share the gospel message, through a lens that is contextualized to their unique perspective.

I once was lost

P2C-Students wrestles with this reality, working diligently to meet an increasingly diverse and unchurched generation with a message that is no less life-changing than it has ever been.

P2C-Students has found that sharing the gospel with today's post-secondary population works best through an “engagement model,” a process that begins by creating conversations and building relationships. This journey takes time, but the concept of the engagement model is well-founded, based upon the writings of Don Everts and Doug Schaupp in *I Once Was Lost: What Postmodern Skeptics Taught Us About Their Path to Jesus*. In their research, the authors identify five distinct thresholds people go through on their way to becoming a follower of Christ:

1. Trusting a Christian
2. Becoming curious
3. Opening up to change
4. Seeking after God
5. Entering the Kingdom

Sean Cullen, National Director of P2C-Students, echoes their insights: “Today, students are farther from a Biblical context or worldview than their predecessors. The conversation with a non-Christian starts at just building trust, to show that Christians aren't crazy weirdos.”

In another day and age, God, religion and church enjoyed the general respect of the culture. Not today. Religion is suspect, church is weird, and Christians are hypocrites. Distrust has become the norm. (I Once Was Lost, 31)

Because of the toxic atmosphere Christians often step into, putting the



1.7M

university students
in Canada



97%

of Canadian universities offer
international opportunities

engagement model into practice requires listening, equipping and sharing. “We’re training students to identify where another student is at, resourcing them with the tools, strategies, conversations, points, and experience to help move that student from one threshold to the next,” says Sean.

Many students aren’t even curious about Christianity; they see it as a thing of the past. “They know very little about it and they don’t care to know more,” Sean says. The need to inspire curiosity in others becomes an important part of interacting with Generation Z.

There’s a problem in the world, but it’s not me

Despite an antagonism towards Christianity, students are still eager to share ideas, explore concepts and listen to different points of view. After all, that’s why they are at university: to experience life not only from their professors, but also from their peers. “This generation is extremely open to talking about the spiritual. They’re very willing to accept that there is a truth, even though they’re skeptical that you could know the truth,” Sean says.

Equal rights, social justice, environmental sustainability, individual tolerance and peer

acceptance are all common causes this generation embraces. “Students are uncomfortable with the state of the world and the brokenness they see in it. But don’t dare tell them that brokenness can be a result of their own desire for self,” Sean explains. “Brokenness—the problems are all out there. ‘It’s not my fault. In fact, I’m trying to be part of the solution.’”

“Students are looking for a form of religious thought that doesn’t require them to change their lifestyles,” adds one student leader of P2C.

Following the engagement model, recognizing which threshold someone is at is key; this approach

enables one to walk alongside them.

Evelyn Tan has worked on campuses with students for the past 10 years and knows how important it is to connect with someone where they are. She says it is now more critical than ever to not make assumptions about what they may or may not already know about matters of faith and religion.

“Previously, students were asking, ‘Is this reasonable? Can this be true?’ That’s why we had the Four Spiritual Laws. We named and branded it that way because people were asking those questions,” Evelyn says. That’s no longer the case. The focus has moved to feelings and perceptions. In fact, the existence of

“Students are looking for a form of religious thought that doesn’t require them to change their lifestyles”



God is not always a given. Starting a conversation by saying that God loves you and has a plan for your life is skipping too far ahead of where they are. In fact, some students are actively against that idea as generational values have changed.

Experience is king

“In today's generation, fact or logic isn't king. Experience is,” Sean notes. “That plays well with the Christian experience, because it is an experience. We serve the living God and He comes into our lives and transforms us. The story of the Bible is one of relationship—God's longing for a relationship with us and our longing for a relationship with Him—and it's that experience of relationship that is powerful.” P2C-Students teaches its workers and Christian students to tell their own story, not as a series of logical events, but as their unique experiences relating to God, ultimately, through the person of Jesus.

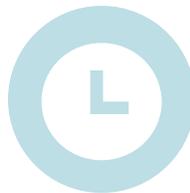
Sean tells our student leaders, “You have the best tool available to you in evangelism right now. It's your experience with Jesus.” Indeed, while young people today are interested in hearing personal stories, they are also taking note of their own experiences with Christians. They pay attention when believers live out their faith,

such as caring for the poor, orphans and widows; making sacrifices; welcoming outsiders or loving on the seemingly unlovable. For Generation Z, these encounters with believers are all part of a powerful, experiential testimony that speaks volumes about who God is and His incredible love for all people.



39%

of 18-29 year-olds have no religious affiliation



8 sec

average attention span of Generation Z



Sharing the same message

While the *how* of communicating our faith to students has changed over the years out of necessity, the message of the gospel remains unchanged.

“I think one of the great strengths of Power to Change throughout its history has been its focus on sharing a simple, clear, gospel message,” Sean says. “The need for that continues. We need to add to that a skill in the art of listening to people and knowing when you can fully enter into their conversation.”

In an age of instant gratification and immediate results, having the patience to walk with Generation Z on their early faith journey is key. It takes ample time and prayer as progress can seem slow. However, it’s essential that we listen well to how the Spirit leads and are attentive to where He reveals individuals are at in their spiritual journey.

“We need to be really personal with people, and be willing to journey with them in the long haul,” explains Evelyn Tan.

P2C-Students staff are consciously adapting and adjusting to shifting cultural norms on college and university campuses nationwide. Underlying their every effort, the Spirit remains at work, convicting and drawing new believers to Himself.

Please pray for P2C-Students as they continue to labour and meet with Generation Z where they are this fall.



Power to Change – Students has been on campuses across the country since 1967. They currently have a presence in every province.

p2c.com/students | 1.800.563.1106

MINISTRY QUESTION

What have you learned from sharing your faith?



"Love the people that we serve. Accept them and earn the right through our love, our acceptance, and our commitment, to talking to them about Jesus."

Theresa Quann
Ottawa City Lead



"That the worrying is never necessary and the conversation is always worthwhile."

Emily LeCerf
Ministry Representative & Intercessory Coordinator



"The most important thing is to be obedient to the Great Commission. God is reminding me to be obedient-oriented as opposed to result-oriented. For the last four years in prison ministry I have seen many lives changed in God's own timing."

Jamal Kimbanga
Edmonton Volunteer



Connecting Streams shows God's heart to the hurting and broken by equipping and mobilizing the Church to reach those in society who are often too easily forgotten. Through volunteer-led teams, they reach out to widows, prisoners, the homeless, immigrants and nursing homes residents. They share the gospel, develop discipleship relationships, and help those in need to experience the life-transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

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Toronto

December 28 - January 1

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Students

THE HUMAN PROJECT

ANDY STEIGER
Guest Writer



Andy Steiger, Founder/Director
Apologetics Canada

In 1885, the King of Belgium, Leopold II, was granted sole ownership of the Congo Free State. He immediately enslaved the people and plundered the Congo of its natural resources. By the end of his rule, Leopold was responsible for the death of more than 10 million Congolese.

That death toll is on par with the Holocaust.

How can people be capable of such heinous crimes? History consistently teaches that atrocities like these are made possible through *dehumanization*, the process by which a person is seen as less than human, such as an object or an animal.

If you could go back in time and ask King Leopold if it's wrong to kill people, his answer would have likely been, "Yes! Of course, killing people is wrong." However, he would have explained that the Congolese were not people—they were animals. This was taught in universities such as Harvard and Princeton and clearly illustrated in 1906 when a native of the Congo, Ota Benga, was placed in a cage at the Bronx zoo with an orangutan.

Dehumanization affects one's ability to enslave or kill by changing what they perceive to be enslaving or killing. People around the world are still impacted by this skewed perspective every day.

The goal of The Human Project is to discuss worldviews that dehumanize people in our culture today. The hope is to clearly see where our perspectives are distorted, make needed corrections, and avoid repeating the horrific mistakes of our past. For this reason, The Human Project was created.

Just like our eyesight can fail over time, our worldview can slowly become blind to the truth. It's imperative we not only recognize worldviews that dehumanize, but also implement an effective humanizing treatment.

The truth is found in the humanizing gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Human Project is an evangelistic video series by Power to Change and Apologetics Canada that explores how the Bible answers culturally relevant and important questions about what it means to be human. Visit thehumanproject.ca to find out more!



This article was written by The Life Project on issuesiface.com. This website is a place for people to share difficult life experiences. Those stories can be read by others who may have experienced similar things in the hope that they will realise they are not alone. The site connects readers to mentors who can listen to their stories, encourage and pray for them, and show them the love of Jesus. The article on page 24 is a woman's response to reading this story.

The first time I saw him was at a local concert. I was 14. He looked arrogant to me, and when I met him he was rude and obnoxious. I thought he was a jerk. Even though he was 10 years older than us, my friends thought he was hot. He flirted with everyone, fooled around with some, and barely even mentioned his long-term girlfriend. But for an arrogant jerk, he could be both charming and fun to be around.

One night, when I was about to walk home from the neighbourhood park by myself, he insisted on walking me home to protect me. This became a habit. He would talk with me about books, music, history, and God. He seemed to enjoy it when I disagreed with him; or rather, he seemed to be amused with my ability to argue with him. He would tell me that I acted older than girls my age, that I was more mature, that I was more intelligent. I would blush.

I felt flattered, affirmed, challenged. I liked the attention. I felt special. He began to tell me how important I was to him. His girlfriend didn't understand him. His family didn't either. He was different than others, he'd tell me how talented and sensitive he was, that he was destined for greater things. He'd tell me that I was the only one who really understood him. I felt bad for him. I empathized with him.

HIDDEN THINGS

It has taken decades for me to recognize and admit, slowly and by incremental degrees, that I was sexually abused. This is my story.



I was set up to feel like I was his conspirator, when in fact, I was his target.

He told me we had to keep our conversations a secret. Our friends wouldn't understand. They would just get jealous. Of course, we couldn't tell my parents, or his father, or his girlfriend either. They wouldn't understand. They would all suspect something ugly. I remember this secret keeping, and I was anxious at the thought of others judging us. I remember feeling shame.

I now know these are common tactics of abusers: first isolate potential victims physically, like going for walks. Connect with them through flattery, common interests, and most particularly, manipulate their empathy. This will isolate them emotionally and bind them to the relationship with shared secrets and shame.

Soon after I turned 15, one night on the swings at the park, he kissed me for the first time. Then everything escalated. He would pace around beneath my bedroom window in the middle of the night. He expected instant, unconditional loyalty and commitment. He gave me love letters with phrases like, "Here is my heart in words and on paper. Take it and keep it. It's yours."

He would also hug me and hold me. And, if I am honest with myself, I really liked being held. I liked that he remembered the books and topics I was interested in. But his intensity was

overwhelming, even scary.

And, of course, his intensity transformed. It turned sexual. I remember feeling ambivalent. Curious. Repelled. Excited. Aroused. And these feelings, combined with the constant feeling of shame, made it all feel like I was the one choosing to have a sexual relationship.

Every bit of affection I craved was bought with more and more explicit behaviors. And because of this slow progression, I was desensitized to how violating it all was. I was set up to feel like I was his conspirator, when in fact, I was his target. I recognized that he could be emotionally and psychologically abusive. The night I ended our relationship, he was violent.

As complicated as it has been to accept that someone I love could abuse me in these ways, it has taken decades to recognize and admit, slowly and by incremental degrees, that he also sexually abused me. And, like many survivors of sexual abuse, I still see and interact with my abuser occasionally. When I do see him, sometimes I'm fine. I still feel love for him in a peculiar way and I care about him. Yet other days, I feel repelled, shaken, violated. On those days my PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) symptoms emerge in full force.

As I've written elsewhere, "I know that my grooming for sexual abuse was so effective that... I still feel responsible for my own abuse. I understand the dynamics that produced this effect in me. And, yet, after all my knowledge, all my therapy, and all the years of praying, it still feels like my fault..."

If you are a survivor of sexual abuse, the wounds are deep, the scars are severe, the emotions are complex. But you're not alone. We would love to journey with you and support you. Connect with a free and confidential mentor at issuesiface.com/talk.

God Jams A Gun

Reprinted with permission from The Life Project Annual Report. This story is a woman's response to the "Hidden Things" article. Names have been changed.

Isabel no longer saw the point in living. A victim of sexual abuse, she was tormented by unbearable emotional pain and didn't want to keep going. Browsing online, she came across issuesiface.com; there was a story someone had shared of their own struggle to heal from sexual abuse, titled "Hidden Things." After reading it, she decided to send a message to connect with an online mentor. A part of her wanted someone to know and understand the depth of her pain.

She didn't plan on waiting for a response. She was already done and ready to end her life.

Isabel took out her gun and sat in silence. After a few moments, she prayed for forgiveness and lifted the gun to her head.

She pulled the trigger, but it didn't fire. The gun jammed.

When The Life Project received Isabel's message, Isabel was connected with Laura, someone who had journeyed through the long process of healing from sexual abuse and could identify with her struggle.

Soon after, Laura and Isabel began to correspond online. Through their connection, Isabel found a lifeline of hope and later told Laura: "I can't tell you how much it meant to me to see a message from you, words of encouragement, and real concern for me. It meant more than you could ever know."

Thankful for Laura's prayers and genuine concern, Isabel made efforts not to isolate herself. Over the next few months, she started to make progress.

"I am visiting some friends and working very hard to put my life back together again," Isabel said. "It has been a hard road. Nothing has been easy. Each day there seems to be another memory to work through, but I'm doing it day by day."

Through their mentoring relationship, Isabel discovered incredible hope in having



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I couldn't believe it. At that moment, I knew Jesus was present and that He had intervened.

a personal relationship with God. She was grateful that her mentor was there for her, and wrote to Laura: “You are the one who ultimately helped me find my way back to God. I trusted no one, but there was something about you that led me to take a chance and reach out for help... Thank you for your kindness, your time, and most of all, your prayers on my behalf.”

God is transforming lives through the dedication of The Life Project mentors who intentionally listen, encourage and share the gospel with others online. To find out more or to become a mentor, visit thelifeproject.com.

THE LIFE PROJECT'S vision is to see 5,000 mentors leading 1 million people closer to Jesus by the end of 2020. They currently mobilize 1,125 mentors.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

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11.7 Million

Website Visitors

8.7 Million

Exposures to the Gospel

1.5 Million

Chatroom Visits

129,000

Incoming Messages

89,000

Social Media

Followers 42,000

Indicated Decisions

for Christ 9,800

Mentors Trained Since

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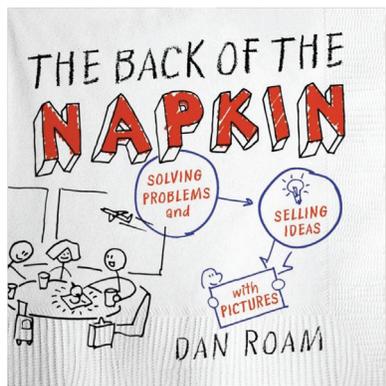
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Book Recommendations

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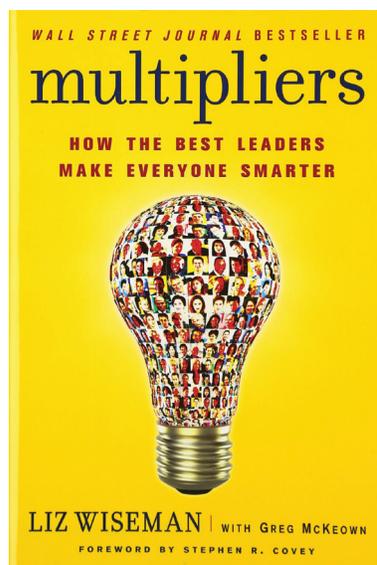


Paul's Pick

The Back of the Napkin
by Dan Roam

"What if there was a way to make business problem solving more efficient, more effective, and—as much as I hate to say it—perhaps even a bit more fun? There is. It's called visual thinking, and it's what this book is all about: solving problems with pictures."

— Paul Brooks

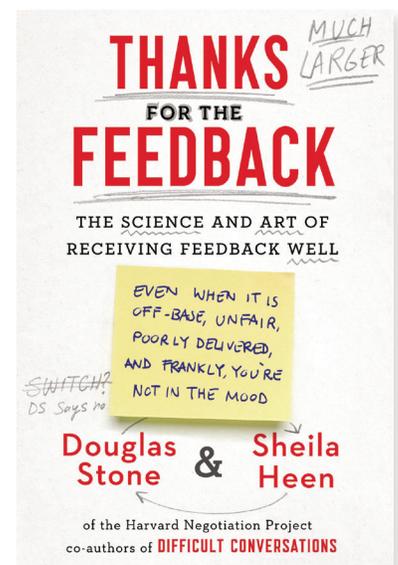


Neal's Pick

Multipliers
by Liz Wiseman

"If you're a leader and want to be exponentially better, I recommend this book."

— Neal Black



Grace's Pick

Thanks for the Feedback
by Douglas Stone and Sheila Heen

"This book really helped me. After reading it, I found it is easy to solicit feedback and build a habit to get feedback to improve. You might have to relearn how to do some things, but when you get feedback, you can relearn it."

— Grace Cheng

PARTNER WITH POWER TO CHANGE

*There are multiple ways
to make a difference.*

PRAY

Pray for those who don't yet know Jesus, and for workers seeking to reach the unreached and unengaged. 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 through any of our ministries as we serve in Canada and around the world. Apply to one of our ministry-supported positions or join our field staff.

GIVE

Consider supporting the ministry of a staff member through monthly or annual giving. Donate to the P2C ministry of your choice and fund specific initiatives. Through your financial partnership, we are proclaiming Jesus' name in Canada and abroad together.



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