

# At the Well

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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 3**

**JOHN 4:14**



# Celebrating 100

## Gus Ambrose



It's fair to say that Gus Ambrose has been a household name at The Peoples Church for a number of decades. Gus served as an elder, a great congregational song leader and all-round supporter and encourager of The Peoples Church family.

His fame goes back to the early days of the great Toronto Youth for Christ crusades, in which he played a key role, attracting thousands of young people to evenings of worship and consecration.

On September 17, hosted by Gus's daughter and son-in-law, Ginny and Terry Bridle, a celebratory event was held at The Peoples Church commemorating the significant milestone – his 100th birthday.

Featured at the event were Gus's famous brother, Tommy, a national musical icon in Canada for many years, Gus's daughter, Ginny, Lloyd Knight and the Rutledge trio. A highlight of the afternoon was a throwback moment in which Gus led a congregational song accompanied by his pianist of those Youth for Christ days, Dorothy Bradbury.

Many from the TPC family took advantage of this opportunity to pay tribute to this great man who has had such a positive impact on so many lives. What a joy to see how the Lord has blessed Gus with a long life and how he (Gus) continues to fulfill his life-long desire to bring glory to God.





**THOSE WHO ARE PLANTED  
IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD SHALL  
FLOURISH IN THE COURTS OF OUR GOD.  
THEY SHALL STILL BEAR FRUIT IN OLD AGE.  
THEY SHALL BE FRESH AND FLOURISHING,  
TO DECLARE THAT THE LORD IS UPRIGHT;  
HE IS MY ROCK, AND THERE IS  
NO UNRIGHTEOUSNESS IN HIM.**

**PSALM 92:13-15**

Gus Ambrose,  
the song leader,  
in fine form  
at his centennial  
celebration.



## The Life of Faith

While some of my favourite childhood memories involve outdoor adventure, there were also important and memorable family times—like when we would sit together prior to bedtime and listen to our parents tell stories of faith encounters in their earlier years of ministry. Mom would tell of the time shortly after they had arrived and set up home in a remote community, having no means of support and unable to rely on family or friends.

One evening they had absolutely nothing for supper. So, together my mom and dad got down on their knees to pray that the Lord would provide food. While they were praying there was a knock at the door. A gentleman from the community had come with provisions not just for the evening meal but sufficient groceries for days to come!

Dad would tell of how he was called on one dark night by a distressed father to come to his home where his young son had swallowed an opener key from a meatloaf can having a sharp protruding tin edge. The normal thing to do in such a crisis was to call on the pastor to come and pray.

There was no 911 to call—no emergency measures service and no readily available medical services. The prayer of faith was the first line of rescue.

On this particular occasion the little boy vomited up the key as soon as my dad prayed. Such stories of faith were not uncommon and served to instill in me an understanding that The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. (Psalm 34:15 KJV)

The practice of coming to God in faith when there were needs in our own lives became the norm for us. We understood God to be ever present—ever aware of our need for His touch and His provision.

Any such faith encounter is an opportunity to demonstrate Christ's power and love in the face of natural and, in some cases, demonic forces, which war against the ways of God. The thing to remember is this. We don't try to create opportunities to grandstand the works of God's love and grace. The Word of God warns us not to put God to the test.





David mentions this: They willfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved. (Palm 78:14) Similarly, Jesus issues a warning from the Scriptures as He resists the temptations of the devil: Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Matthew 4:7)

So let's be careful that we don't promote the kind of ill-advised showdowns wherein some have foolishly attempted to force the hand of God.

Nevertheless, over and over in the Scriptures we are reminded that God delights to have His children come to Him in faith. In fact the Bible tells us that without faith it is impossible to please Him.

My concern, as we contemplate the need for a new level of qualitative faith in today's church, is the number among us who might tend to be like the disciples who became amazed at Jesus' power and authority over the Galilean wind and waves, prompting His rebuke, "O you of little faith." (Matthew 8:26)

The issue of faith comes down to your and my confidence in the living, ever-present Christ who is faithful to His Word—a God who does answer prayer.

In this edition of *At the Well* we take time to highlight stories of the faithfulness of God. Emily is a newcomer to Canada and a new believer. She shares a beautiful poem expressing her trust in our wonderful Creator.

Jubilance Singers founder, Manne Idestrom, who with his wife, Lois, are active members of Lifespring 55, can give us many accounts of the Lord's faithfulness as he has depended on Him as the great Provider in times of need.

May our hearts be encouraged as we remember that this faithful God is not impartial, but loves for us, His children, to place our confidence in His unfailing love!



**Reg Andrews**  
**Visitation Pastor**



# An Inspiring Faith Story

## Jubilance Singers and Orchestra



*Jubilance Singers and Orchestra is a very active musical/mission organization that supports Cuban churches and has held concerts in 50 countries around the world. To find out more about the ministry you are invited to visit the Jubilance Singers and Orchestra website. This year the group is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Founder and Director, Manne Idestrom shares some of the adventures in faith that the group has witnessed.*

In 1982, while living in Saskatoon, I felt a strong urge to put together a choir and an instrumental group in order to take the Gospel behind the Iron Curtain. I asked my singers and musicians if they were interested in going. The majority said no for different reasons. Work commitments, finances, fear of visiting several communist countries were among the reasons they gave. I felt that we should visit Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East-Germany – all communist nations at the time – but many of my singers and musicians were afraid to travel behind the Iron Curtain.





However, the Lord was at work in the hearts of others – particularly some of my members from Kingston, Ontario. A couple of pastors :Pastor Darren Godfrey, Pastor Ralph Brown and a soloist by the name of Rosemary Farmer (now Hiebert) who had just graduated in voice from Queens University, along with several others, were anxious to participate and soon arrived in Saskatoon.

So, in August a group of fourteen people boarded a Wardair flight to Frankfurt in West Germany. Fortunately, I knew the owners of IKEA in Frankfurt and they provided us with a Volkswagen bus and a brand-new Audi for us to use for five+ weeks. As all the seats were maximized, we had to put suitcases on the roof of the VW bus and in the trunk of the Audi.

We drove to Austria for concerts. While in Vienna a pastor approached us and said, "I have 200 Hungarian Bibles. Would you take these into Hungary?" He also mentioned that there was a chance that our cars would be stopped and searched. I believed in the power of united prayer and asked the JSO group to pray asking that God would make a way to transport the Bibles into Hungary. We had a prayer meeting in a church in Vienna and I asked everyone to say AMEN if they supported smuggling Bibles into Hungary. It took a while, but eventually everyone agreed! Gunvor, my wife, was the last one!

We started our journey toward the Hungarian border on a nice evening. However very soon we faced a huge storm. When we got to the border the rain was pouring very heavily. The customs officer took our passports with him to his booth. After a long time (We prayed continually.) he brought them back and gave them to each member. The officer asked us to open the Audi trunk. I stepped out in the rain and opened the trunk.

**There were 200 Bibles in full display.** The officer saw the Bibles and said everything was fine and allowed us to proceed. We believe God blinded him – he did not see the Bibles! We started driving, the rain stopped, and the roads were nice. We arrived in Budapest early in the morning and went to the train station where many people were sleeping on the floor. We started handing out the Bibles. After this we went to the church where we were ministering that weekend. They welcomed and hosted us warmly.



We had a wonderful time in three communist countries praying for people in every service in this five-week tour. And we spent 4-5 days singing and ministering in Sweden as well.

At the end we had to return with WardAir to Canada from Frankfurt, Germany. We were running out of money and could not afford to stay in a hotel. I told the group to pray for food and lodging. The hotel in Frankfurt was full and furthermore I did not have a credit card to pay with! When I studied in Stockholm and was pianist for the Sunday night choir and orchestra I often spoke German to Anna Nachtnebel, a lady in the choir. She was a nurse from Germany. Her name came to my mind – somebody told me that she moved to Frankfurt in Germany. I called somebody from the Church in Stockholm and they gave me her Frankfurt number. I called Anna and told her our situation – we need food and a place to stay. She said, “Call me back in 15 minutes.” I did and she said: “I work for Rotes Kreuz Krankenhaus here in Frankfurt and I spoke to the supervisor about your need. The supervisor has offered Jubilance to come and have supper at the hospital and, furthermore, the whole group can sleep in the emergency over night!!”

Again, we thanked the Lord that He intervened for us. We flew back to Canada the next morning.

## **2019 and 2020 – Years of Thanksgiving**

COVID-19 started in 2019 and Jubilance had no concerts in 2020 and 2021 resulting with no income from attendees or CD sales. Due to those unavoidable factors it seemed like we were facing a new financial crisis. I give thanks to the Lord that I had been paying into unemployment insurance for more than 40 years and had never collected anything until 2020. My salary stopped, but I am thankful to have received CERB, unemployment insurance, rent income from our tenant as well as my wife Lois helping to pay our expenses.

The Lord continued to show that He is Jehovah-Jireh, our Provider, by intervening in unexpected ways. Back to January 2016 – the Jubilance Mazda van was in bad condition so we started to pray for a new vehicle to pull the Jubilance trailer. Lois and I personally own a VW Jetta diesel with amazing mileage.





We found out that if a VW vehicle has rust spots on any areas on the vehicle, these areas would be replaced before the vehicle is 12 years old. When the time came, VW replaced the rust parts on our Jetta!

As the Mazda van had a lot of rust and not working well, we started to pray for God to intervene and help us find the right diesel vehicle. After looking for months we narrowed it down to about four or five VW Touaregs. In early April 2016 Jubilance had bought a 2010 VW Touareg for \$20,176 plus HST. Jubilance had some funds saved "for a rainy day" but not enough. A friend of mine in Switzerland wire-transferred \$10,000 to be used for the vehicle. Furthermore, we did not know about the VW class action lawsuit due to a problem with the emission in VWs. About a year and a half after purchasing the Touareg, Jubilance received a cheque from VW for \$4,750.00. Then in July 2021 VW paid for replacing all the rust spots on the 2010 Touareg!

These, though seemingly small things, have been faith-building events!

## **Jubilance Cuban Outreach**

Another important aspect of the ministry of Jubilance is its outreach to churches in Cuba. Jubilance pays 48 pastors a salary, raising money through concerts and donations. Each pastor receives CDN\$50.00 monthly. This year we have had only five concerts which means less income. About a month ago an individual sent Jubilance \$5,000 and we were able to transfer food and money to Cuban churches. The pastors supported by Jubilance are in the following areas:

eighteen pastors in Ciego de Avila, sixteen pastors in the Havana area and fourteen pastors in the Holguin area.

In 2020 the economy stopped in Cuba. People to this day have a hard time finding food and medicine. Due to the food shortage, we have shipped a 20' container with 16,011 KG of rice, black beans, dehydrated vegetables and cooking oil this past January 2022. Recently Jubilance sent CDN \$50.00 to each church (48 churches) for food. God is faithful!





In the natural, Jubilance had a couple of tough years, but we give the Lord all the glory for many financial miracles! These may seem like small events. To us, they are reminders of God's love and grace and His great faithfulness to us as we put our trust in Him.

It is the goal of Jubilance Singers to continue to bring blessing to local churches and to global destinations as He opens the doors.

**Manne Idestrom**  
**JSO Founder & Director**



# Morning Glow



EVERY EARLY MORNING,  
BIRDS ARE SINGING MELODIOUS SONGS.  
THEY WAKE ME UP.  
SO BEAUTIFUL MORNING GLOW.  
I'M SEEING TE ROSY CLOUDS OF DAWN  
OUT OF THE WINDOW.  
AT ONCE THE HAPPINESS IS FILLING MY HEART.

SO BEAUTIFUL PAINTING IN THE SKY.  
WHO CAN DRAW?  
ONLY YOU, GOD.  
O GOD, YOU ARE SO GREAT!  
TWINKLING EYES,  
THE SKY OPENS A BRAND NEW  
PICTURE AGAIN.

SO COLOURFUL, SO AMAZING  
IT CHANGES SO FAST.  
O GOD ,YOU ARE ALL MIGHTY.  
EVERY MORNING ,YOU EXPEL THE DARK,  
BRINGING ME A NEW DAY IN LIFE .





**OH GOD ,I LOVE YOU!  
YOU CREATED THE UNIVERSE.  
O GOD , YOU RESCUE ME FROM SIN ,  
YOU AWAKE ME DEEP IN MY HEART.  
YOU GIVE ME LIGHT;  
YOU GIVE ME WARMTH;  
YOU GIVE ME HOPE.  
YOU GIVE ME NEW LIFE!**

**FROM THE DAY I BECAME YOUR CHILD,  
FAITH AND LOVE FILL MY WHOLE HEART.  
I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR YOU!  
O GOD, I LOVE YOU FOREVER!  
I EXTOL YOU FOREVER ... EVER ... EVER!**



**Emily Ye  
A Lifespring 55 Newcomer**



# News and Views

## The Peoples House



Volunteers at work!

Over the past summer our missions department has been hard at work both overseas as well as here in our own backyard. As many of you may know, our refugee ministry The Peoples House has been welcoming refugee claimants here in Toronto since 2016. Since then The Peoples House has grown into a vibrant ministry where we continue to welcome and share life with people from all across the world. Within the ministry we have welcomed people from places such as Afghanistan, Angola, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Turkey, UAE and more. Throughout the summer we have seen the Lord's hand at work as He continues to bless residents as they make what can be a difficult transition here into Canada.

In the recent months God has not ceased to amaze us as He has provided our ministry with not only one, but two, new refugee houses. What started as a prayer and response in 2016 now continues to grow and impact the lives of many. We are excited to share this expansion update with you and are deeply encouraged by how our church family has been in support with us since day one.

The second house (Selah House) was officially opened in June 2022 in Peterborough along with the recent third house (Glendora) here in our own church neighborhood in August 2022. With the ministry growing we are excited to see how God will continue to pour into the lives of many. The name Glendora is Welsh meaning Sanctified Good. We are always humbled and encouraged by how God reminds us of his provision through clever and unique ways.

With expansion comes new opportunities for growth. We are excited to introduce you to our new Glendora house manager Nathan Amell. Nathan serves as a life group leader and has been our night manager over the past year. Nathan has a heart for community as well as serving and welcoming the outsider. We are excited to see how God will use Nathan as well as the rest of our team for His kingdom and glory.





As with any ministry, nothing would be possible without a team of volunteers that are eager and willing to serve. Our team was put to the test over the past season with opening the two new houses. With countless hours of renovating, painting, and moving furniture both houses soon became "move in ready". Throughout all the work you could not help but see the character of Christ being revealed through each person. With the shared goal of creating a warm and inviting home for refugees, we were reminded of how Christ has prepared a place for each of us. From this we have seen firsthand the Lord build up a team of volunteers that have become more of a family than anything.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers. A verse that is foundational to our ministry is 1 Thessalonians 2:18, "Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel but our lives as well". By sharing our lives with others we are able to show them how we live differently as well as the by-product of being blessed by one another. If this is something that God is calling you to, we would love for you to join us in the following ways:

**Learn** – We have an opportunity for you to visit The Peoples House on a virtual tour called Come and See. The tour will take place on November 24 at 7:00 PM. You can visit the church website to register.

**Give** – To the Global Missions funds through our church's website.

**Pray for** –

- peace and protection over our three homes and the forty residents we support.
- provision for our residents for affordable housing and meaningful jobs.
- smooth transitions for our residents, as they get to acclimatize themselves to a new culture, way of life, systems and much more.
- our church to continue to grow as a vibrant community of welcome.
- wisdom and strength for our staff and volunteer teams as they love and give sacrificially.
- our neighbours and neighborhoods, that we will establish good relationships.
- the hearts and minds of our refugee friends to turn to the Christ whom they see in us – and to know Him personally.

**Nathan Amell**  
**The Peoples House Manager**





## Aging in Place

A well-thought-out financial plan can help you successfully age in place. Your health or financial needs may change over time and having a plan can help you better prepare for these possibilities. The following advice is supported by the Insurance Bureau of Canada:

### Five Financial Tips:

1. Budget for support services. You may need certain services such as yard maintenance, personal support and transportation to help you live safely and comfortably at home.
2. Build an emergency fund. Set money aside for unexpected expenses such as health-related needs and home repairs.
3. Manage debt. Credit cards, reverse mortgages and lines of credit may be convenient financial tools but too much debt can limit your financial options.
4. Consider a power of attorney. If you experience mental or physical incapacity, a power of attorney can act on your behalf in financial matters.
5. Seek counsel from a pastor or a Christian friend. They may assist you in finding financial counselling that can be trusted. (Point #5 added by At the Well.)

## Going Deaf

A refined old gentleman grew hard of hearing, and was beset with apprehension lest he become totally deaf. One day, as he rested on a park bench, another elderly citizen seated himself alongside.

The apprehensive old gentleman saw that the new comer was talking rapidly, but his ears caught not the faintest sound of the other's voice. He listened intently--in vain. He cupped a hand to his ear, but there was only silence. At last, in despair, he spoke his thought aloud:

"It's come at last! I know you've been talking all this while, but I haven't heard a single word."

The answer, given with a grin, was explicit and satisfying to the worried deaf man:

"I hain't been talkin'--jest a-chewin'."





## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Here are some important upcoming dates that ought to be on your calendar:

- October 22 – Caring for the Caregivers Conference – The Peoples Church
- November 12 – Hymnfest 2022 – Tyndale Chapel, 3377 Bayview Ave
- November 19 – Lifespring 55 Monthly Meeting – The Peoples Church
- December 17 – Lifespring 55 Christmas Celebration – The Peoples Church

**CHRISTMAS AT PEOPLES DETAILS WILL  
BECOME AVAILABLE ON THE CHURCH  
WEBSITE IN NOVEMBER!**

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