


# AT THE WELL

A PUBLICATION OF  
**LIFESPING 55**



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*“...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.”* —JOHN 4:14

# A WELL-DESERVED HONOUR

On Sunday, March 12, Pastor Sandra Ryan hosted a special dinner in which Brian Dawkins, former Director of Finance & Operations at The Peoples Church and a current attendee of Lifespring 55, received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers.

The medal, awarded by the office of the Governor General, Mary Simon, acknowledges outstanding community service through volunteer engagement. According to the office of the Governor General, "passion, dedication and a commitment to community are the driving forces behind the volunteers who receive the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. The medal recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians from across the country in a wide range of fields and pays tribute to the dedication and commitment of volunteers. They embody the caring country we aspire to build."

Brian has played a key leadership role in a volunteer capacity as he has served on a number of not-for-profit boards, including l'Arche, an organization that provides assistance and resources for disabled persons and IAFR, an agency that focuses on the needs of refugees.



*Brian and Liz Dawkins with the Sovereign's Medal*

We at The Peoples Church are more familiar with Brian's faithful ministry as the team lead for our Sunday parking crew. His consistent ministry in this demanding role is representative of his life of service. We thank the Lord for Brian's strong example of dedication to his Lord through giving of himself for the benefit of others.

We congratulate Brian on this remarkable, yet well-deserved, recognition.

# THE VALUE OF PRAYER



In our recent Lifespring 55 meetings we have been visiting the vital role of prayer – a ministry for which each of us has been commissioned by the Word of God. The value of prayer is well established and is repeatedly emphasized in the Word of God and in the history of the church.

The importance of prayer in the ministry of the apostles is evident from the reading of such scriptures as Romans 12:12, Ephesians 6:18 and Colossians 4:12. The role of prayer in bringing revival to the church and renewal in society is on record. The Laymen's Revival of the 19th century, the great Welsh Revival at the turn of the last century and the Hebrides Revival of the early 1950's are among the many historical attestations to the power of corporate prayer.

The great prayer warrior of a bygone era, E. M. Bounds, wrote:

*Prayer concerns God, whose purposes and plans are **conditioned** on prayer. His will and His glory are bound up in praying. The days of God's splendor and renown have always been the great days of prayer. God's great movements in this world have been conditioned on, continued and fashioned by prayer. God has put Himself in these great movements just as men (and women) have prayed.*

*(E. M. Bounds, The Weapon of Prayer, Grand Rapids, Baker Book House 1978.)*

So here is a compelling invitation to those of us who know the power of prayer. "LET US PRAY!" Our families, our church, our city, our nation and our world are all in need of a new visitation of the Holy Spirit's restorative work. Also, let's not forget that our partners in mission are in constant need of our prayer support. Terry Bridle's article in this issue of *At the Well* is a poignant reminder of this.

"LET US PRAY!"

Reg Andrews





# WHEN ALL ELSE IS GONE

## PART 1



*Terry and Ginny Bridle are members of Lifespring 55*

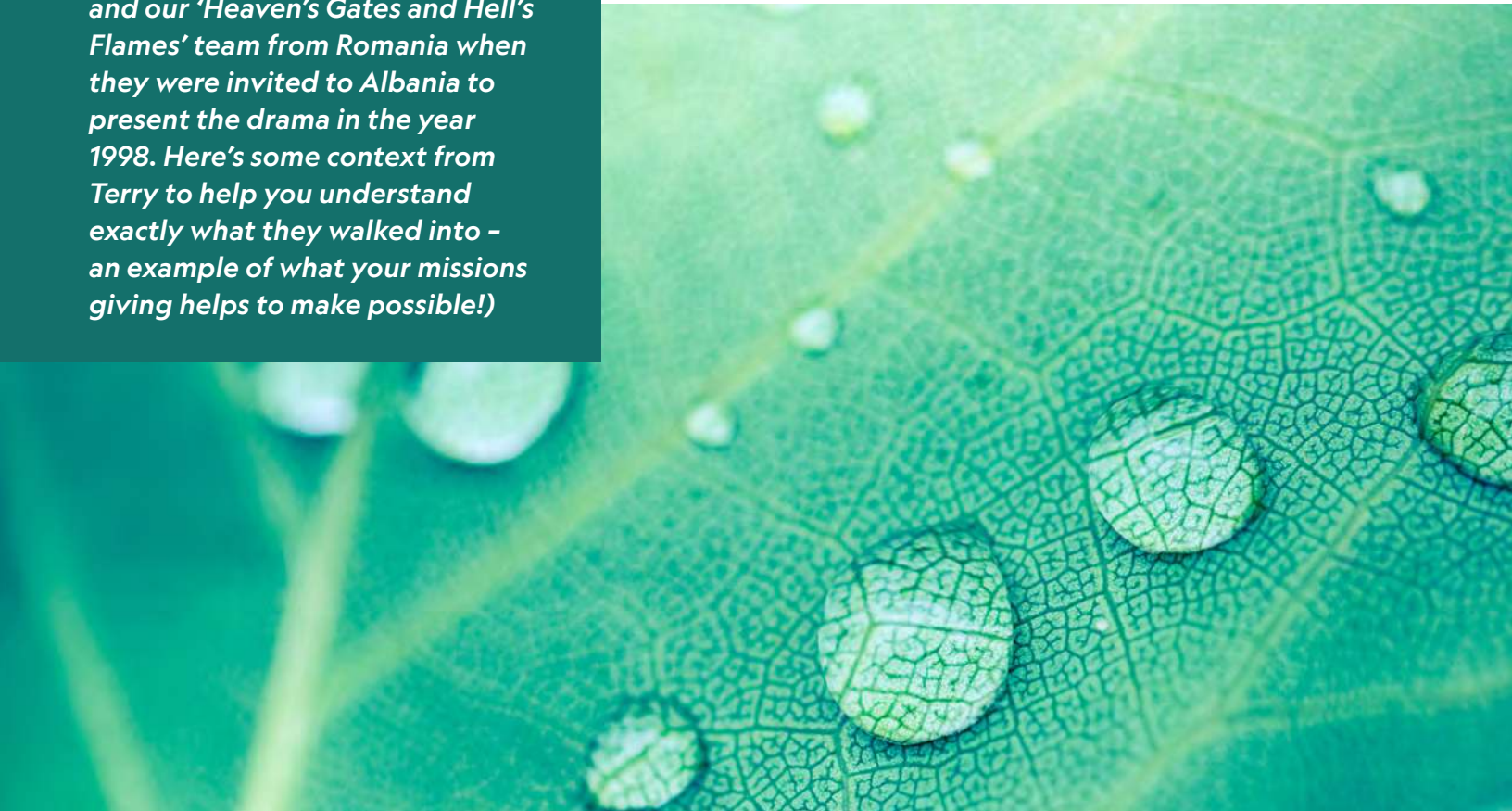
*(This is the first installment of a story extracted from "A Funny Thing Happened on My Way to Heaven" by Terry Bridle. Have you ever been asked to do something, and then after you have said 'yes' all your usual tools are totally stripped away from you and you are left with nothing at all - but you are still expected to do it? This happened to Terry and our 'Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames' team from Romania when they were invited to Albania to present the drama in the year 1998. Here's some context from Terry to help you understand exactly what they walked into - an example of what your missions giving helps to make possible!)*

Nestled between northern Greece and the azure waters of Italy, Albania should be a tourist Mecca. With a fascinating history, natural beauty, and to-die-for Mediterranean cuisine, Albania is Europe's unpolished diamond.

But since the end of World War 2 it had a turbulent history as it struggled to find its place amongst the

patchwork of nations in the 'new' Europe, and especially amongst its neighbouring nations in the Balkans. It has not helped that in 1967, the Albanian authorities conducted a violent campaign to try to totally extinguish religious practice in Albania, claiming that religion had divided the Albanian nation and kept it mired in backwardness.

It was in the midst of this



political turmoil that I, Terry, (flying in from the UK), and our Romanian 'Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames Team of Dan Mitra, Mircea and Dana Ardelean (driving in from Romania) entered Albania at the invitation of a church in a small town called "Lash", about an hour's drive north

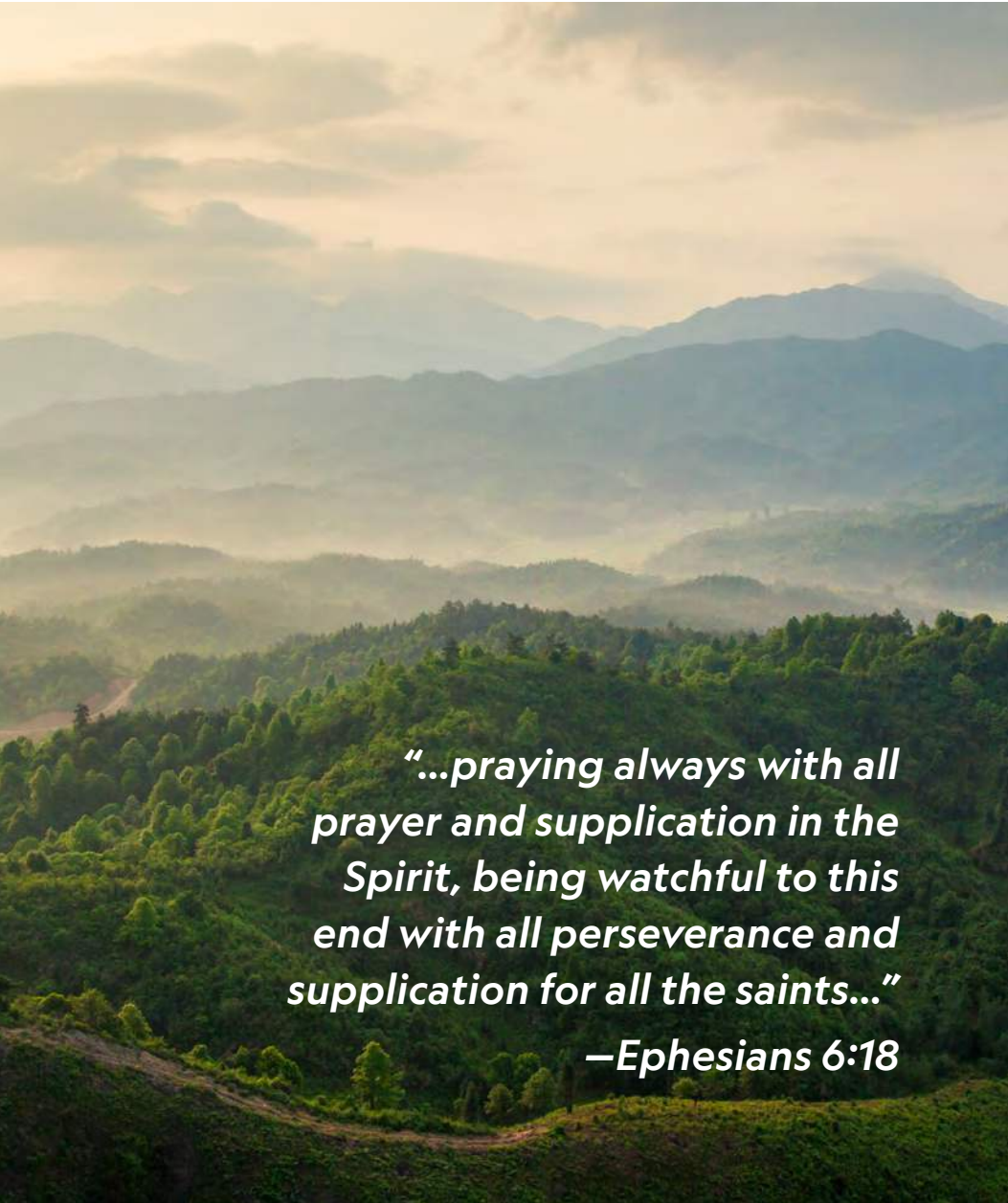
Driving in from Tirana International Airport in the South, I met with Dan, Mircea and Dana, driving from Romania and through Serbia in the north, and we could see this was a country that was literally on the verge of actual civil war. Recently, mobs had broken into police

stations and army barracks, and stolen any weapons they found. There was chaos and anarchy everywhere. People were walking around indiscriminately firing Kalashnikov semi-automatic rifles and other weaponry into the air. It sounded like fireworks on a Canada Day celebration, but these were not fireworks; they were real guns firing real bullets. **We had arrived in the middle of this confusion and lawlessness to openly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the drama 'Heaven's Gates & Hell's Flames'.**

The situation was very unsettling, to say the least. Why had God allowed us into this literally 'Godforsaken' place? Perhaps it was this very lawlessness that created the unique circumstances that allowed us this freedom. It was a window of

**opportunity that, as it turned out, would only be open for a very brief moment.**

The local pastor took us to see the theatre in which the drama would be performed. It was a bare, modern multi-



*"...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints..."*  
—Ephesians 6:18

of the capital, Tirana. At the border our Romanian team had all of our drama equipment – lights, sound and costumes etc. – impounded. None of it was allowed to enter Albania.



purpose building right in the middle of town. Inside, there were tiers of concrete steps each about two feet high, but with no fixed seating – just loose chairs scattered around on the thirty or forty ‘steps’, with room for about eight hundred people. And there was no theatre lighting or PA system, nor was there any kind of stage curtain!

Over the years we had perfected a way of presenting the drama in most all situations, but with all our equipment held at the border, and this shell of a building offering no help at all, we were just left with the bare bones of a drama – no ‘bells or whistles’ – just the local Albanian people, most of whom had never acted before, and the script. No sound effects, no lighting, no costumes.

**But circumstances drive the need for change and creativity!**

As I and our Romanian Team taught the local Albanians how to act the scenes of the drama, we realized that the Lord had allowed us to be stripped of everything except the words of the script and the Albanian people themselves - but we DID still have one more thing – the ace up our sleeve. We still had the PRESENCE AND POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT! As the time neared for the first presentation to begin, there was a commotion at the back door of the theatre, as it was literally smashed down and people began to flood in. Very soon the entire theatre was jammed full of people – many of them drunk and openly carrying guns.

When all else is gone – when all those things that we trust in and rely upon are taken from us – we must never forget

that we still have the PRESENCE AND POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT! But drunks with guns? There was no missionary training to cover this! We had no idea how we were going to calm down the restless crowd. We had never seen such an undisciplined rabble. And with no PA system we could not even make ourselves heard above the commotion.

Among our local Albanian team were three teenage girls, and they timidly suggested that perhaps they could sing praise and worship songs to calm down the restless angry crowd? Please forgive me for my ungracious words here, born out of my own fear and lack of faith, but these girls were worse than ‘not good’. They sang barely in tune, and their guitars were cheap with cat-gut strings. This violent crowd would ‘eat them up.’ The only merciful thing was that the crowd were so loud with their shouting, booing and heckling that you could barely hear the 3 girls singing and playing.

But then a strange thing began to happen. As the girls bravely persisted in singing their worship to God - even though no-one seemed to be listening to them – very gradually the crowd quieted down enough to introduce and start the drama.

**As I watched this from the sidelines, tears were flowing down my face. First, because of the courage and tenacity of those three young Albanian girls when faced with such hostility; and then as I witnessed the PRESENCE AND POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT take hold of the theatre and all those in it. If I had not witnessed it for myself I would not have believed it!**

# HYMN REVIEW

*Sweet Hour of Prayer by W. W. Walford*



“Sweet Hour of Prayer” first appeared in the New York Observer on September 13, 1845, accompanied by this explanatory note by Rev. Thomas Salmon, a British minister recently immigrated to America:

*At Coleshill, Warwickshire, England, I became acquainted with W. W. Walford, the blind preacher, a man of obscure birth and connections and no education, but of strong mind and most retentive memory. In the pulpit he never failed to select a lesson well adapted to his subject, giving chapter and verse with unerring precision and*

*scarcely ever misplacing a word in his repetition of the Psalms, every part of the New Testament, the prophecies, and some of the histories, so as to have the reputation of “knowing the whole Bible by heart.” He actually sat in the chimney corner, employing his mind in composing a sermon or two for Sabbath delivery...On one occasion, paying him a visit, he repeated two or three pieces he had composed, and having no friend at home to commit them to paper, he had laid them up in the storehouse within. “How will this do?” asked he, as he repeated*



*the following lines with my pencil as he uttered them, and sent them for insertion in the Observer.*

No one, however, has ever found a trace of the blind preacher named W. W. Walford in Coleshill, England. There was a congregational minister named William Walford who wrote a book about prayer containing striking similarities to this poem, and some believe he was the author. But he was neither blind nor uneducated, and the authorship of this hymn remains a mystery.

There is yet another mystery – a deeper one – connected with this hymn. It's the question Jesus asked Simon Peter in Gethsemane: "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?" If an hour spent with the Lord is so sweet, why do we race through our day prayerless, and then squeeze all our requests into a two-minute segment at bedtime? An oft-omitted verse to this hymn says:

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! The joys I feel, the bliss I share*

*Of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for Thy return!*

*With such I hasten to the*

*place where God my Saviour shows His face,*

*And gladly take my station there, and wait for Thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

**Sweet Hour of Prayer**

Attributed to William W. Walford      William B. Bradbury

1. Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer, That calls me from a world of care.  
2. Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer, Thy wings shall my pe-ti-tion bear.  
3. Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer, May I Thy con-so-la-tion share.

And bids me at my Fa-ther's throne Make all my wants and wish-es known.  
To Him whose truth and fin-ish-ful-ness En-gage the wait-ing soul to bloom.  
'Till from Mount Pis-gah's loft-y height, I view my home and take my flight.

In sea-sons of dis-tress and grief My soul has of-ten found re-lief.  
And since He bids me seek His face, Be-lieve His word, and trust His grace.  
This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise to seize the ev-er-last-ing prize.

And oft es-caped the imp-ter's snare, By Thy re-turn, sweet hour of prayer.  
I'll cast on Him my ev-ry care, And wait for Thee, sweet hour of prayer.  
And shout while pass-ing through the air, Fare-well, fare-well, sweet hour of prayer.

(Source: *Then Sings My Soul* by Robert J. Morgan, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2005.)

# NEWS AND VIEWS

## GLOBAL MISSION CONFERENCE 2023



**Dr. David Mensah**



Global Mission Conference 2023 took place beginning on Friday, May 26 and running through Sunday, June 11. The theme for the conference, “ONE”, was derived from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians: *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.* (Ephesians 4: 4-6)

The invited guests were chosen and the various events were designed to inspire and challenge us to seek and listen to how God is calling us to be ONE right here in Toronto, throughout Canada and around the world. United as a church family, and in harmony with our local and global partners, we were encouraged to become engaged in new and meaningful opportunities to learn, serve, give, pray and worship in community.

Speakers Wissam Nasrallah, CEO of the Lebanese Society for Education & Societal Development, and Dr. David Mensah of Africa Inland Mission, along with other guests and mission representatives, emphasized the amazing power of the Holy Spirit at work when we unite together to bring the gospel of peace to our broken world. As we work in partnership with others in the body of Christ, the impact is profound and lasting.

It was great to see many of our Lifespring 55 community involved in the various conference activities. You too are part of this great God-given mandate as you participate through your faith promise giving and consistent prayer.





# KEEPING YOUR HOME SAFE

*(Source: Public Health Agency of Canada)*

Injuries can result from seemingly innocent things around your home—many of which are easily fixed or adapted after you do some detective work to track them down. The following checklists will help you inspect your

home for evidence of trouble that may be waiting to happen. Every NO answer is a clue that your home may not be as safe as it could be and that you should be making the needed changes as soon as you can. Your safety depends on it!

## OUTSIDE AND INSIDE CHECKLISTS

### OUTSIDE

- Do all your entrances have an outdoor light?
- Do your outdoor stairs, pathways or decks have railings and provide good traction (i.e. textured surfaces)?
- Are the front steps and walkways around your house in good repair and free of clutter?
- Do the doorways to your balcony or deck have a low sill or threshold?
- Can you reach your mailbox safely and easily?
- Is the number of your house clearly visible from the street and well lit at night?

### INSIDE

- Are all rooms and hallways in your home well lit?
- Are all throw rugs and scatter mats secured in place to keep them from slipping?
- Have you removed scatter mats from the top of the stairs and high traffic areas?
- Are your high traffic areas clear of obstacles?
- Do you always watch that your pets are not underfoot?
- If you use floor wax, do you use the non-skid kind?
- Do you have a first aid kit and know where it is?
- Do you have a list of emergency numbers near all phones?

**TIP: Install a seat at the entrance of your home to remove or put on your shoes and boots.**



# LAUGHTER - THE BEST MEDICINE

## THE SENIORS' VIEWPOINT

1. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it is still on my list.
3. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
4. We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
5. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
6. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal ideas from many is research.
7. I didn't say it was your fault; I said I was blaming you.
8. In filling out a form, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify .....", I answered, "a doctor."
9. Fool me once - shame on you; fool me twice - shame on you.
10. You do not need a parachute to skydive; you only need a parachute to skydive twice.

## AND THEN, THERE IS THIS...WE DON'T RECOMMEND IT!!

Last year, I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive double pane energy efficient kind. But this week, I got a call from the contractor complaining that his work had been completed a whole year and I had yet to pay for them.

Boy, oh boy, did we go around! Just because I'm old doesn't mean that I am automatically stupid. So, I proceeded to tell him just what his fast-talking sales guy had told me last year. He said that in one year, the windows would pay for themselves. There was silence on the other end of the line, so I just hung up, and he hasn't called back. Guess he was embarrassed.





To get your copy of “A Funny Thing Happened on My Way to Heaven” visit [www.terryandginny.com](http://www.terryandginny.com) or call 905-426-1816.



*“...not lagging in  
diligence, fervent in  
spirit, serving the Lord;  
rejoicing in hope, patient  
in tribulation, continuing  
steadfastly in prayer...”*

—Romans 12: 11,12



# THE PEOPLES HOUSE

As springtime and soon-to-be summer is upon us, we continue to see new refugee claimants come through our borders every day. Here at The Peoples House, we strive to make what at the best of times is an unpleasant journey, into one that resorts integrity, dignity, and worth. As ambassadors of Christ we are called to both offer our praises and prayers for others.



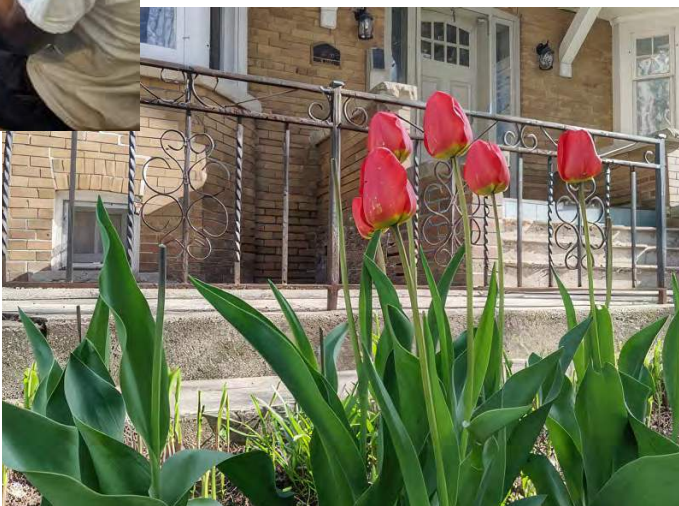
## PRAISE:

- Over the past season we have seen many residents move out into their own living arrangements.
- We have seen 40% of our current residents be granted their work permits and now starting to gain Canadian work experience.
- For our committed team and amazing volunteers.
- For the honour to be able to share life with people.



## PRAYER:

- For successful hearings and smooth refugee processing.
- That our residents will find adequate housing and employment.
- That our residents will find a community to belong and grow in.
- That our houses will have a strong sense of trust, community & safety.
- For opportunities to share the love of Jesus.





*"But you, when you pray, go into your room,  
and when you have shut your door, pray to your  
Father who is in the secret place; and your Father  
who sees in secret will reward you openly."*

*—Matthew 6:6*

**APRIL 17, 2023 - A TIME OF CELEBRATION ▼**



**At the Well is a quarterly publication of Lifespring 55,  
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