

At the Well

A PUBLICATION OF **LIFESPING 55**

MARCH 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 1

JOHN 4:14



Global Mission Conference

Our 2022 Global Mission Conference begins on Sunday, May 29 and runs until Sunday, June 12. The theme of this year's conference is "Rise. Shine." – taken from Psalm 67:1-2:

**"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."**

Details will become available on the church website in the coming weeks, so stay tuned!

Our Global Mission Conference is an intentional and inspiring time of individually and collectively asking and listening for how God is calling us to be a part of His global mission. Growing the body of Christ for God's global mission is at the heart of everything we do together as a church and God has a role in His purpose for each and every one of us.

Let's make it our prayer focus over the next few weeks that the Lord will speak to us in new and fresh ways through the various events.

Let's be ready again to be challenged to actively "rise and shine," to participate in Faith Promise and to re-commit to pray that His "ways may be known on earth, His salvation among all nations."

Editorial

More and more I'm struck with just how much that death is an integral part of life. At The Peoples Church it seems like every other day we're saying the final good-bye to someone. (Interestingly, we are pleased to highlight the special ministry of Grief Share in this issue of At the Well.) Humanity is often dwarfed by the larger realities of life with which we must contend. In the face of some circumstances we feel totally helpless – because we are.

Such has been the human condition since the beginning of time. We like to think that we're in control and the masters of our own destiny – but let hardship and tragedy hit us and we acquire a different perspective. Such realities as sickness, accidents, poverty, natural disasters – not to mention pandemics – repeatedly teach us that we are not ultimately in control. Contrary to what William Henley asserts in his well-known poem, "Invictus," we are not masters of our own fate.

The Bible gives us this explanation – "Sin entered the world by one man (Adam) and death by sin" (Rom. 5:12). So the story of mankind is strewn with casualties of war and hatred, of tension and destruction. Just when we think we have solved a crisis in one part of the world, 'man's inhumanity to man' erupts in some other area. No matter where you live on the planet, this dilemma is real, and the current circumstances in our world drive this truth home with added impact.

Such was the world that Jesus Christ walked into some 2000 years ago – a world of political, social

and economic unrest – a world battered by war and disease – a world that fell far short of adequately addressing the economic, social and health problems of the 1st century culture. Problems of poverty, religious corruption, political oppression, inadequate health care, and discrimination of every sort were innumerable.

In this issue of At the Well we celebrate Christ's triumph over every problem that besets mankind – even death! He is alive and continues to offer His overcoming power and grace for every burden, every problem, every challenge and every care. The words of a triumphant song of yesteryear, written by Edmond Louis Budry, come to mind:

*Lo! Jesus meets us,
Risen from the tomb,
Lovingly He greets us,
Scatters fear and gloom;
Let the church with gladness,
Hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth;
Death has lost its sting.*

*Thine be the glory,
Risen, conquering son;
Endless is the victory;
Thou o'er death has won.*



Reg Andrews
Visitation Pastor



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. - 2 Corinthians 1: 3-4

In the past couple of years, we have experienced collective grief as Covid-related deaths continued to rise. Most people know at least one family who has been affected by death in the past two years. But when the funeral is done and relatives and friends have returned to their busy lives, how does a person “get over” the death of a loved one and move forward with their lives? How long after a loss should one still be grieving? The answer is: It depends! Here are some important facts to keep in mind:

- God made us unique. Your grieving process will be a personal journey.
- Grieving takes time. We cannot rush the grieving process.
- The pain of grief is real and personal. Do not expect your feelings and emotions to be like someone else's.

The pain of grief is a blessing because it is the proof of our love for the deceased, but it varies based on the circumstances surrounding the death of our loved one. One of the most painful emotions that people have to deal with in the sudden death of their loved ones is the lack of closure. It may be hard to move on in life when you are still dealing with the grief and emptiness that happens after a loved one dies.

Something that you should know is that the weight of grief is lighter when shared.

God is there to help you in time of pain, offering comfort in times of bereavement. Jesus said, “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you” (John 14:18 KJV). Support from others can help you carry your emotional load after your loss. We encourage you to reach out to others and do not hesitate to ask for help.

One of the ways you can get support in your grieving journey is to join our GriefShare support group.

GriefShare offers you an opportunity to connect in a meaningful way with others who have walked a journey of bereavement. It is like an ER for those

who have experienced grief. You’ll learn how to go through a healthy season of grieving, then begin transitioning to emotional and spiritual wholeness. As you look at grief and loss through the lens of the Scriptures you will be supported by others who share in “your journey from mourning to joy.”

To find out more about GriefShare, call the church office or visit the website, ThePeoplesChurch.ca.



Solange Belluz
Congregational Life
Pastor

An Answer to Prayer

I'd like to begin by giving you just a little background to my reading difficulty throughout my life. As a young person going to school, my report cards would read, 'Julie needs more help in reading'. I never received any help. I had a difficult time in school. I was always terrified when I wrote exams but I did the best I could and was able to pass well enough to go into nursing in Montreal at the Catherine Booth Hospital. I really enjoyed my nursing training and the practical aspect of the training helped me with my exams and I graduated as an RNA in 1962.

As the years went by, reading was still a chore and it took me a long time to read a book. It took me so long to read anything. When I became a Christian in October 1971, I read a couple of books, mainly biographies. I also read the Bible very slowly and I read devotionals when I could.

After a while, my reading did not improve. I started praying every year, asking the Lord to answer my prayer and to please give me a desire to read. You won't believe this, but the Lord answered my prayer when I turned 80, January 2021!

So, I started reading after I heard a speaker on James Robinson and ordered her book. It was Rival Rising by Kim Meeder. After that, my reading got better and better. The next book I read was by George Mueller, He Dared to Trust God for the Needy Countless Orphans. From then on, I kept reading and reading! I read Hope by David Jeremiah, then Grace by Max Lucado, and many other titles by Max Lucado, my favourite author. As of today, I've read 17 books. The most recent one was What's So Amazing about Grace by Philip Yancey. I can't stop reading and I'm now looking forward to receiving a book by Sheila Walsh.

"Thank you, Lord, for everything I've gained through reading those amazing Christian books. I've learned more about You and what You mean to me." His grace is sufficient.

Here is a quote from Philip Yancey's What's So Amazing About Grace: 'The world thirsts for grace. When grace descends, the world falls silent before it.'

Thank you, Lord, for your amazing grace, every day.



Julia Huntington
Executive Committee
Lifespring 55

Hymn Review

AND CAN IT BE

Charles Wesley was born in the town of Epworth, Lincolnshire in England in December 1707. He was the eighteenth child of nineteen born to Samuel and Susanna Wesley – of whom only ten survived to maturity. His birth was premature and he lay comatose for many days. His father, a contemporary of Mozart and a composer in his own right, was known as the English Mozart, so Charles and John had quite a legacy to live up to!

Charles attended the Westminster school where Latin was the only language spoken. His mother had taught the boys Latin, Greek and French – she was no slouch! Both sons went to Oxford University where Charles gained his Masters degree. There he founded The Holy Club, a devotional study group devoted to personal sanctity.

By invitation of the Governor of Georgia, John and Charles took up the task of educating the native people. Charles said, “I went to America to convert the Indians, but oh, who will convert me?” Then he met a Moravian missionary, Peter Bohler, who did indeed guide him along his spiritual journey. He explains, “I found myself at peace with God”. Reading Martin Luther’s book, Galatians, was part of his experience. He wrote a hymn to commemorate his experience.



Charles’ older brother John is known as the founder of Methodism, but that was never his intention as he had wished to stay within the Anglican church. It was largely through Charles’ inspiring hymns and John’s outdoor preaching – an unheard-of thing – that great crowds came to hear the Word, and so a new church was born.

Charles' hymns gave new converts a belief they could understand and embrace. They were full of Christian doctrine and of a personal experience, and were sung with exuberance and joy. The truth of the gospel in music! Here are the words of one of his best-loved hymns:

And can it be that I should gain an
interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me who caused His pain?
For me who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love, how can it be,
that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above,
so free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me!

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine.
Bold, I approach the eternal throne
and claim the crown,
through Christ, my own.

Amazing love, how can it be?
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?



Bernard Pears
Lifespring 55 Member



A Jerusalem Easter

The dawning sky was just beginning to blush rosy pink, the mist was still hanging low on the flowers in the garden as Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome pushed to open the gate and made their way towards the tomb carved out of the bare stone wall on the far side. They carried a heavy load, many pounds of spices and perfumes to complete the ritual anointing of the body that had been laid in the newly carved tomb two evenings earlier, just before Sabbath – the body of their dearest friend, the one they were sure would be king—Jesus of Nazareth. Now he was dead.

They'd seen him taken down from the cross, and tenderly laid by Joseph in the new tomb. A stone was then rolled to close the entrance. They'd rested quietly on the Sabbath as was required; now they had returned with the spices, and to keep vigil as was the custom. "But who will roll back the stone?" they asked. Matthew, in his Gospel, tells us what happened next: "Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked in a violent earthquake under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of light blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were so afraid that they shook and became like dead men.

"Don't be afraid," the angel said. "You're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said He would. Come and see the place where He was laid. Now go quickly and tell His disciples He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see Him there." The women, deep in wonderment and full of joy, ran to tell the disciples.

As they were running, Jesus met them. "Good morning!" He said. They fell to their knees, embraced His feet and worshipped Him. Jesus said, "Don't be frightened. Tell my brothers I'll meet them in Galilee." The women ran from the tomb and told the eleven what they had seen. But they didn't believe the women's words because they seemed to them like nonsense. But Peter and John ran to the tomb. They saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head, folded up by itself, apart from the linen. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

That wonderful day continued in Luke 24:13: "That same day two of the disciples were walking home to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem." A stranger joins them and



when they reach their home, they invite this stranger to join them for supper. “And as He takes the loaf of bread and breaks it, suddenly they knew ‘it is the Lord’ – but then He’s gone from them. Just as suddenly and silently He appeared through the walls to the frightened disciples “including Thomas” – doubting Thomas, who’d been missing when Christ first appeared to His followers. Thomas who had protested: “Until I see the holes in His hands and feet and side – I will not believe.” And now Thomas is on his face: “My Lord and my God”...

And again, just as suddenly, He appeared on the beach. He lit a fire and put on fish to fry and called to the fishermen: “Hello men. Have you caught anything? Come and have breakfast.”

And then they were all together for one last time, beside a mountain in Galilee, saying goodbye. “Go into all the world and preach the gospel: make disciples of all people, and lo’ I am with you always,” He said.

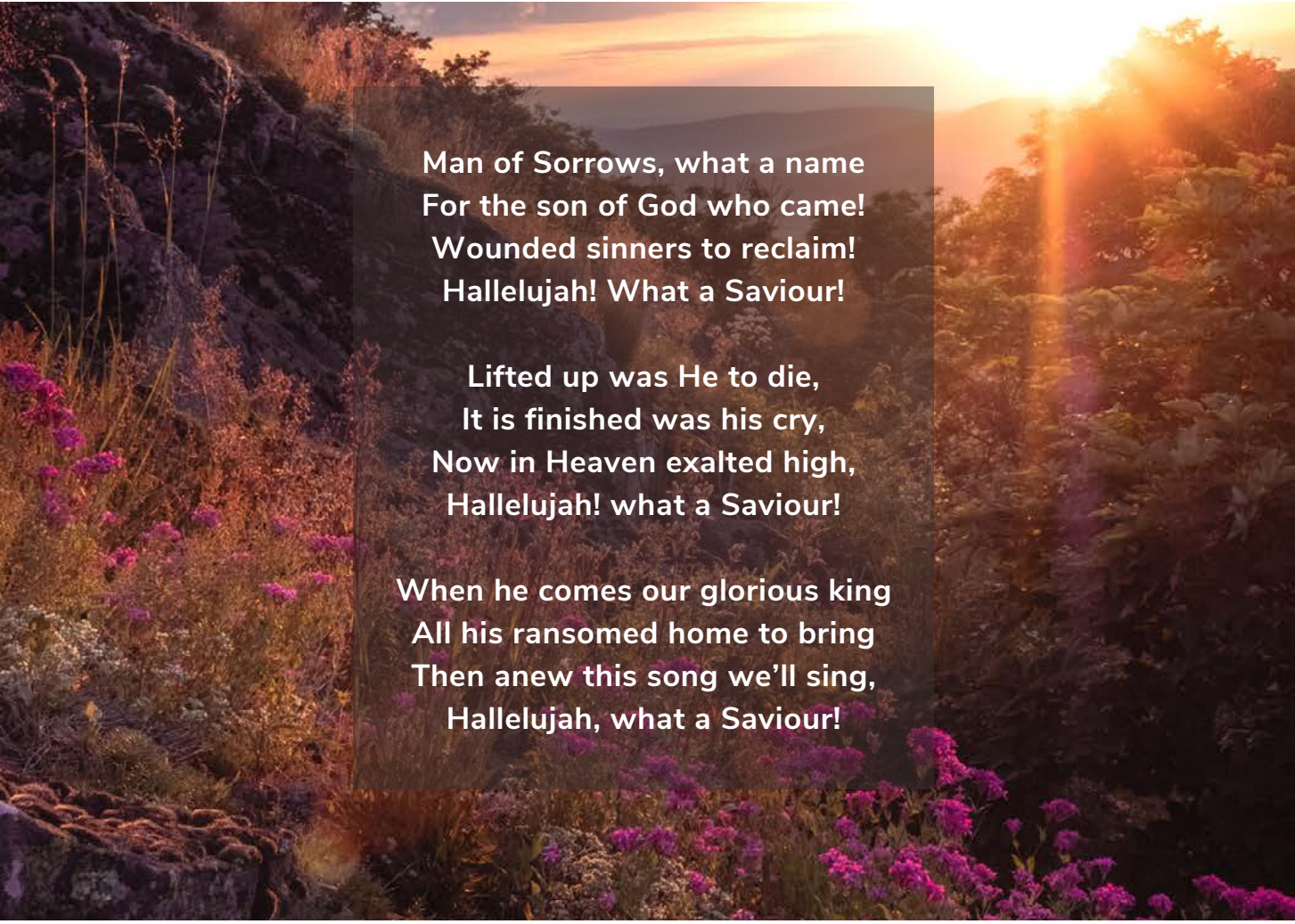
Then He’s gone from their sight, caught up in a cloud. Replaced by two angels who tell the speechless followers: “In the same way you’ve seen him go – Jesus is coming again.” (Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-20; Luke 24:1-53; John 20:-1-31, 21:1-25, Acts 1: 1-14)

...And so we have done a quick walk through those days after Jesus’ death and burial, through the miracle of the empty tomb, and Jesus Himself risen from the grave and alive forever more. And then He was back to His Father in Heaven, with the promise that He will come to take us to heaven to be with Him.

Forty years ago on a trip to Israel I was privileged to walk “where Jesus walked”. And when you walk those old streets, down the Via Dolorosa, through the ancient olive grove in the Garden of Gethsemane it’s as if He never left. He’s there on the Bethlehem hillside where angels announced His coming to stunned shepherds. He’s there on the hillside looking down towards the Sea of Galilee, where thousands of people sat drinking in the Sermon on the Mount, and feasting on the bread and fish so abundantly provided. He’s there as you sail across the serene Sea of Galilee looking up at the Gadarene Hills where thousands of pigs stampeded to their death.

On that warm day in Jerusalem, I felt closest to a living Jesus as we walked through the gates into the ancient Garden a short walk from the Golgotha Hill where He was crucified. A still-beautiful garden with the dew still on the roses and the profusion of glorious bloom. The rocks still there holding the tomb where Jesus was laid. The big stone still there, rolled away from the opening. Inside, the ancient stone bed was grey and cold. And EMPTY! –

He was not there. He was risen indeed. We knew that as we stood under the ancient gnarled trees, beside the stone, and sang:



Man of Sorrows, what a name
For the son of God who came!
Wounded sinners to reclaim!
Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

Lifted up was He to die,
It is finished was his cry,
Now in Heaven exalted high,
Hallelujah! what a Saviour!

When he comes our glorious king
All his ransomed home to bring
Then anew this song we'll sing,
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!



Lois Neely Roberts

Lois is a published author of a number of inspirational biographies, the most well known of which is *Fire In His Bones*, the biography of our founder, Oswald J. Smith.

News and Views



FOR THIS MONTH - A SHORT LIST OF GROANERS

- I've always had an irrational fear of speed bumps but I'm slowly getting over it.
- My friend died when we couldn't remember his blood type. As he died, he kept insisting "Be positive," but it's hard without him.
- Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

SENIORS' PERSPECTIVE ON OUR STRANGE NEW WORLD:

- 2019 – Stay away from negative people;
2020/21 – Stay away from positive people.
- The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2021 planner.
- The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors.
- This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house and told my cat. We laughed a lot.
- I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the backyard.

A SPRING TONIC

- A half cup of friendship
- A cup of thoughtfulness
- Creamed together with a pinch of powdered tenderness
- Very lightly beaten in a bowl of loyalty
- One cup of faith and one cup each of hope and charity
- One tablespoon of a gaiety that sings and the ability to laugh at little things
- Moisten with tears of heartfelt sympathy
- Bake in a good-natured pan
- Serve repeatedly

So, with a newfound joy in our hearts, let us display the faith, hope and love which only Christ can give in this season of new beginnings.

Submitted by Ann Fletcher





Be Prepared

STAY IN TOUCH!

The following practical points are recommended by
Bringing an Awareness of Senior Safety issues to the Community (B.A.S.S.I.C)

As we've experienced over the last two years, communication and staying in touch is important in so many ways. In some emergencies or disasters, local telephone and email networks may not work. Creating a communications plan is an easy way to help you keep in contact with friends and family members.

- Identify someone outside your town/city that you can contact to connect and share information.
- Create a list of the people in your personal support network. This includes people who will be able to help when you need it like, family members, neighbours, and health-care and personal support workers.
- Have a buddy. Make arrangements to have that person check on you during the day, and you can do the same for them.
- Cordless phones rely on electricity and will not work during a power outage. If you have a landline, keep at least one corded phone in your home.

LIFE GROUPS

If you have online access and are interested in participating in weekly fellowship and prayer with other senior adults, there are opportunities for you to connect with a Life Group.

Pastor Reg would be happy to assist you in getting connected.

Call 416-222-3341 Ext. 177
or email RegA@ThePeoplesChurch.ca.

EASTER SERVICES

Here are the times of our special Easter services:

Palm Sunday

April 9 at 9:00 AM & 11:30 AM

Good Friday

April 15 at 9:00 AM & 11:30 AM

Resurrection Sunday

April 17 at 9:00 AM & 11:30 AM



With the Lord

OUR TPC FAMILY

Here are the names of those from our Lifespring 55 fellowship who have recently gone to be with the Lord:

KEN PLUMMER

DR. EBENEZER SIKAKANE

LILLIAN HINGLEY

STEPHEN SANKAR

EVELYN HOYLES

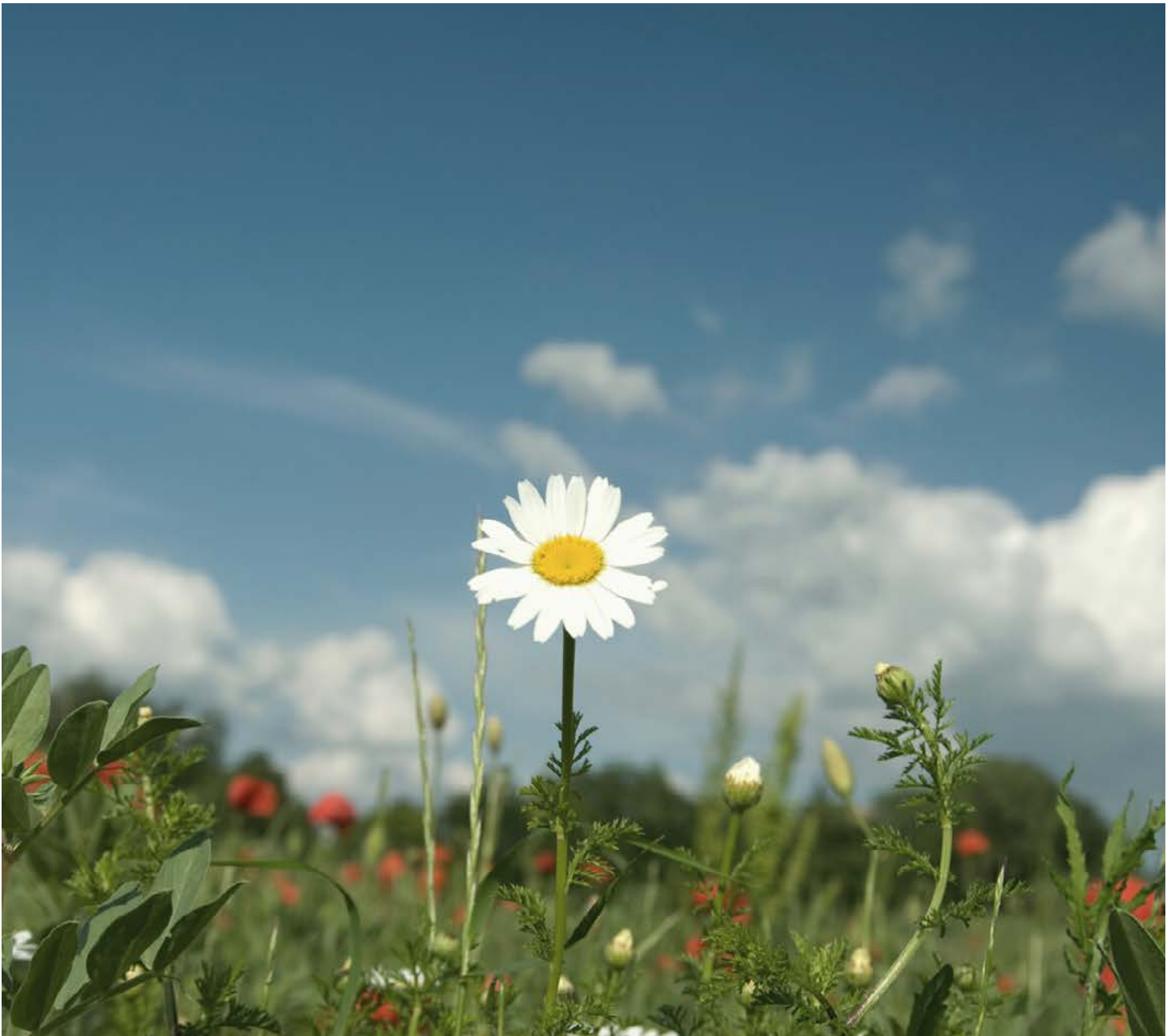
Please remember the grieving families in your prayers.



**WE ARE CONFIDENT,
YES, WELL PLEASED RATHER
TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY
AND TO BE PRESENT
WITH THE LORD.**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:8





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

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