

At the Well

A PUBLICATION OF LIFESPING 55

JUNE 2022

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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."

VOLUME 2: NUMBER 2

JOHN 4:14

Editorial

Our theme in this issue of At the Well is trust – placing ourselves totally in the hands of our God and learning to navigate through the perilous waters of this life.

I never fully understood my dad's love for his children until I had grown and had my own sons. Early in our marriage the Lord blessed Brenda and me with Kent, our firstborn, followed just under three years later with our second, Brad. They have drastically different personalities but each is uniquely special to me. Though they themselves are now adults, Kent's and Brad's hurts are my hurts; their joys, my joys. I can't conceive of my world without them. I consider it my duty and privilege to pray daily for the Lord's will to be accomplished through them. My love for my sons enables me to grasp something of the deep, deep pain in the heart of Abraham as he approached the summit of Mt. Moriah where the Lord had instructed him to offer his son – His son Isaac, walking by his side, dutifully carrying the pile of wood for the burnt offering. The emotional pain could not have been more excruciating.

Trust in his dad would have by now grown strong in the boy, Isaac. He had witnessed time and again Abraham's faithfulness as he dutifully and regularly presented offerings to God. He was not unfamiliar with the process—the building of the stone altar, the preparation of the fire, the laying on of the wood until the fire was burning vigorously. The Genesis 22 account tells us that it

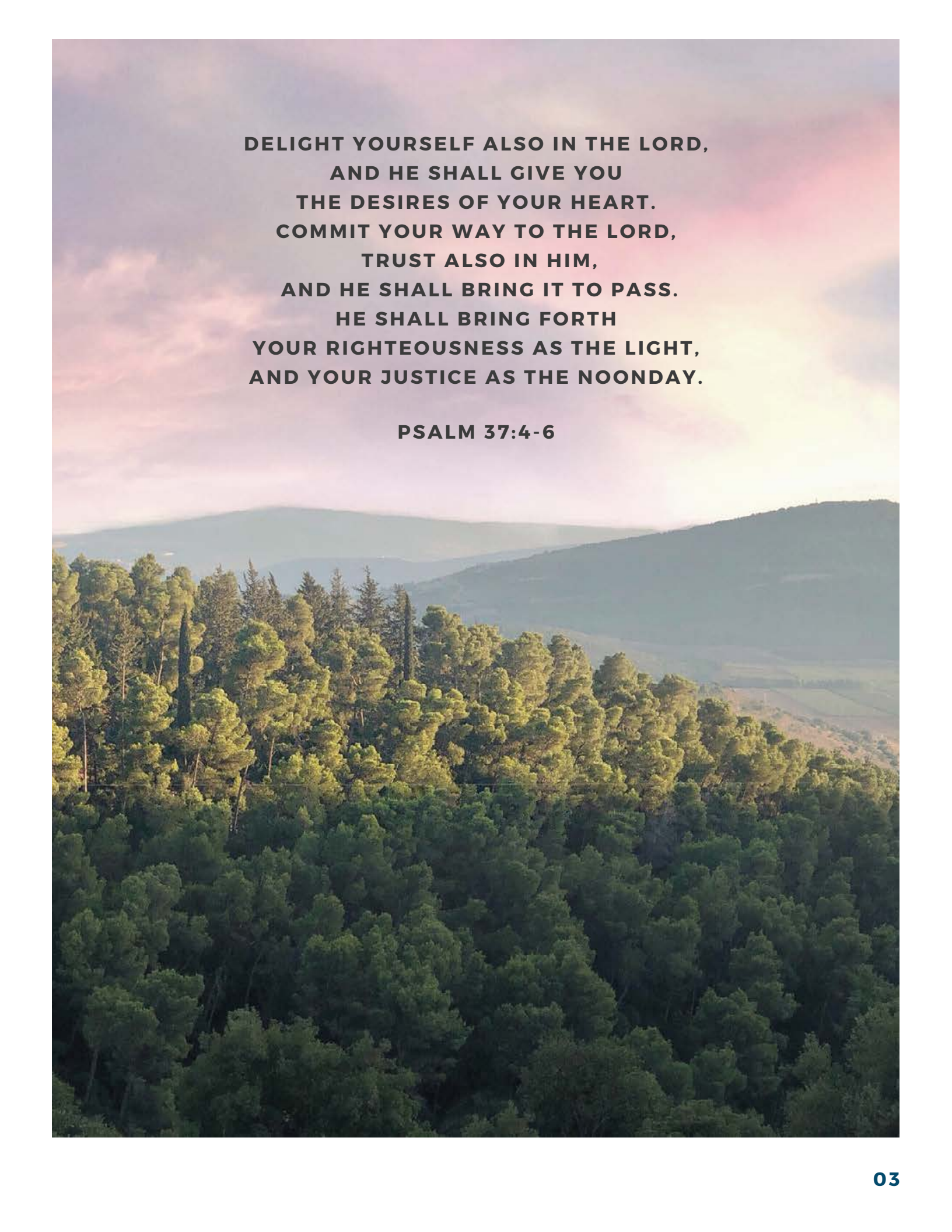
wasn't long before it struck him that there was a missing item—the lamb for the burnt offering. So he asks the question. It had to strike Abraham like a dagger as he realized that he was getting closer to the moment. Sooner or later Abraham would have to face the inevitable. He would have to do the unthinkable—tie his son up and lay him on the altar.

The record of Scripture attests that “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief,” (Romans 4:20KJV). Something tells me I might have wavered were I in Abraham's sandals that day. But then, Abraham's obedience was born out of an understanding that God requires total and absolute trust from His children. To disobey God is to take back the helm, thereby suggesting that God does not have my best interests at heart. My walk with God breaks down if He doesn't have my complete trust. And so I must ask myself again, “Does the Lord have my simple and complete trust? Do I entrust my circumstances, my family, my future totally to His care?”

Just as He required of Abraham, so He longs for His children to commit their lives to Him without reservation – with total abandon.



Reg Andrews
Visitation Pastor



**DELIGHT YOURSELF ALSO IN THE LORD,
AND HE SHALL GIVE YOU
THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART.
COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD,
TRUST ALSO IN HIM,
AND HE SHALL BRING IT TO PASS.
HE SHALL BRING FORTH
YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS AS THE LIGHT,
AND YOUR JUSTICE AS THE NOONDAY.**

PSALM 37:4-6



Global Mission Conference 2022

Our 2022 Global Mission Conference was an inspiring time of seeking and listening to how God is calling each of us to rise in faith and shine with Christ's light in our world. We came together in worship with our global church body to stand together in the power of prayer.

The first day of the conference featured a baptismal service, highlighting the gospel-centeredness of The Peoples Church – making disciples locally and globally. The day was capped with prayer as young and old gathered online to pray and worship together as a church family. Our prayer time was guided by our theme verses – Psalm 67:1-2. Throughout the conference we were given opportunities to learn in community as we heard from various missions speakers representing different global ministries, concluding with Dr. Terry Leblanc, founder of Indigenous Pathways. We were challenged and encouraged by our mission partners who are shining Christ's light all around the world.

On Saturday, June 4 a number of our Lifespring 55 family participated in an evangelism training day. This multi-age, interactive event was an exciting opportunity for everyone to learn about how to be good neighbours to people of different faiths and cultural backgrounds. Each workshop was designed to equip participants with effective tools to have sensitive and effective conversations about Jesus.

The conference concluded on Sunday, June 12 with a comprehensive Mission Expo on the church grounds. After each worship service, our congregants were given the opportunity to visit mission booths on our front lawn to connect with our mission partners! They were able to explore and discover some of the exciting ways we can make an impact as we learned about the different mission projects we get to support together as a church community.

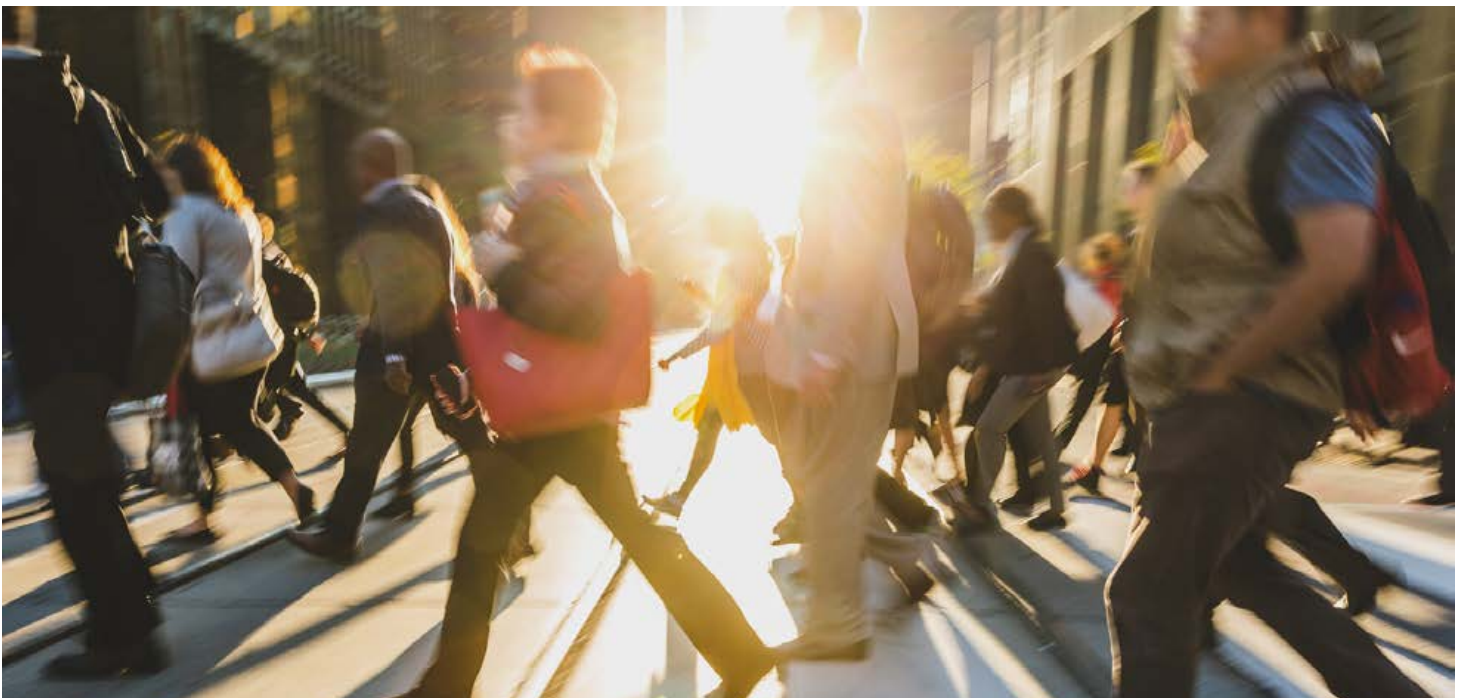
If you haven't done so already, we encourage you to make your Faith Promise as you depend on the Lord to supply you with the means of adding strength to our global engagement. Let's continue to pray that, with His divine empowerment, we may "Rise and Shine" so that others may come to the Light!


You can find more information about how to make your Faith Promise by visiting the church website:

ThePeoplesChurch.ca/FaithPromise

May God be gracious to us
and bless us
and make His face shine on us -
so that your ways
may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.

PSALM 67:1-2





**MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU
WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE
AS YOU TRUST IN HIM,
SO THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW
WITH HOPE BY THE POWER
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

ROMANS 15:13



The God Factor

In the early 1990's the Lord placed a specific calling on my husband and me to establish a work for Him in the inner city of St. John's, Newfoundland. I'm pleased to say that the work was established and today operates under the name of Cornerstone Ministry Centre.

At the beginning of the road to establishing Cornerstone, God had spoken a very definite word to us from Isaiah 54. "Enlarge the place of your tent"; "Do not hold back"; "No weapon formed against you shall prosper" were some of the promises that carried great meaning and encouragement for us as we weighed the enormous implications of taking such a daring step. So this chapter became a catalyst to starting the new work.

Occasionally, the Holy Spirit would once again speak to us from that Scripture where He would remind us that this had to be a work of the Holy Spirit, not brought about by human endeavour using manmade methodology. Rather, we were to preach the Word as directed by the Holy Spirit, powered by prayer. Then He would do the work in the hearts of people and God would bring the increase.

I wish we could say that we never made mistakes or faltered in our faith, but that would be far from the truth. Cornerstone was a hard, uphill climb with few cheerleaders! Adding to our burden were two young men, our sons, on the cusp of manhood with needs which far exceeded our supply. They were giving themselves wholeheartedly to the work and were quickly wearing down. One night during family devotions their frustration came rushing out, mingling with our own (Shall I say it?) disillusionment.

God had been faithful – but every day was a walk of faith. Anyone who has walked with God trying to bring about the vision, placed by God in the heart, knows that His timing is not our timing – and there is the rub! We are not patient people. We think, whether consciously or unconsciously, that things need to happen according to our timing. This is such an arrogant thought! To think that we, just mere servants, can tell the mighty God of the universe what He should be doing and when! We sometimes think like it's a formula – $a + b = c$. But even after we have done everything we can do, in as faithful a way as we could have done, He, the mighty sovereign God, has the ultimate authority to do as He wills.



So, as our sons were voicing that night in family devotions the frustration that we ourselves were feeling, we decided that maybe it was time to resign and find another place of service that wouldn't be quite so hard. Since we didn't know what God's will was in this, we asked Him if He would let us know and possibly release us before the end of the year. We left it with God and continued to labour under great duress.

Months passed. It was now early December. Little did we know but God was at work. In Toronto there was a young lady by the name of Jean Tomlinson. She had been attending a "Canada Arise" conference which was a time for her of real sincere commitment to the Lord she loved. One night during the conference, overcome by her love for Jesus, she blurted out, "I love You Lord and I will go anywhere and will do anything for you!" God spoke to her spirit and said, "Would you go to St. John's, Newfoundland for Me?" Quickly she responded, "I can't do that. I don't know where it is and I don't know anyone there."

As Jean continued to seek the Lord, she couldn't seem to escape the call, "Go to St. John's, Newfoundland." Complicating the situation was the fact that she had just changed jobs and thought it would be impossible to take any time off work. The feeling persisted so she decided to talk things through with her pastor who subsequently encouraged her to request the time



off from work which, to her amazement, was immediately approved. She was left with no excuse, so she began to plan her trip to St. John's.

When she got off the plane and boarded the taxi she was asked, "Where do you want to go?" She responded with, "Where is the greatest population of the city and where might I find a B & B?" The taxi driver directed her downtown and her exploration of the city began.

Talking with the lady at the B & B she told her she had a message from God to deliver to a people she didn't know. I can imagine that lady must have thought that Jean was 'a few bricks short of a load' at that point and probably viewed her with some suspicion.

In the two days that followed Jean walked the streets of St. John's praying that God would direct her to the people to whom she had been sent. She reminded the Lord that time was running out since her flight back to Toronto was leaving early on Monday morning. On the following day, a drizzly Sunday morning, as she walked up Duckworth St. a group of people were coming out of the building across the street. She described it as feeling a gigantic magnet drawing her to these people. She checked the sign by the door. It was a church called Cornerstone and they would be meeting again that evening. She knew that these were the people to whom God had sent her.

Six o'clock came and Jean Tomlinson walked in to the back of the auditorium. As the service progressed she wondered how she could deliver what God had brought her to deliver. A short time into the service my husband invited anyone who would like to share something, to do so. She waited as others gave testimony of the goodness of God in their lives and then she knew it was her time. She stood, opened the Bible and began to read Isaiah 54. She was humbly delivering the message God had given her. She didn't give a preamble, nor comment after. She just read and sat down!

My husband and I were too shocked to speak. We had just heard from God! His voice had come to us through this stranger that no one knew. God was saying He wasn't finished with us yet. We were to stay and commit to the vision He'd given at the beginning. It was a vision, birthed by the Holy Spirit, and it was to be a work carried along by the same Spirit of God.



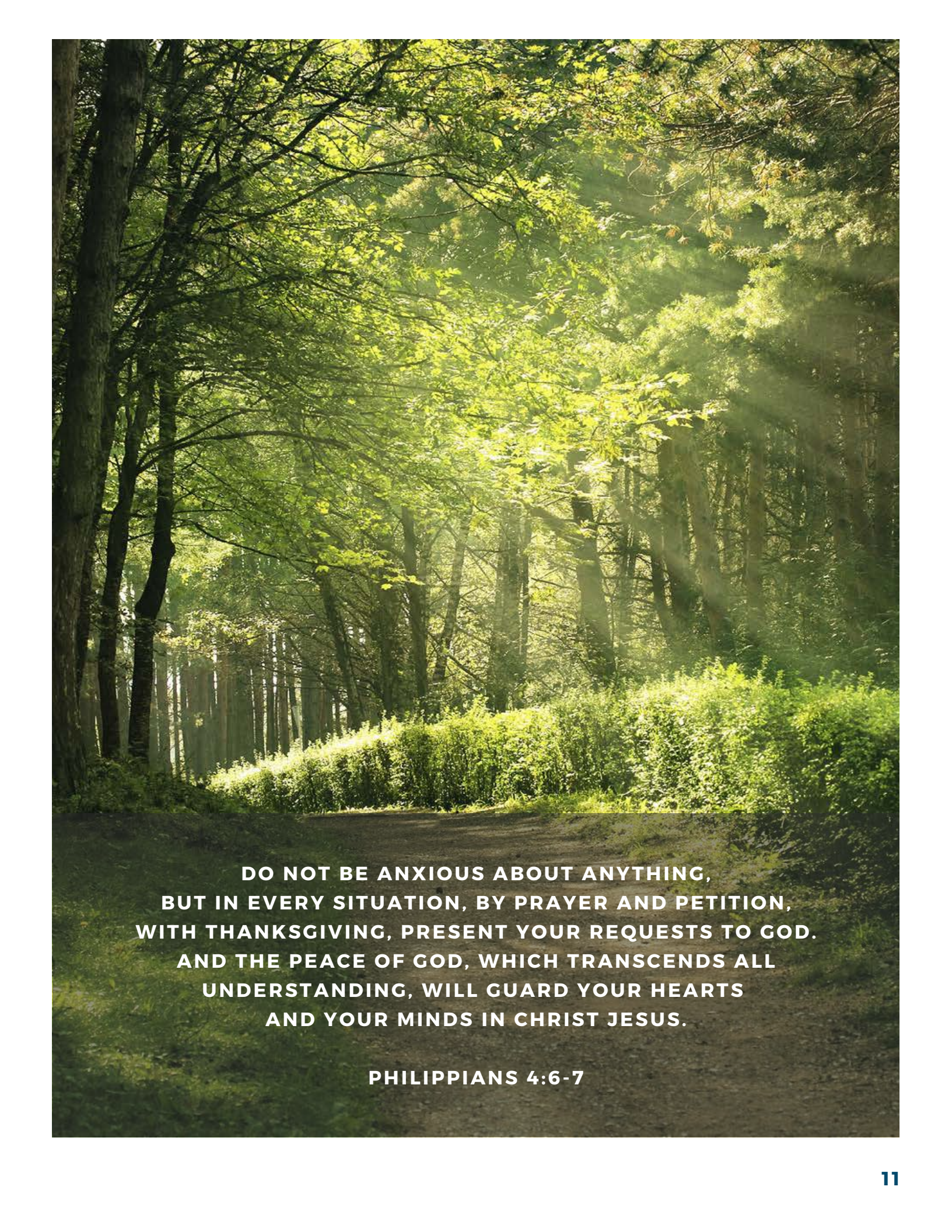
Our trust was renewed, our faith strengthened as we heard the background to Jean's faithfulness and obedience. We can only imagine what God did in her as she saw what fruit could be produced by faithful obedience to the call of the Spirit.

After sharing that night, Jean Tomlinson left St. John's. Some people in the congregation had a little communication with her subsequently, but we had none. God saw us, a family with little resources, working for Him, and He had moved the heart of a young woman to carry a message to a seemingly inconsequential people, in an obscure area, to strengthen the work that He had birthed. He realizes that we are human and needy and, in His great love, ministers so individually to us.

May we be a people of faith and obedience so that we can accomplish His purposes where He has planted each of us.



Brenda Andrews
Lifespring 55
Executive Team

A photograph of a forest path. Sunlight filters through the dense canopy of green trees, creating a dappled light effect on the path and the surrounding foliage. The path is a simple dirt road that curves slightly to the right in the distance. The trees are tall and slender, with their leaves forming a thick green roof. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

**DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING,
BUT IN EVERY SITUATION, BY PRAYER AND PETITION,
WITH THANKSGIVING, PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS TO GOD.
AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH TRANSCENDS ALL
UNDERSTANDING, WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS
AND YOUR MINDS IN CHRIST JESUS.**

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

News and Views



PRAYER TIME:

Our next online prayer event is scheduled for Sunday, September 25 at 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. For those who wish to join via Zoom, email Reg Andrews (RegA@ThePeoplesChurch.ca) and he will send you the link.

Those who wish to join by telephone may do so by dialing 1 647 558 0588.

WE SERVE: JOIN A TEAM!

On Sunday, June 19 and Sunday, June 26 you were able to explore volunteer ministry opportunities through We Serve, a church-wide ministry fair, that took place on the front lawn of the church. Following each service our congregants were able to interact with ministry personnel who were eager to answer any questions with respect to ministry involvement.

Many of our Lifespring 55 members have energy, experience and dedication that can be devoted to God's glory through acts of service. Please be in prayer about how the Lord may be calling you to become engaged in 'growing the body of Christ' for His glory right here and now!

For further information please visit the church website or feel free to speak with Pastor Reg or with Bob and Julia Huntington. ThePeoplesChurch.ca/Serve

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

A group of seniors was sitting around talking about all their ailments at a coffee shop:

"My arms have gotten so weak I can hardly lift this cup of coffee," said one.

"Yes, I know," said another. "My cataracts are so bad; I can't even see my coffee."

"I couldn't even mark an "X" at election time, my hands are so crippled," volunteered a third.

"What? Speak up! What? I can't hear you," said one elderly lady!

"I can't turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck," said one to which several nodded weakly in agreement.

"My blood pressure pills make me so dizzy!" exclaimed another.

"I forget where I am, and where I'm going," said another.

"I guess that's the price we pay for getting old, winced an old man as he slowly shook his head. The others nodded in agreement.

"Well, count your blessings," said a woman cheerfully...

"Thank goodness we can all still drive."



MORE POINTS TO PONDER

Now that you're a senior

~Going out is good.. Coming home is better!

~You forget names.... But it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!!!

~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".

~You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch..

~Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.

~You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear.

~But Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!!





AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

National Injury Prevention Day is celebrated every July. The Insurance Bureau of Canada reports that almost 95,000 seniors are admitted to hospitals every year in Canada. We want you to take the utmost care in reducing the probability of accidents.

“This Old House” ([ThisOldHouse.com](https://www.thisoldhouse.com)) offers some useful tips:

- Unsecured throw rugs, furniture in poor repair, extension or electric cords, and loose railings can all increase the chances of a fall.
- Some items may need to be removed entirely, including clutter on the floors and stairs as well as pet toys. If there's a pet in the home, consider creating a specific and secure area for the animal.
- Replace throw rugs and regular bath mats with versions that have rubberized or adhesive backings.
- Always make sure that there is lots of space for walkers.
- Can your entrance ways be safely crossed in a wheelchair or by someone who can't lift their feet very high? If not, you may need to bring in a contractor to make some structural changes.
- Always keep your assistive devices (walkers, canes) close at hand.

The old adage, ‘an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure’ applies here!

GRIEFSHARE

If you've recently lost a loved one The Peoples Church offers an opportunity for you to meet, share and pray with others who are also dealing with loss.

GriefShare starts again on June 14th, 2022. There will be thirteen sessions altogether and you may attend any number of those sessions on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

For more information, you may go to the church website:

ThePeoplesChurch.ca/GriefShare

“Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” (Matt. 5: 4)



**AT THE WELL IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF
LIFESPING 55 OF THE PEOPLES CHURCH.**

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