

At the Well

A PUBLICATION OF LIFESPING 55

MARCH 2023

IN THIS ISSUE

- 02 PRAYER EVENT REPORT
- 03 EDITORIAL
- 04 MORNING!
- 06 HYMN REVIEW
- 08 GOD REMEMBERS HIS OWN
- 12 NEWS AND VIEWS

"... but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

VOLUME 3: NUMBER 1

JOHN 4:14



Worship time at the Congregational Life prayer event!

On Saturday, January 14, early in the year, well over a hundred of our people met at the church to celebrate God's goodness and to spend time in corporate prayer. All of the ministries of our Congregational Life Department were represented at the event – Children's Ministry, Junior Youth, Senior Youth, Young Adults, Life Groups, Discipleship, as well as Visitation and Seniors.

The day consisted of a teaching time, an appreciation luncheon, and a prayer time whereby the participants were able to move from prayer station to prayer station and pray over the stated needs of the various ministries.

Editorial

The end of the journey for Moses was predictably eventful. His most remarkable life had been accented by mountain-top experiences of a supernatural kind. In Deuteronomy 34 we see that now the Lord has come to him again to take him up another mountain—Mt. Pisgah, from which he would be able to view the Promised Land. For forty years he had led a stubborn and rebellious people through cycles of wilderness journeyings—a people who rightly deserved to remain trapped in that wilderness. From the complaints concerning the manna to the worshiping of the golden calf, from the wails of dissatisfaction at Meribah to the negative report from ten of twelve spies, there were sufficient displays of unbelief for the Israelites to have been written off. Yes, from a human perspective the whole forty-year saga could be viewed as a failed experiment.

But now, God, in another overwhelming display of mercy, is repeating the promise to Moses – then the Lord said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it." (Deuteronomy 34: 4 – 7)

While Moses himself would not make it to Canaan, he would have the satisfaction of knowing that his faithful service during the past forty years was not in vain.

God would fulfill His word and deliver His people to their promised destination. God's people are people on a journey and it must never be forgotten that we are very much enroute towards a certain destiny—a life whose promise far exceeds anything we could hope to experience in our current time and space existence.

In this issue of *At the Well* we build on the theme of God's faithfulness. Contributing writers, Marilyn Daniels and Brenda Andrews, provide Word-based encouragement that, in spite of the difficulties we may encounter on our journey, God remains faithful.

For Moses, it was not so much the destination but the PRESENCE that made the difference for him. Remember his prayer, "Unless your presence goes with us, do not carry us forward." His promise is that He is with us.

We who know Christ have the double blessing of having the constant presence of the Lord with us as we journey, and – what could be more wondrous? – the glorious hope of an unimaginable destiny with Him forever!



Reg Andrews
Visitation Pastor



Morning has usually been a joyous experience for me – waking up with all the potential of another day before me can be so stimulating! However, the aches and pains of aging quite often make our morning experience less than exciting. Grief, fear and pain may combine to make our nights sleepless, so sometimes we awaken less refreshed than when we went to sleep.

Some folks live with feelings of rejection, sensing they are unworthy to be loved. Many others around our globe wake up in war-torn countries to face uncertainties, deprivation and even death, day by day. Certainly, these have cause to lament when seeing another morning. Whether we awaken happy in our circumstances or not, the good news is that God's love never fails.

“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love”

Psalm 143:8

What does fail is our awareness of that truth. Sometimes, though we acknowledge the Lord's unfailing love in our minds, our reality is far from a heart-felt experience. In the middle of a great lament we read that this prophet is infused by the Spirit of God with the reality of God's truth. As bad as it gets, God is still working. Out of His great love, He works a miracle of His grace and mercy every morning (Lamentations 3:23)! Imagine! Isn't this a message for our world today?

The prophet's testimony goes like this: “I am a man who has seen affliction” (Lamentations 3:1). Where did that affliction come from? Was it a foreign nation? Did he experience rejection by his own people? Was he physically sick? Yes, to all of these if we read on in Chapter 3. “He has surrounded me with bitterness and hardship.... He shuts out my prayer... He pierced my heart with an arrow.... I have been deprived of peace.” These are miserable conditions to wake up to!

However, while remembering his afflictions and wanderings, how his soul is cast down within him, Jeremiah recalls something that causes him to hope. The Spirit of God brings light to the prophet's mind:

“Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed” (3:22).



He remembers God's many compassions! Signs of His love for His people! Jeremiah's experience has taught him that God never fails to be compassionate. Indeed, "The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him" (3:25). "His compassions [love] never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness" (3:22-23).

Compassion according to the Oxford dictionary means "sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others". How often are we so caught up with our own concerns that we forget or neglect to reach out to others? Instead, Satan works on our weaknesses to further separate us from God by convincing us God is not faithful, is not listening, does not care, based on our circumstances. What we know about God must reflect truth onto our experience, not the other way around.

We learn more about our great and glorious God from the sufferings of His Son. Living in a state of poverty, often harassed by the very people He had come to save, Jesus was renowned for His compassionate nature. He wept over Jerusalem. He shed tears at the graveside of His friend Lazarus, but His compassion for Mary and Martha led Him to be proactive. Of course, that miracle of life was part of God's Divine plan. Perhaps questions for us as we wake up might be:

Do we anticipate His plan being worked out in our lives today?

Are we prepared to be compassionately proactive in the lives of others, as we rise to greet another morning?

"Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."

Psalm 30:5



Marilyn Daniels

Marilyn is a member of our Lifespring 55 family, and has authored two books - *Marilyn's Meditations* and *Heart to Heart*.



Hymn Review

At Calvary

By William Nowell

William Nowell is perhaps not so well-known as some song writers, since he wrote a relatively small number of hymns. He was better known for his popular Bible exposition and commentaries.

Born in Savannah, Ohio, in 1868, his start in life was not at all promising. His father despaired of his prodigal son because of his wayward life and requested R. A. Torrey, president of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, to admit William to the school – hoping it would be a good influence on him. Torrey refused! Later, after some persistence, he relented, and accepted William – on condition that he agreed to obey the rules and met with Torrey regularly as required.

Somewhere along the way he surrendered his life to Christ, and so began a remarkable career of teaching and preaching. It was said of him that few men so well understood the magnitude of God's grace. His best-known hymn, At Calvary, is the testimony of his realization of his own deep need and his salvation.

He studied at Wooster College and at Princeton and Oberlin seminaries and

pastored Bethesda Congregational Church in Chicago. President Torrey invited him to join the staff at Moody and later appointed him assistant superintendent.

Nowell was known for his extraordinary Bible exposition and wrote studies on the books of Romans, Hebrews and Revelation – still available on-line. He was much in demand as a conference speaker in Chicago, St. Louis, New York and, yes, Toronto.

One day in an empty classroom – with musician Daniel Towner at the piano -- he was inspired to pen the words:

**Oh! The love that drew salvation's plan,
Oh! The grace that brought it down to man.
Oh! The mighty gulf the that God did span
At Calvary.**

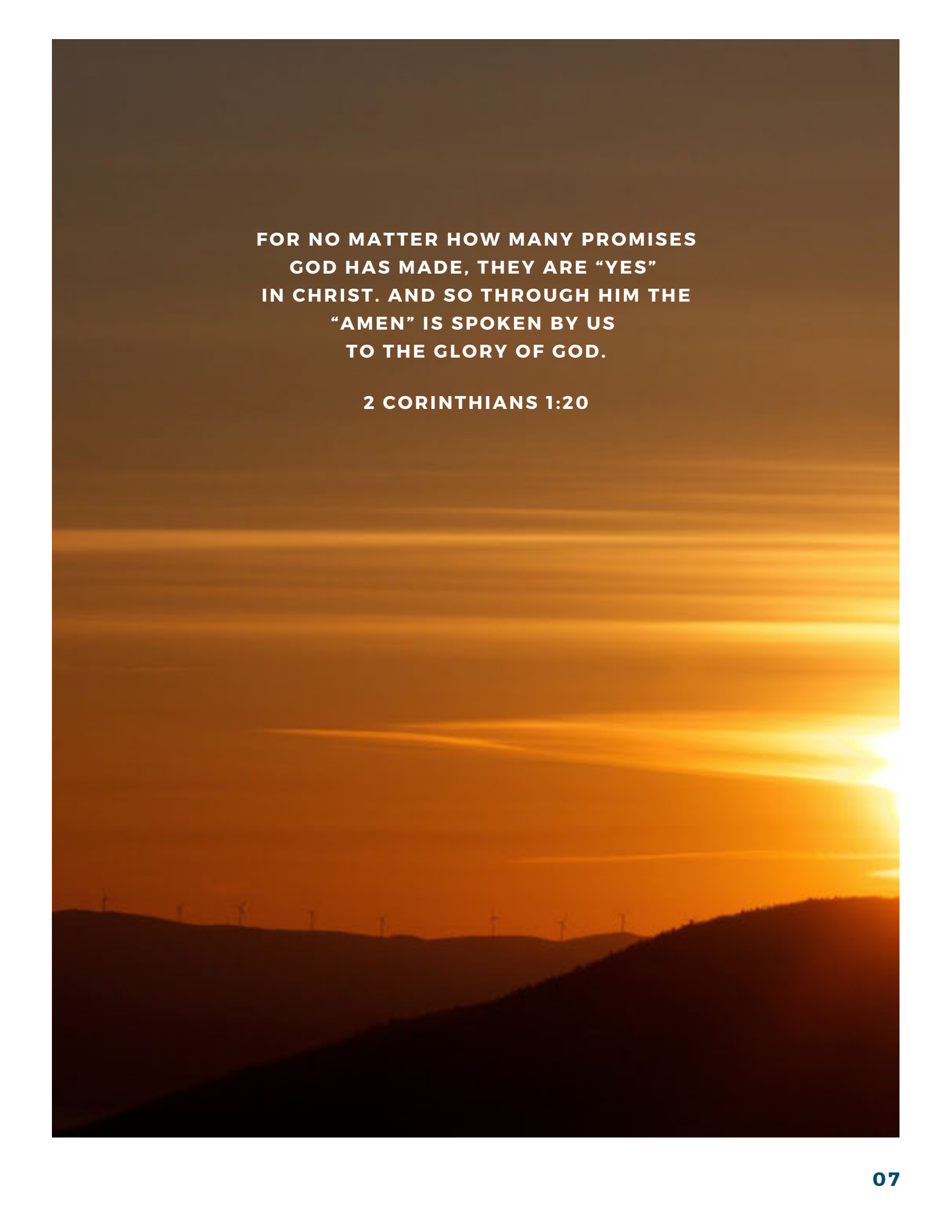
**Mercy there was great and grace was free,
Pardon there was multiplied to me,
There my burdened soul found liberty,
At Calvary.**

William Nowell went into the Lord's presence in 1956. I well remember singing his song when I was a young lad back in England.



Bernard Pears

Former Director of our Lifespring Choir, Bernard is an attendee of Lifespring 55.

A full-page background image showing a sunset over a landscape. The sky is filled with horizontal bands of orange and yellow light, with the sun partially visible on the right side. In the foreground, there are dark silhouettes of rolling hills and a line of wind turbines stretching across the horizon.

**FOR NO MATTER HOW MANY PROMISES
GOD HAS MADE, THEY ARE “YES”
IN CHRIST. AND SO THROUGH HIM THE
“AMEN” IS SPOKEN BY US
TO THE GLORY OF GOD.**

2 CORINTHIANS 1:20



God Remembers His Own

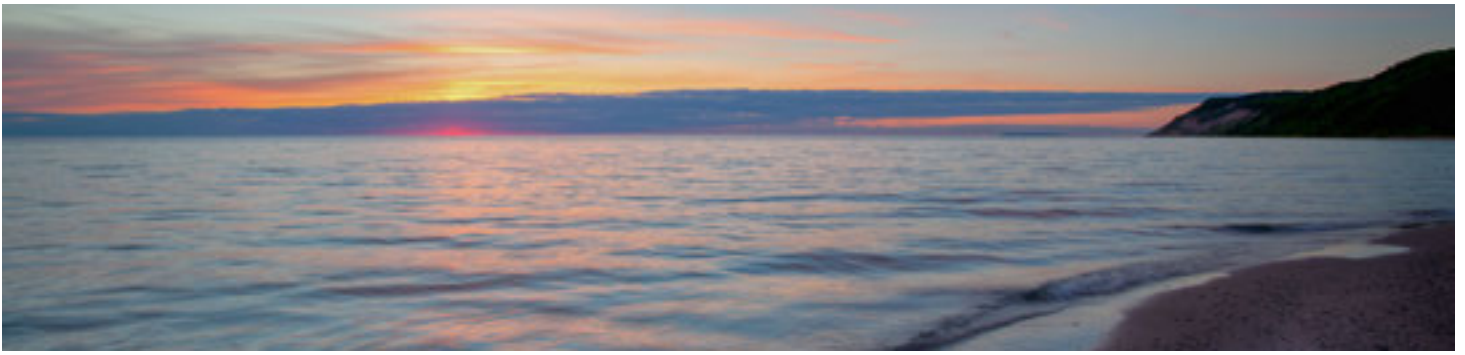
The weather had turned for the worst. St. John's was soon covered with a blanket of heavy snow. The February wind howled, and blizzard conditions accosted anyone brave enough to come out of their home and to be assaulted by the elements. A young man, just thirty-one years old, had kissed his wife and five young sons good-bye, and headed down the hill to the waterfront to board a ship. The ship, the Florizel, would take him to New York City and to the employment which had been so elusive to him on the island. Even though it had been so heart-wrenching to say good-bye to his little family, he was full of hope that this adventure would lead to some prosperity for his children. His oldest, George, was a trustworthy boy who would be a help to his mother with the younger four boys, and, if needed, his parents were nearby.

As he got closer to the harbor there was a hubbub of activity as the ship was being loaded for its first point of call, Halifax, and then on to New York. The Florizel was moored tightly to the dock. She was a majestic vessel, a luxury passenger ship constructed of steel, able to withstand the icy conditions of the North Atlantic. It was February 23, 1918, and unknown to this young man and the many others with him, they were about to embark on a disastrous voyage.

Cassie Brown, author of, "A Winter's Tale," poignantly tells the story of that fateful night and the wreck of the Florizel, a ship that should have been able to withstand the rigours of the voyage, but, sadly, fell victim to the treachery of the head engineer and the incompetence of the ship's captain. At 5:00 am on February 24, 1918, the Florizel ran aground on the rocks near Cappahayden, Newfoundland, with a loss of ninety-four people, including that young man, Leonard Nicholl, my grandfather. Cassie Brown tells how he had just come up on deck when a huge wave swept across that deck throwing him into the dark, treacherous ocean, never to be seen again.

This was a storm of huge proportions that impacted my family in a profound way. We all know what a storm is – it's a weather event that can bring catastrophic consequences. May I suggest that there are storms that sweep into our lives that are not weather related but are often just as catastrophic – times of desperation when we are left shipwrecked in heart and mind and body.

There is a beautiful depiction of just such a storm told in three of the four gospels. It's a story of the disciples out on the Sea of Galilee when a huge storm blew up, seemingly out of nowhere.



The disciples despaired even of life itself. As a last resort they went to Jesus Who was asleep in the back of the boat. They shouted above the deafening roar of the wind and the waves, “Master, don’t You care if we perish?” The Bible tells us that Jesus woke up, looked at the huge, life-threatening waves being whipped up by the ferocious wind, and at His desperate disciples. In a calm voice He spoke and said, “Peace, be still.” Immediately, the storm ceased.

Three things to note here:

1. The storm came out of nowhere.
2. Calling on Jesus was a last resort.
3. Jesus brings peace.

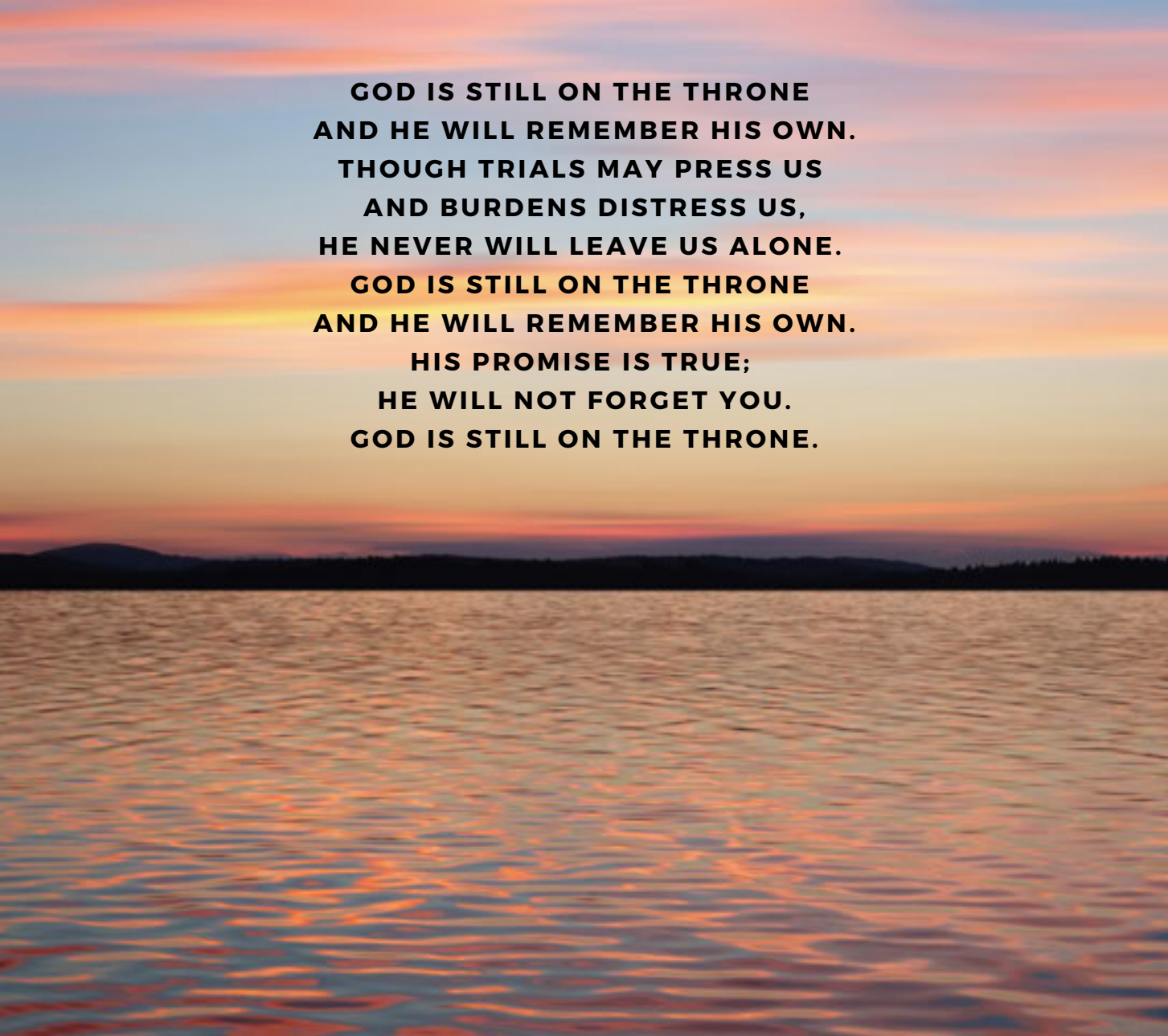
If you are in a storm today, no matter what kind of storm it is, take this message to heart. Where is Jesus? He’s in your boat! He was the One Who told the disciples to get into the boat. The storm was no surprise to Him. He had a purpose and a plan, and He asked the question of them and probably to us today, “Why are you so afraid?”

Your storm may be health-related, a financial crisis, a relational issue, a severe loss. Maybe it’s an event that you encounter simply by living in this fallen world, or it could be a consequence of mistakes you have made in the past. To each of these I say, “Where is Jesus? He’s in your boat!”

Sometimes answers are not readily forthcoming when we encounter the storms of life. Sometimes it takes time and great patience. My grandmother was left with five little children to raise at a time when there were no government programs to prop up the family and meet the barest of essentials. Family, and the church family were her only support. Trusting God in the midst of her personal storm was the option she chose. My father became ‘head of the house’ at the age of ten! That’s a story in itself to be told another day.

No matter what you’re facing today, I would like to quote the words of a very old song, **“God is Still on the Throne.”**





**GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE
AND HE WILL REMEMBER HIS OWN.
THOUGH TRIALS MAY PRESS US
AND BURDENS DISTRESS US,
HE NEVER WILL LEAVE US ALONE.
GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE
AND HE WILL REMEMBER HIS OWN.
HIS PROMISE IS TRUE;
HE WILL NOT FORGET YOU.
GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE.**

(Kittie Suffield<https://gospelchoruses.wordpress.com>)

Your heartache and pain because of your storm is not a surprise to God. He is with you. Take heart! He is in your boat!



Brenda Andrews

Brenda serves on the Executive Committee of Lifespring 55.



**YOUR STEADFAST LOVE, O LORD,
EXTENDS TO THE HEAVENS,
YOUR FAITHFULNESS TO THE CLOUDS.**

PSALM 36:5



Celebrating Generosity

Executive Pastor, Karen Hurlburt recently announced the results of our end of year mission project. Over the Christmas season, we came together to support the peacebuilding work of our global partners in Uganda, Colombia, Lebanon, North Africa, and Canada.

We set a goal of \$300,000, and as usual, you gave with incredible generosity. Together, we gave a total of \$375,000 to our global peacebuilding partners! Another notable victory in the ongoing global engagement of The Peoples Church!

Thank the Lord and thanks to His people as we continue to give priority to the needs of sharing the gospel of grace around the world.

Spotlight on Visitation

The Lord has blessed us with a good number of faithful volunteers who are equipped to bring the blessing of friendship and prayer support to those of our church family who are sick and shut in.

If you know of someone who, for some reason, is unable to attend our services and activities, please let us know. We would love to connect and offer the gift of friendship.

- You may call the church number (416.222.3341) and leave a message at [extension 177](#)
- Or send an email to RegA@ThePeoplesChurch.ca





Points to Ponder

- I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.
- Employment application blanks always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write, "An ambulance."
- The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.
- The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.
- Have you ever noticed: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.
- The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he knows when he's really in trouble.
- Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.
- Some people try to turn back their "odometers." Not me. I want people to know why I look this way.
- I've traveled a long way and a lot of the roads were not paved.
- Ah! Being young is beautiful but being old is comfortable.
- Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.
- May you always have:

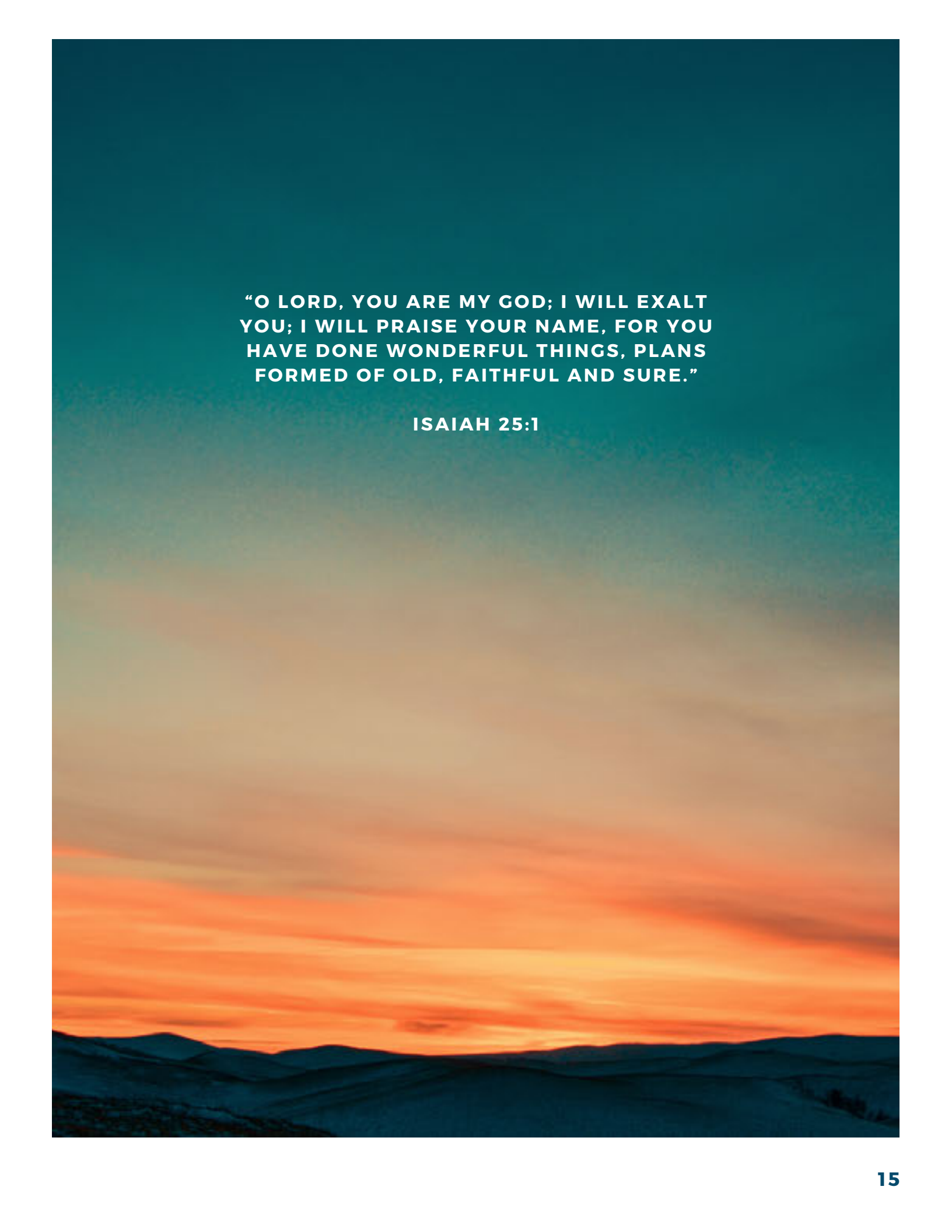
*Love to share,
Cash to spare,
Tires with air,
And friends who care.*



A Word to the Wise

We live in a society that is overtaken with piracy of all sorts. There are new scams reported every day and, unfortunately, the target is often seniors. At the Well and the Insurance Bureau of Canada offer the following safeguards:

- Be sure to keep your personal information private, including your date of birth, driver's licence number, health card number, etc.
- Never reply to an email, text message or a phone call asking for personal information.
- Scammers will often appear to be a legitimate financial institution or government agency. Do not yield financial or other personal information over the phone or by email unless you have initiated the communication and you know with whom you are communicating.
- Check your credit report and score from time to time.
- Review your bank and credit card statements regularly and report any issues to your financial institution right away.
- Report lost or stolen identification, debit or credit cards to your financial institution and Canada's credit rating agencies immediately.
- Consult a close friend or family member to assist you in making important financial decisions.
- Ask the Lord for wisdom and protection as you navigate the treacherous waters of trade and commerce.



**“O LORD, YOU ARE MY GOD; I WILL EXALT
YOU; I WILL PRAISE YOUR NAME, FOR YOU
HAVE DONE WONDERFUL THINGS, PLANS
FORMED OF OLD, FAITHFUL AND SURE.”**

ISAIAH 25:1

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Good Friday Services – Friday, April 7
- Resurrection Day Services – Sunday, April 9
- Lifespring 55 Gospel Concert – Saturday, April 15
- Lifespring 55 Missionary Guest – Saturday, May 20
- Global Mission Conference - May 26 – June 11
- Lifespring 55 – Saturday, June 17

**AT THE WELL IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF
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