

# AT THE WELL

A PUBLICATION OF  
**LIFESPING 55**

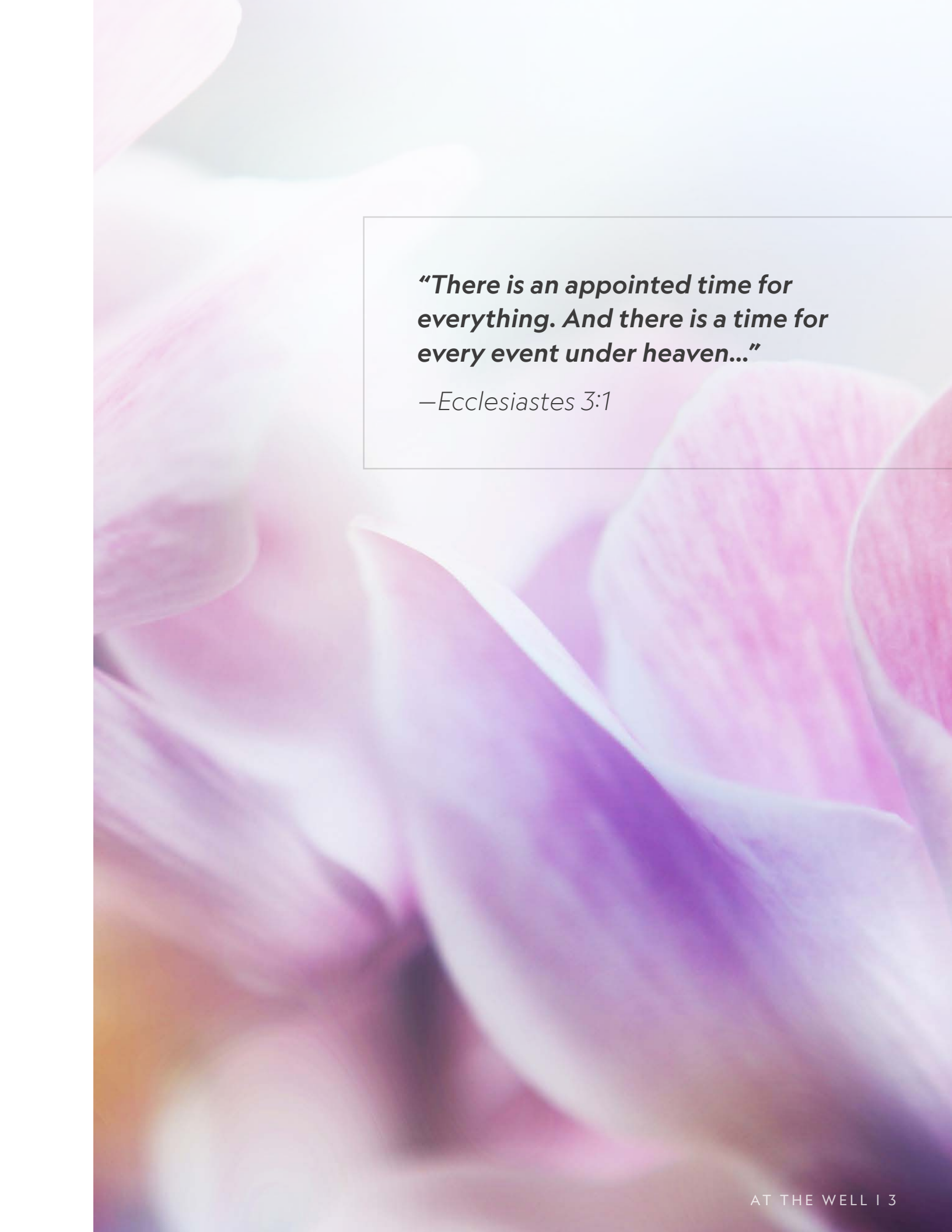


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*“...but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”* —JOHN 4:14



***“There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven...”***

*—Ecclesiastes 3:1*





*The Andrews with Dr. Solange Belluz and the Lifespring 55 volunteers.*

# A FOND FAREWELL

In the June 2023 meeting of Lifespring 55, our seniors bade farewell to Pastor Reg and Brenda Andrews. Congregational Life Pastor, Dr. Solange Belluz, presenting a going-away gift to the couple, spoke of the Andrews' record of service to The Peoples Church family.

It was in 1994 that Reg received an invitation from Peoples Christian Academy (PCA) Headmaster Don McNiven to assume the position of Elementary School Principal. After one year in that role, having pastoral credentials, he was invited by Dr. John Hull to join the pastoral staff of The Peoples Church (TPC) as Senior Associate Pastor. Brenda continued to teach at PCA for a number of years, retiring in 2016. Reg served as Senior Associate, and subsequently as Executive Pastor, until 2008. While filling a leadership role at Every Home for Christ in that year, he was asked to take the position of Director of Operations and Ministry at PCA during the school's critical years of transition to its new location in Markham. In September

of 2015 he returned, by invitation, to the pastoral staff of TPC taking responsibility for Visitation and Seniors.

Many have expressed appreciation for the way Reg and Brenda have shared the blessing of pastoral care to TPC congregants. They both state emphatically that any blessing they, by God's grace, have brought has been reciprocated many times over in multitudes of ways. Reg stated, "The richness of the many ethnic and denominational streams rallying together around the cause of reaching the world for Christ makes The Peoples Church a wonderfully distinct community." Together they say, "We love this place—more importantly, we love the people of God who make this place so uniquely set apart for the glory of God."

As for the future, the Lord seems to be setting a path for the Andrews to minister to Christian grandparents and great grandparents, challenging them to think in terms of the legacy of faith they are

leaving for the emerging generations. This ministry, as the Lord directs—though still in development—will encourage the Boomer demographic to focus on giving of their time, talent and treasure to influence kids, grandkids and great grandkids towards God.

As they are repatriated to the Rock (Newfoundland), Reg and Brenda ask for your continued prayers that God, by His Spirit and through His Word, will open doors of ministry. Pray that they will be instrumental in stirring a Caleb-like spirit among their generation to yet claim much territory for the cause of Christ.





# FAITHFUL GOD



It was early in my tenure as a member of the pastoral staff of The Peoples Church—1997, if I’m not mistaken—that we were gearing up for another spectacular World Missions Conference. Dr. John Hull was the lead pastor and Danny

Daniels had succeeded Dr. David Williams as Minister of Music. The World Missions Conference, since its founding, had become over the years, the signature event in the annual church calendar. The conference would normally feature such spiritual giants as Dr. E. V. Hill, Dr. Warren Weirsbe, Dr. George Sweeting, Dr. Joseph Stowell, Dr. Ron Cline, Dr. George Verwer—the list goes on.

This particular year would again see an impressive lineup of church leaders and missionary heroes, calling us to a deeper walk with Christ and a renewed commitment to the cause of world missions. Leading up to the three-Sunday event, Daniels had written a theme song for this year’s conference. Here are the words as I recall them. (I may be a little off in some of the phrasing, but it’s at least close to the original.)

*You are a faithful God;  
The Holy One who reigns.  
And we now lift our voice  
To praise and glorify Your name.  
And we must give our lives  
As a living sacrifice  
To let the whole world know  
You are a faithful God.*

Simple words—yet with the lovely melody, also written by Daniels—it provided much opportunity for deep reflection as it was sung repeatedly throughout the conference that year. As I think about those words, my mind drifts back over my twenty something years of association with Peoples Ministries. He truly has been a faithful God, enabling me to function—at times beyond my capacity—and touch lives for the glory of His name. It has been in many ways a challenging, yet profoundly enriching, experience. My wife, Brenda, and I would not have exchanged the opportunity for anything. A deep-felt thank you is in order to all who have supported our ministry, both past and present!

So, in this issue of At the Well we celebrate the amazing faithfulness of our God. For those of us who continue to rely on the Lord for empowerment and direction, He remains faithful in all things. This theme surfaces in Terry Bridle’s submission as well as in other features throughout this issue. I’m reminded of the reassuring and peace-inducing statement in 1 Thessalonians 5:24: Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it.

Reg Andrews  
(Former Visitation Pastor)

# WHEN ALL ELSE IS GONE PART 2



*Terry and Ginny Bridle are members of Lifespring 55*

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.

Part of our local Albanian Team was 3 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 not hear the three girls singing and playing.

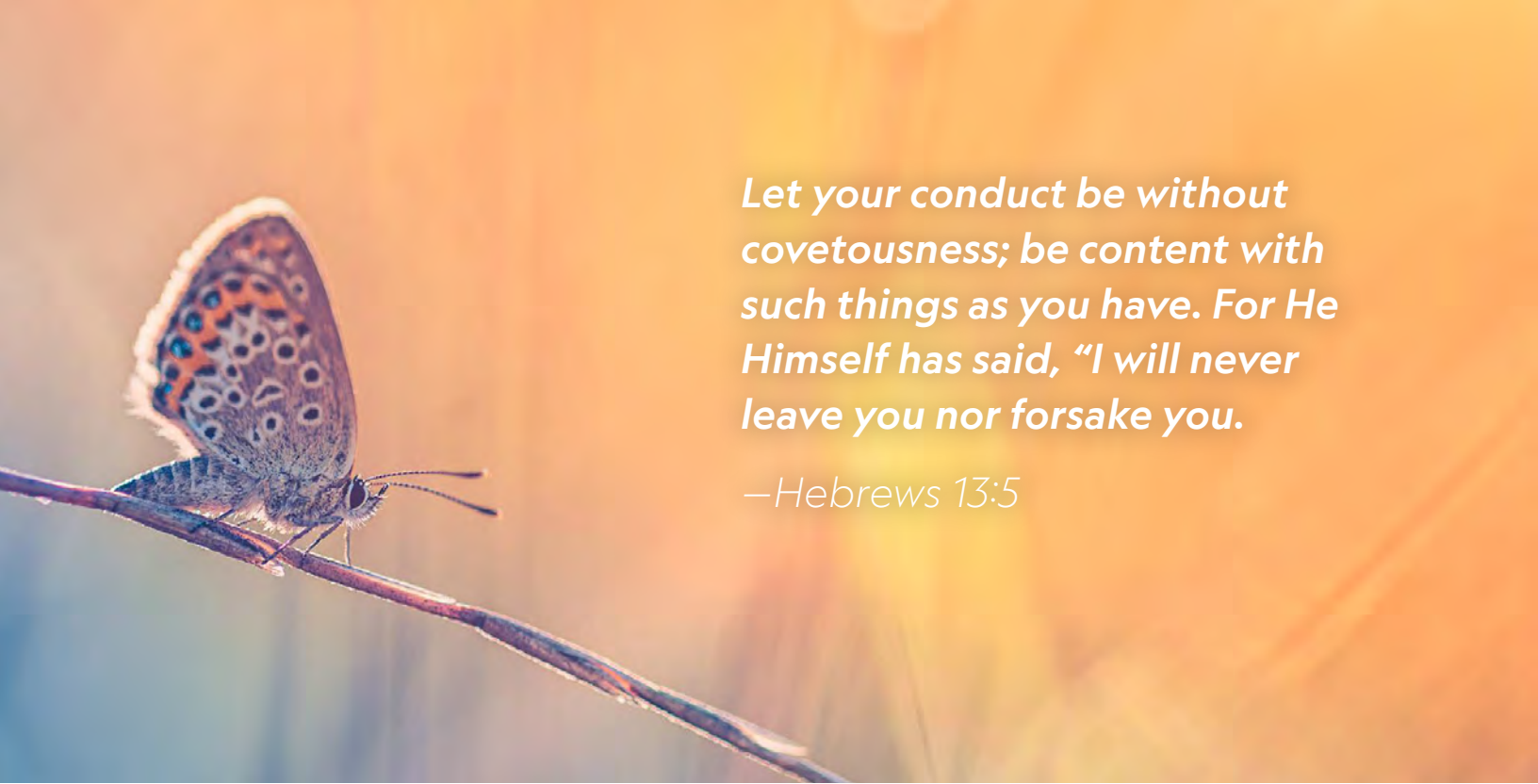
**But then a strange thing began to happen. As the girls bravely persisted in singing their worship to God—even though no-one seemed to be listening to them—gradually the crowd quieted down enough to introduce and start the drama.**

As I watched this from the sidelines, tears were flowing down my face. First, because of the courage and tenacity of those three young 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!

**And so they proceeded with the drama. It did not look and sound like what we were accustomed to, but the Albanian people did not know that, so eventually they reached the end of the performance, and with the help of an interpreter, I prayed the closing prayer and invited an altar call. We were absolutely not prepared for what happened next!**

There was such an undisciplined rush to get to the altar, designated as being the front of the theatre hall, that people were falling over each other and the loose chairs. It was pandemonium and chaos all mixed together. I still cannot believe there were no serious injuries. We realized that in future, for the safety of the people, we had to find some different way to conduct the altar call.

Indeed, it was like everything was constantly changing, and we needed to change with it!



*Let your conduct be without  
covetousness; be content with  
such things as you have. For He  
Himself has said, "I will never  
leave you nor forsake you."*

*—Hebrews 13:5*

...or get left behind and miss out on what God was doing! The words of a song sung many years ago by Canadian TV Evangelists David & Norma Jean Mainse began to echo in my mind, *"We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord"*.

Yes, we had come this far by faith, and there was no turning back now! So, the next night, when it came time for the altar call, I started by asking all those who wanted to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior to stay seated, and for everyone else to quietly leave. It worked! So now we could safely pray with all those who had stayed seated. And thus was born 'The Reverse Altar Call'. It worked like a dream in Albania, but we never used it anywhere else.

If we are not careful we can get into a rut thinking that our 'system' should be used the same everywhere. However, it is not the 'system' that has the power, but rather, **our staying sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in each and**

**every circumstance.** That requires a consistently close walk with the Lord and a continually sensitive and open heart to know what God is saying in each and every situation. Yesterday is out of date! What is God saying TODAY?

**So there you have it! As well as doing everything so we could come to Him, He is also doing all He can to help us STAY close to Him!**

Just look at some of these promises:

**I will be with you.** Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

**I will protect you.** Psalm 121:7 The Lord will keep you from all harm—He will watch over your life.

**I will be your strength.** Proverbs 18:10 The Name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe.



**I will answer you.** Jeremiah 33:3 Call to me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.

**I will provide for you.** Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” Declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

**I will give you peace.** John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

**I will always love you.** Jeremiah 31:3 The Lord appeared to us in the past saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”

And finally, God’s promise in 2 Chronicles 7 verse 14, *...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.* The key to properly understanding these verses is the word “IF”. ‘IF’ is a conjunction that introduces a condition. ‘IF’ we do as God asks, then He will bless us as the verses state. However, If we choose NOT to do as God suggests, then we reap the consequences of our choices.

So, as usual, the choice is ours. May I suggest to you that if you have not already done so, now would be a wonderful time to say ‘yes’ to God.



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.

*Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for YAH, the Lord, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.*

—Isaiah 12:2

# HYMN REVIEW

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness by Thomas Obediah Chisholm*



One of the important lessons the children of Israel had to learn during their wilderness journey was that God's provision of manna for them was on a morning by morning basis. They could not survive on old manna nor could it be stored for future use.

While many enduring hymns are born out of a particular dramatic experience, this was simply the result of the author's "morning by morning" realization of God's personal faithfulness in his daily

life. Shortly before his death in 1960, Thomas Chisolm wrote:

*My income has never been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years which has followed me until now. But I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care which have filled me with astonishing gratefulness.*



Thomas Chisolm was born in a crude log cabin in Franklin, Kentucky. From this humble beginning and without the benefit of high school or advanced education, he somehow began his career as a school teacher at the age of sixteen in the same country school where he had received his elementary training. After accepting Christ as Saviour, he became editor of *The Pentecostal Herald* and later was ordained as a Methodist minister. Throughout his long lifetime Mr. Chisolm wrote more than twelve hundred sacred poems, many of which have since become prominent hymn texts.

11 Great is Thy faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisolm William M. Runyan

1. "Great is Thy faith-ful-ness," O God my Fa-ther, There is no  
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, Sun, moon and  
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth. Thy own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with Thee; Thou chang-est not. Thy com  
 stars in their cours-es a-bove, Join with all na-ture in  
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; Strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions, they fail not; As Thou hast been Thou for-ev-er will be.  
 man-i-fold wit-ness, To Thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love.  
 hope for to-mor-row, Bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

"Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness!" Morn-ing by  
 morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed Thy

(Sourced from *Amazing Grace* by Kenneth W. Osbeck.)







# A REMARKABLE ANSWER TO PRAYER

**By Jean Gregerson**

*(The late Jean Gregerson, mother of Joyce Gregerson-Smith, was a faithful volunteer and choir member at The Peoples Church for many years. Jean grew in her Christian walk in a culture of faith and dependence on God as our great Provider. Here is a testimony she shared with the editor shortly before she went to be with the Lord.)*

As my first mortgage came due I consulted a lawyer that looked after the financial affairs of the previous owner of my house. I wanted to renew my mortgage but my request was declined. The previous owner was an elderly lady and she did not require additional funds. The lawyer then suggested that I continue paying the same amount I had been paying all along until further notice. Thankfully, I was able to do that for a few more years.

Then, one day I received a letter from the lawyer requesting \$12,000 within a relatively short period of time. My heart sank and I felt physically ill. I had limited resources and I knew that I could never get my hands on this amount of money in such a short time. Trembling, I took the letter over to the chesterfield, got down on my knees and began to pray, "Lord, I don't even know where to begin to get this money. I'm giving this problem over to You."

I went to work the next day and showed the letter to the Salvation Army officer I worked with. "What are you going to do?" he asked. I said, "Nothing. I have already given the problem over to the Lord." When I arrived home, there was a notice in my mailbox indicating that I had received a registered letter. An icy fear came over me, so again I

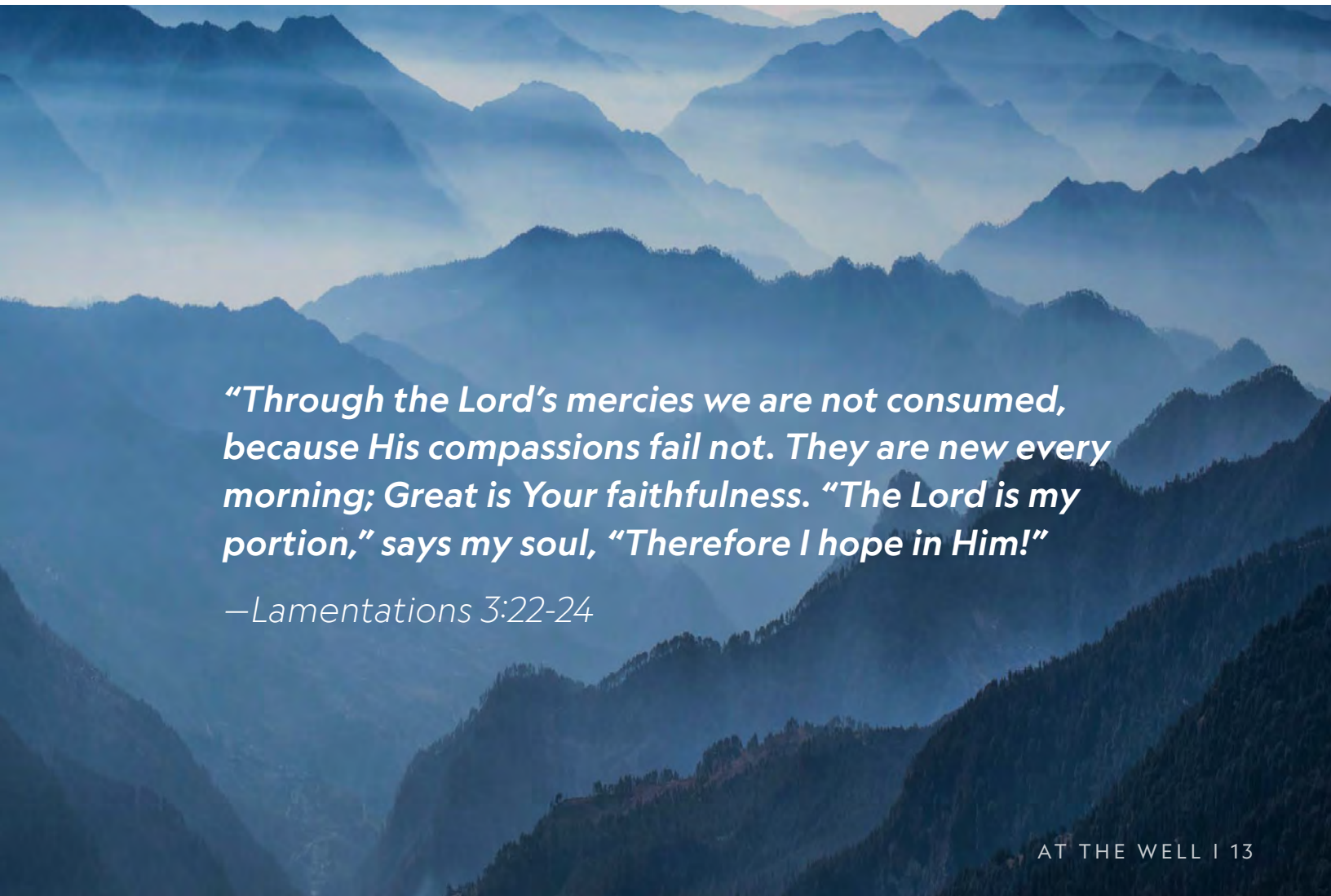


prayed, “Lord, why do I have this fear? I gave this problem over to You.” Instantly the fear left me and peace filled my heart. I arrived at the post office to find a letter from the lawyer that looked after my grandfather’s estate some twenty years ago. Enclosed was a cheque for \$2,000. This, of course, was never expected and a complete surprise! Upon entering my living room, I got down on my knees again in front of the chesterfield and thanked God. But my conversation went something like this—  
“Now Lord, You know I need another \$10,000, so I have a long way to go yet.”

A week went by and I found myself in church. One of our ministers at the church had just visited my husband in hospital (he had cancer of the throat) and I wanted to thank him. I spotted him at the back of the church and quickly raced to catch him before

leaving the building. As I finished thanking him, another gentleman approached me. “How are you, Jean? How is your husband? How is your mother? How is your house?” Answering all his questions one by one, I said, “Your last question is a problem. I need \$10,000.” “What did you say?” I told him again and explained about the letter I had received requesting money. He wanted to see the letter. Fortunately, I had the letter with me in my purse. He read the letter with great excitement. “You won’t believe this, Jean. Before I came to church tonight I prayed that the Lord would lead me to someone who needed \$10,000!” He had \$10,000 in his wallet!

The very next day we went to our lawyer’s office. Papers were drawn up and a payment plan was arranged!



*“Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I hope in Him!”*

*—Lamentations 3:22-24*



# NEWS AND VIEWS

SAVE THE DATES

**OCTOBER 14, 6:30 PM**

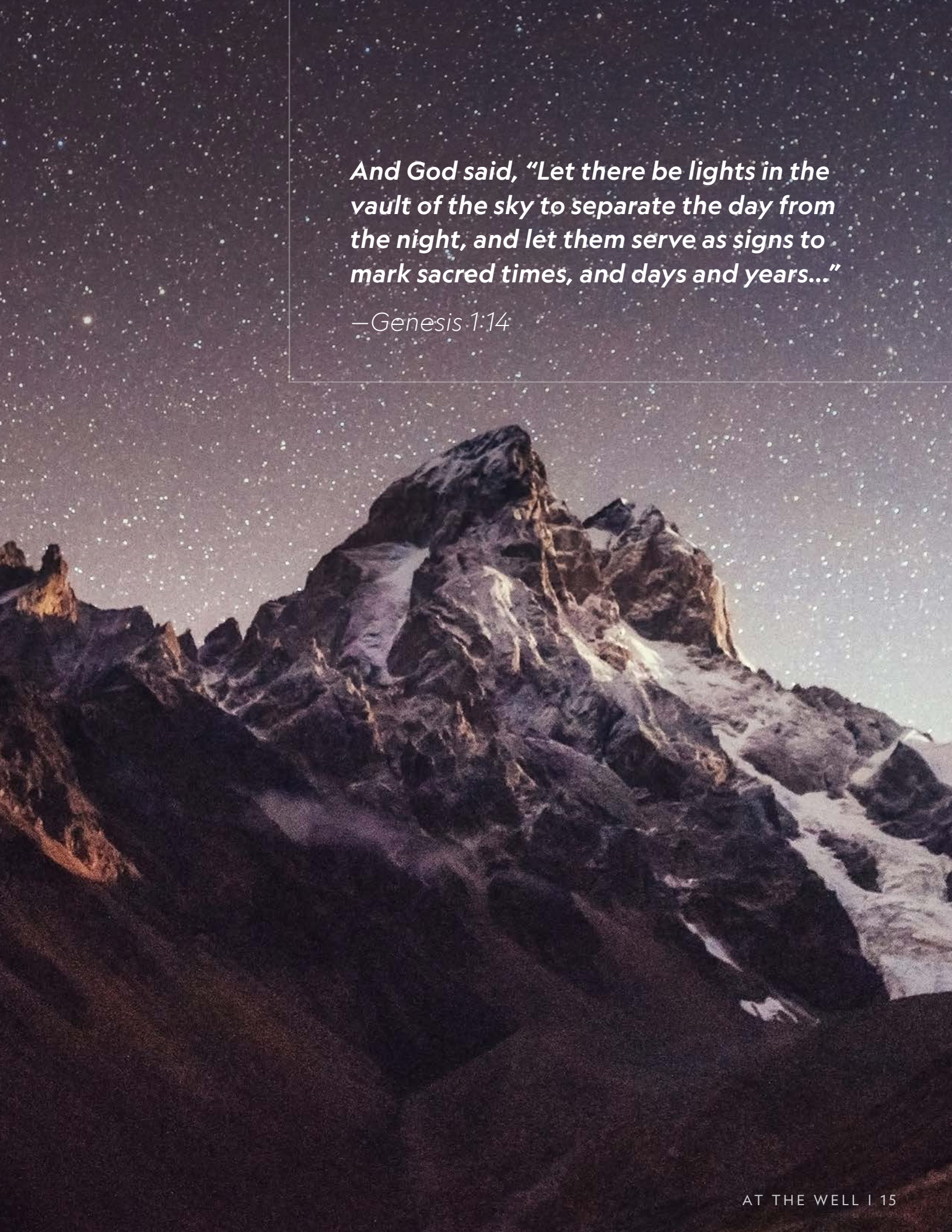
Hymnfest 2023 takes place at the beautiful chapel of Tyndale University.

**Cost:** \$30

**OCTOBER 21, 10:30 AM**

Lifespring 55—Reg and Brenda Andrews will be our guests.



A full-page background image featuring a rugged, dark mountain peak with patches of snow or ice. The mountain is set against a deep, dark night sky filled with numerous stars of varying brightness. The lighting on the mountain suggests a low sun or moon, creating strong contrasts and highlighting the textures of the rock and snow.

***And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years...”***

*—Genesis 1:14*





# LAUGHTER - THE BEST MEDICINE

## AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Two campers. Chris and Michael, are awakened by the sounds of an obviously large bear outside their tent, looking for food at their campsite.

Immediately, Chris pulls a pair of running shoes out of his backpack and quickly puts them on.

Incredulous, his friend Michael says, "There's no way you can outrun that bear."

Chris replies, "I don't have to outrun the bear. I only have to outrun you."

## HEARING PROBLEMS

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that improved his hearing to 90%.

The gentleman went back to the doctor for his monthly checkup and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect! Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"



# FIRE PREVENTION

*(In 1922, the National Fire Protection Association named the second week of October, Fire Prevention Week in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.)*

## **SOME IMPORTANT FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES**

- Give space heaters space. Keep them at least three feet (one metre) away from anything that can burn—including you.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking food. If you leave the kitchen, even for a short time, turn off the burner.
- If your clothes catch on fire, stop...drop...and roll.
- Be sure your smoke alarms are powered up.
- Plan and practice your escape from fire and smoke.
- Keep your phone close at hand in case you need to call 911.
- Plan your escape around your abilities. Have necessary items nearby—items such as medications, glasses, wheel chair, walker, cane, flashlight and a whistle to signal for help.
- Place your trust in the Lord to minister His peace to you when facing anxiety of any kind. Remember, “the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are open to their cry.” (Psalm 34:15)



**SARAH SINGH:**

# A SERVING STORY



Every week, we see kids, youth, and adults of all ages who show up to live out their faith in community through serving. We had the opportunity to connect with Sarah Singh to hear about the impact serving has had on her life.

Sarah has been serving with TPC Kids for eight years! When asked about what first inspired her to serve, she took us back to her own childhood years.

**SARAH:** *I started attending the kid's ministry at Peoples when I was five years old, and it really laid the foundation for my faith today. It's where I learned about the Bible stories and Jesus' love for me. I had one teacher who would always take the time after our classes to talk to my parents about how I did. He noticed all these little details which was so crazy to me because I was so quiet and shy. It really made me feel seen and loved.*

As Sarah learned about Jesus, she also experienced His love through believers who modelled what it means to abide in Christ – and the impact on her life has been incredible!

**SARAH:** *I did not expect to serve with kids for eight years! I stayed because I really enjoy the relationship with the kids. It has made me more compassionate. I think about things differently and how things affect others differently than I did before. Serving with kids has also really changed the trajectory of my life. Last year, I had the opportunity to teach at TPC Kids, and I realized how much I loved it. So, I decided to completely switch my major from political science to teaching!*

The incredible impact of living out Christ's love continues in and through the kids Sarah serves today.

**SARAH:** *During the Global Mission Conference this year, we were talking*

*about missionaries, and there was a kid in grade one who had some very good questions. He started with “what is a Christian and what does it mean to be a missionary?” Through our conversation – it was a great conversation – he declared, “Oh I’m a Christian!” He then immediately went into questions about how he can tell his friends about how Jesus loves them too.*

When we experience Christ, His love motivates us to pour into others – and the impact is far beyond what we can comprehend or imagine!


**SARAH:** *We’re here to spread the love of Jesus, that’s the bottom line. And we can do this in so many ways! The important thing is to show up and be present – to answer God’s call. It’s essential to our life and people will see Jesus in you. Serving also teaches us to grow in our compassion and in our faith. It will change your life and the way you see the world.*

## SARAH SINGH

Sarah was serving as the Camp Director for TPC Kids this summer.

Sarah and her family have been attending The Peoples Church for most of her life. Currently, she is a 3rd year university student, and is studying to become a teacher.

We have many opportunities for you to engage, share God's love and get involved in community through serving with our next generation at The Peoples Church. If you feel that God is prompting you to serve, please contact Pastor Solange Belluz at [solangeb@thepeopleschurch.ca](mailto:solangeb@thepeopleschurch.ca).



***“Now I saw heaven opened, and  
behold, a white horse. And He who sat  
on him was called Faithful and True...”***

*—Revelation 19:11*

**At the Well is a quarterly publication of Lifespring 55,  
the seniors ministry of The Peoples Church.**

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