

DEVOTE *YOURSELF*

*28 Days of devotion and
real-life community stories*

INDIVIDUAL
OWNERSHIP

COME, FOLLOW ME
AND I WILL MAKE
YOU FISHERS OF MEN

COMMUNAL
EXPRESSION



THEY
DEVOTED
THEMSELVES
TO...

PRAAYER.
FELLOWSHIP.
COMMUNITY.
GOD.

They Devoted Themselves

In Acts 2:42-27 we get a glimpse of the very first church and it is spectacular. All of us would want to be a part of it. All the people were well taken care of, they were highly thought of, God was continuously and highly praised, and new people were added to their number every day. This is an incredible picture!

However, what is easily overlooked are the first three words that set it up, ***“They devoted themselves...”***

But to what did they devote themselves?

They devoted themselves to the community of Christ; not an impotent religious organisation but rather a radical group of over 3000 people who had received the love and salvation of Jesus Christ after Peter preached the Gospel.

But, why is community so important?

4 simple reasons:

1. **God is a community in Himself!** God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit have enjoyed the love and fellowship of their perfect triune community. In creating mankind, God desired for us to participate in that community and know the perfect and joyous love the Godhead share.
2. **He didn't create man to be in community with him alone.** After he created the world and Adam, God said, *“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him”* (Genesis 2:18). God created man and woman to be in community together, to create families and live together, bearing the image of and reflecting the three-in-one God.
3. **God chose the Israelite community to be His people.** *“And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people”* (Leviticus 26:12). They lived and worshiped him together in community.
4. **God still chooses a community called “the church”.** Following the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, God then instituted the church, the Body of Christ as a community of believers. *“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”* (1 Corinthians 12:27).

TO BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS MEANS THAT WE ARE IN COMMUNITY.

ROUTINE

RELATIONSHIPS

FEAR

CHILDREN

FAMILY

ADDICTION

WHAT
ARE YOU
DEVOTED
TO?

MONEY

FITNESS

FOOD

SOCIAL MEDIA

SUCCESS

COMFORT

CAREER

ENTERTAINMENT



Why Jesus?

Jesus alone can find us

Religion is humanity's search for God; Christianity is God's search for humanity. Every other religion puts forward a pathway by which you should try to earn salvation. But the bible insists that our sinfulness has created an uncross-able gulf between God and ourselves. Neither good deed nor religious devotion can span that gap. "But God demonstrates his love for us in this; while we were still sinners, he died for us" (Romans 5:8). Through his death, Jesus spanned the gulf! "It is by grace you have been saved, not by works – so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8).

Jesus alone can forgive us

Whether we realise it or not, we all stand guilty before a Holy God. Many times we have sinned against God in thought, word and deed. Just as when someone commits a crime there is a penalty to be paid, so there is a penalty for violating God's standards. 'The wages of sin is death' (Romans 6:23) The result of things we do wrong is spiritual death – being cut off from God. We all deserve to suffer that penalty. But God took our sins and put them on Jesus on the cross, and punished him there in our stead. Now we can stand before God forgiven, our guilt taken away.

Jesus alone can fill us

In every heart there is a God-shaped vacuum that God alone can fill. We may try all kinds of things to fill it – success, love, thrills, money, adventure, achievement – but the satisfaction is always short-lived. That's because material things can't fill a spiritual void. Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life' (John 6:35) He is the only one who can satisfy our deepest hunger. He promises to fill us 'with joy in his presence, with eternal pleasures at his right hand' (Psalm 6:11).

Jesus alone can free us

The things we do wrong have an enslaving hold on us. Jesus said, 'Everyone who sins is a slave to sin' (John 8:34) Jesus died to free us from this slavery. He gave us his spirit so we can be free to start living the sort of lives that deep down we have always wanted to live – lives marked by 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control' (Galatians 5:22-23) This change may not be instant though. It's progressive. 'If the son sets you free, you will be free indeed' (John 8:36)

Jesus alone won't forsake us

Though we avoid the subject of our death, we must face up to what happens when we die. Outside of Christ's grace, we are separated from God forever. Jesus came so that 'by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death' (Hebrews 2:14) To know Christ here on earth guarantees we'll be with him forever. 'Neither life nor death...neither the present nor the future...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 8:38-39)

Big Things Happen In Small Groups

Here at Life Changers, we believe that circles are better than rows and that God's design for us to grow is in community, not just in crowds. With that in mind we would love to see every person who calls Life Changers their home to be connected in a Life Group.

Three reasons why we believe Life Groups are good for us:

1. Jesus calls us to build relationships with other Christ followers so that we can encourage, strengthen, care for, support, challenge and sharpen one another. Together we stand, isolated we fall.
2. Our Sunday meetings are not enough to develop enduring relationships. But committing to meet with a few people on a regular basis is a great way to do this.
3. Life Groups are a good environment for deepening our insights into the gospel, applying it to our life, growing in spiritual gifts and partnering with others as we seek to better serve the city and the church.

A bit about life-groups:

Each group meets weekly in homes all around our city. They range in size from five to twenty people. Usually they include a meal or refreshments, a conversation around the Sunday message, some bible discussion and a time of prayer, though there is no pressure to pray out loud if you're not ready. It's in these Life Groups that we get to share in one another's victories and struggles, ask questions and care for each other.

How to join one:

There are three ways to get into a Life Group:

1. Join a group with someone you already know
2. Sign up for one at the Next Steps Desk after one of our Sunday meetings
3. Visit our website lifechangers.org.za to access the list and details of all the Life Groups in our church family

Devoted People Live A Life Marked By Jesus

FIND AND READ ACTS 1

Acts 1:1 “In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach.”

At the very centre, the core of a Christian's life, is the person of Jesus Christ.

Charles Spurgeon writes: ***“Make him the source, centre and circumference of all thy soul's range of delight.”***

It is through Him that we learn the way to the Father, as John 14:6 teaches us: ***“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.’”***

It is through Him that we receive the Holy Spirit, as John 14:17 teaches us: ***“He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.”***

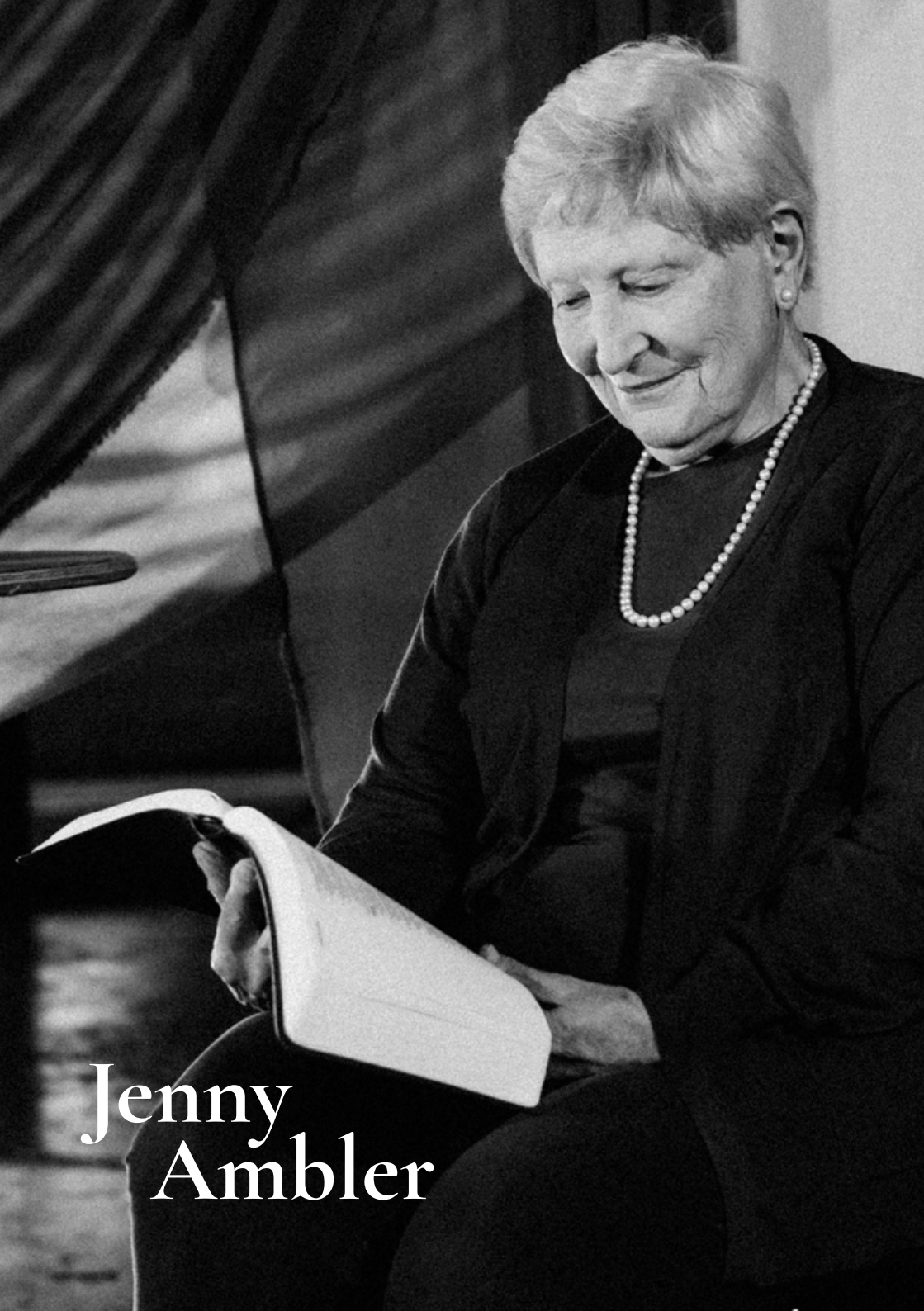
It is through Him that we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3). Our unity with Christ gives us access to every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly realms.

It is through Christ Jesus that we have received our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins, and our adoption as sons and daughters of the Lord Most High.

Every book in the Bible whispers His name, just as every page of the story should resound His wondrous name.

Devoted people understand that our confidence in this life is birthed out of our communion with Christ.

PRAY



Jenny
Ambler

“From a childhood marked by loss, tragedy, and brokenness to a life shaped, sustained, and restored by God’s mercy.”

Born as the second eldest in a family of seven children, I was privileged to grow up in a loving, safe home filled with simple joys—playing outdoors, riding bikes, and enjoying a grounded childhood. Looking back, I see this as God’s loving hand shaping and protecting me from the beginning.

My schooling in a convent was good but sheltered, and it left me naïve and unprepared for the harsh realities of life. In our neighbourhood, there were people who would “bible punch” us, and although I often avoided them, I now see their influence as part of God gently drawing me toward Him.

Tragedy soon marked our family. In 1964, my mother survived a devastating accident in which my youngest sister and grandmother were killed, and she was left in a wheelchair. Later, my brother Peter died in a motorbike accident in 1974. It was through his death that I discovered he had quietly given his life to Christ on a mountain climb with believers – something that deeply shaped my own journey of faith.

I gave my own life to the Lord while still attending church, believing I was serving Him faithfully. I married Brian, but his later death from leukaemia, along with the loss of my father and one of my sisters, brought seasons of deep sorrow. Yet even in that pain, God gave grace, and I witnessed His presence in every situation. I believe they are now with Him, waiting for me.

Eventually, I moved into a vibrant, Bible-based, born-again church called Glenridge. I immersed myself in teaching, missions, and ministry across Africa, the UK, the USA, Australia, and New Zealand.

My journey also included deep personal brokenness when I learned that my husband had molested my son. God brought healing, forgiveness, and the strength to move forward. I also found freedom in Recovery, where I continue to grow in grace.

Today, I serve in church, lead a Life Group, and cherish my four children and ten grandchildren – two of whom know the Lord, and two I trust will yet come to Him. I have learned that God’s mercy and love pursue us through every season. He has had a plan for my life from the very beginning, and He still does.

Devoted People Are Seated And Surrendered

FIND AND READ ACTS 2

Acts 2:2 “And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.”

The Holy Spirit came and filled the entire house. This symbolises the comprehensive and all-encompassing nature of the Holy Spirit's presence.

And while the gust of wind ruffled and roared through the house, the people remained seated. Why would the Bible mention that? It seems like such an insignificant detail. But the posture of sitting represents a posture of surrender and readiness.

In Acts 1:4, Jesus commanded them to wait, and in obedience, they postured their hearts in participation and anticipation. This seating is not a future promise but a present reality, indicating the believer's current spiritual authority.

It was only when they were seated that the Holy Spirit rested on them. He rested on them and empowered them. The resting of the flames on each person signifies the personal and abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

Devoted people are seated and rested, surrendered and ready, set apart and empowered.

PRAY

Devoted People Walk In Authority

FIND AND READ ACTS 3

Acts 3:6 “Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”

This man asked Peter for money, and instead, he received a miracle.

2 Corinthians 4:7 says that we have this treasure – the gospel message and the knowledge of the glory of God – in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Our fragile frames hold this fabulous truth. Even when our pockets are empty, we carry the fullness of the power of eternity in the name of Jesus Christ. We are carriers of heavenly treasures that far outweigh our earthly profits.

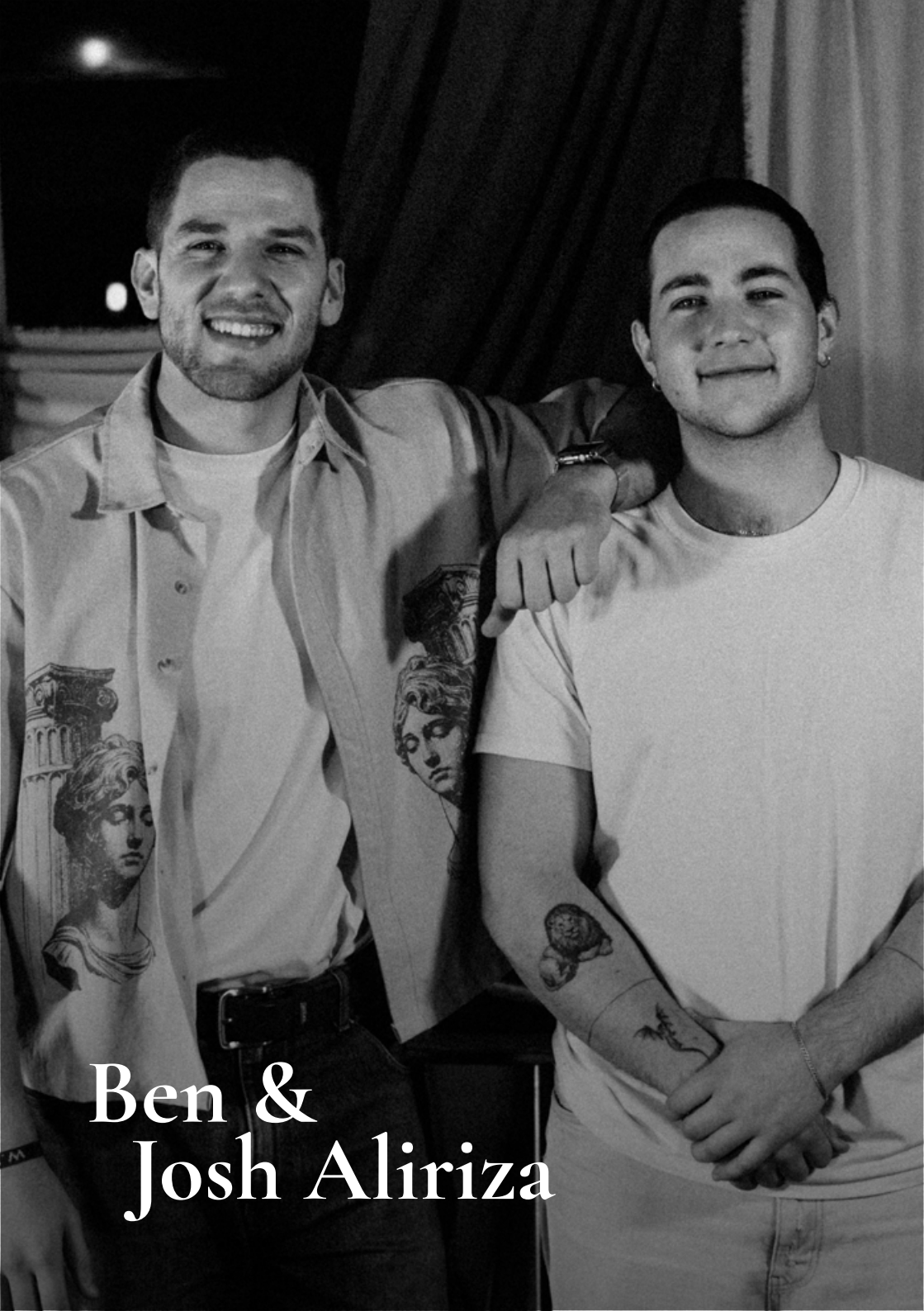
Let's trade our earthly rags for the eternal riches that await us as we walk in resurrection power.

In Jesus, we have victory!
In Jesus, we have been set free.
In Jesus, we have authority.

***“Lord, you are more precious than silver,
You are more costly than gold,
You are more beautiful than diamonds
And nothing I desire compares with You.”***
– Steffany Gretzinger

Devoted people no longer claim spiritual disability but walk in authority!

PRAY



Ben &
Josh Aliriza

*“No matter how far we drifted,
when we turned around,
Jesus was still there - waiting
faithfully with open arms.”*

Before Jesus, we both knew what it felt like to be lost. Even though we were raised in a Christian home, life slowly pulled our hearts away from God.

For Ben, losing a best friend to cancer and walking through heartbreak left him empty and searching for purpose.

For Josh, loneliness and living apart from God hardened his heart toward church and community.

But Jesus never stopped pursuing us.

In our lowest moments, He met us with grace, surrounded us with a godly community, and reminded us that we were never alone. What started as simply coming back to church became a genuine encounter with the love and presence of God.

Through serving, worship, and learning to seek Jesus for ourselves, our lives began to change from the inside out.

God gave us a new heart for people, a hunger for His presence, and a passion to share the gospel with others who feel broken or unseen. Today, we can honestly say that Jesus transformed our lives.

Our story is proof that no matter how far you drift, His love remains faithful, and He is always ready to call you home.



WATCH THEIR TESTIMONY

Devoted People Are Radiant

FIND AND READ ACTS 4

Acts 4:12 “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognised that they had been with Jesus.”

When the sun rises above the sea, its reflection causes a glittery pathway of light on the surface of the water, as the water absorbs the light of the sun.

Psalms 36:9 says, ***“For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.”***

Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God’s truth and the One who enlightens the hearts and minds of believers. When we have been in the presence of God, we reflect Him.

His countenance shines upon us, and we begin to walk in boldness and radiance. People who have been with Jesus are radiant, and they operate at a different frequency.

J.I. Packer says that ***the essence of heaven is the presence of Jesus.***

May we be devoted people who long for the courts of the Lord, recognising that one day with Him is better than a thousand elsewhere.

PRAY



Oscar &
Aletha Emeteui

“I lost our cars, our home, and nearly my family to addiction - but God met me in my shame and led me into freedom.”

For years, I lived with a secret gambling addiction. Although I attended church, I was trapped in shame, convinced that if anyone discovered the truth, they would reject and condemn me.

My addiction slowly destroyed every area of my life. I drained our business finances, lost our cars, forced our family out of our home, and carried the crushing weight of debt and regret.

In my desperation, I cried out to God for help.

When I joined the church community and eventually a Life Group, I found something I never expected - a safe place to be honest. For the first time, I shared my story and discovered that instead of judgment, I was met with grace, encouragement, and support.

Through the love of Jesus, faithful community, and the unwavering commitment of my husband, God began restoring what addiction had broken.

My husband stood by me through the darkest seasons, praying when I could not pray and believing for freedom when I could barely believe it for myself.

Today, I am debt-free, walking in freedom, and no longer defined by my past. Our story is a reminder that no one is beyond God's reach, and that healing often begins the moment we stop hiding and ask for help.



WATCH THEIR TESTIMONY

Devoted People Walk In Freedom

FIND AND READ ACTS 5

Acts 5:19 “But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.”

Charles Spurgeon writes that God never designed that His people should be an untried people.

We are designed to endure seasons of pain and imprisonment. But we need not fear our night seasons, periods of trials or testing, because it's in these times that we can expect God to do the unexpected.

Galatians reminds us that where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. Freedom, forgiveness and fruitfulness are our inheritance in Jesus Christ. He has flung wide the prison doors and has set us free.

Our freedom gives us the strength to stand firm, then, and not let ourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery and bondage.

The spiritual barriers that once held us captive no longer have power over us. We can persevere under trial with the confidence and courage that we carry in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Devoted people stand tall when trials come their way and walk in freedom despite hard times.

PRAY

Devoted People Are Devoted To Spiritual Growth

FIND AND READ ACTS 6

Acts 6:3 “And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility.”

In this scripture, we read that seven men were chosen to serve the believers, so that the apostles could focus their time on preaching and teaching the Word. They were chosen from the community of believers. They were trusted, devoted men of God, full of faith and full of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:9 calls us co-labourers with Christ, his fellow workers, commissioned to serve one another. Therefore, our individual spiritual maturity in Christ is a blessing to our community. We grow in grace not only for ourselves but for others, too.

Our **faith** increases the faith of others.

Our **joy** spills over into the lives of others.

Our **love** brings healing to the hearts of those around us.

Our **hospitality** provides a safe place for the broken-hearted.

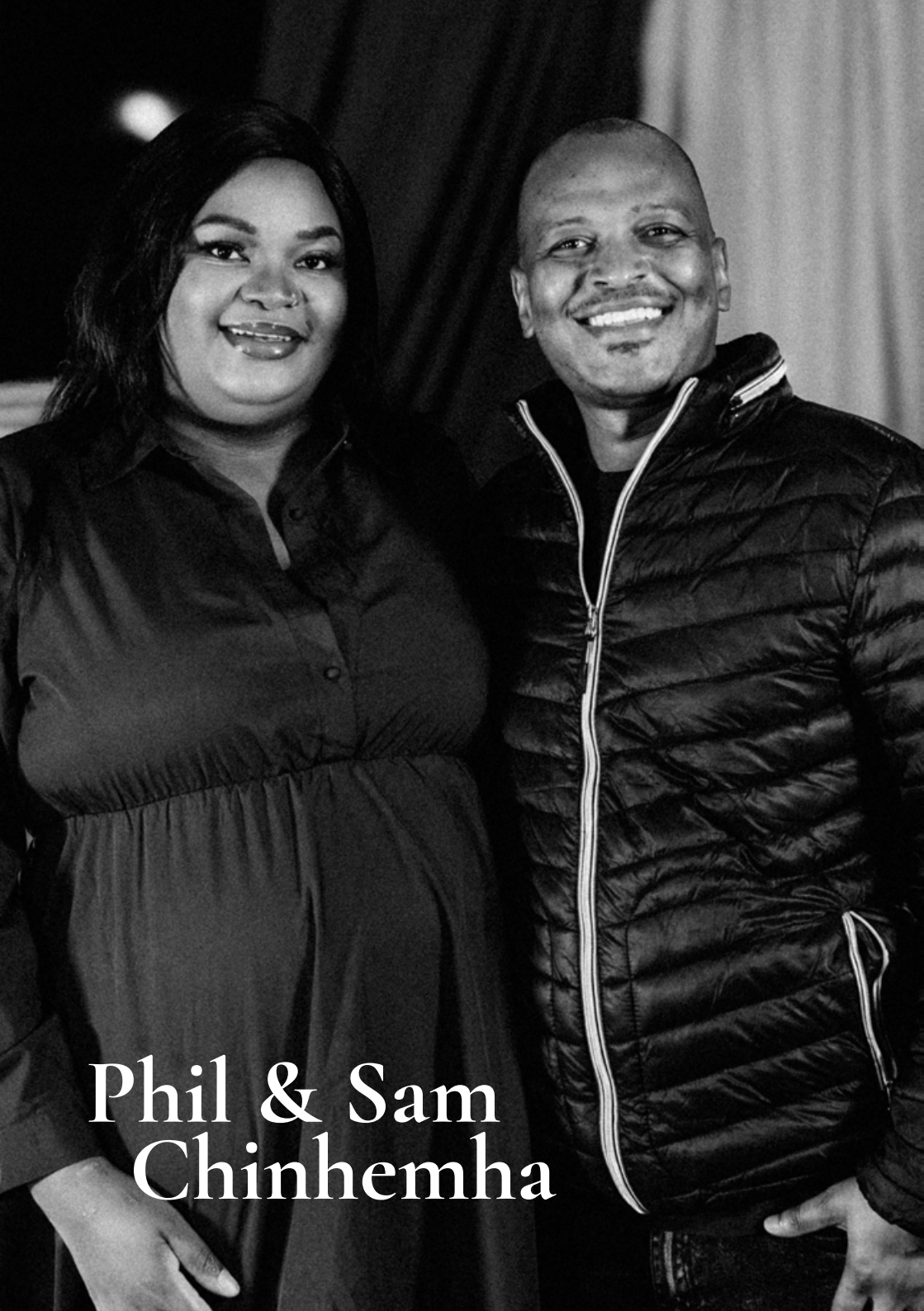
Our **trust** strengthens the arms of our brothers.

Our **hope** anchors the hope of others.

Our **peace** quietens the chaos in the minds of others.

Devoted people are called to live in community, for community, for the edification of the church, which is the Bride of Christ.

PRAY



Phil & Sam
Chinhemha

“We were isolated, on the brink of divorce - until one simple act of serving together in church rebuilt our marriage”

In 2021, we hit a very challenging season in our marriage. The communication was strained, and the arguments were endless. Being so far away from home and with very little family around, we felt isolated.

We contemplated divorce a lot. Throughout the adversities, we continued to show up for church. We had been coming to church for 9 years, but we were not rooted in community.

One Sunday, our friend Monalisa signed us up to serve on the barista team. Initially, we were reluctant to serve together as a couple, but everything became Phill and Sam again.

That simple act of service revealed God's heart and purpose for our lives. Through serving others, we were reminded of God's design for our marriage, in service of each other instead of self.

We became partners in the church and joined a Life group. Along the way, we met more people who have continued to reveal God's love and taught us to hear God's voice.

There was no redeeming action on our part, nor big prayers that we prayed. In our brokenness, God used His community to bring redemption and restoration, for His glory and a testament to His loving nature. Our response to what He did for us was to answer His calling.

We are now firmly planted in the community and lead a Life Group.

We are not perfect, but walking in God's mission together has certainly made us stronger. The devil certainly wanted our marriage destroyed because that would mean one less Life-group, one less place for people to call home and walk in God's kingdom. [John 10:10]

Don't walk the journey alone.
Devote yourself to something.
Join a life group or a serving team.

Get stuck in.

Devoted People Behold And Befriend The Holy Spirit

FIND AND READ ACTS 7

Acts 7:51 “Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit?”

John Bevere writes that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Life. He was there at the beginning, Genesis 1, and He breathed the very breath of life into man’s nostrils, and the man became a living person (Genesis 2:7).

Life is everything. It encompasses all aspects of health, growth, energy, vigour and vim. As believers, we carry the very Spirit of life within us.

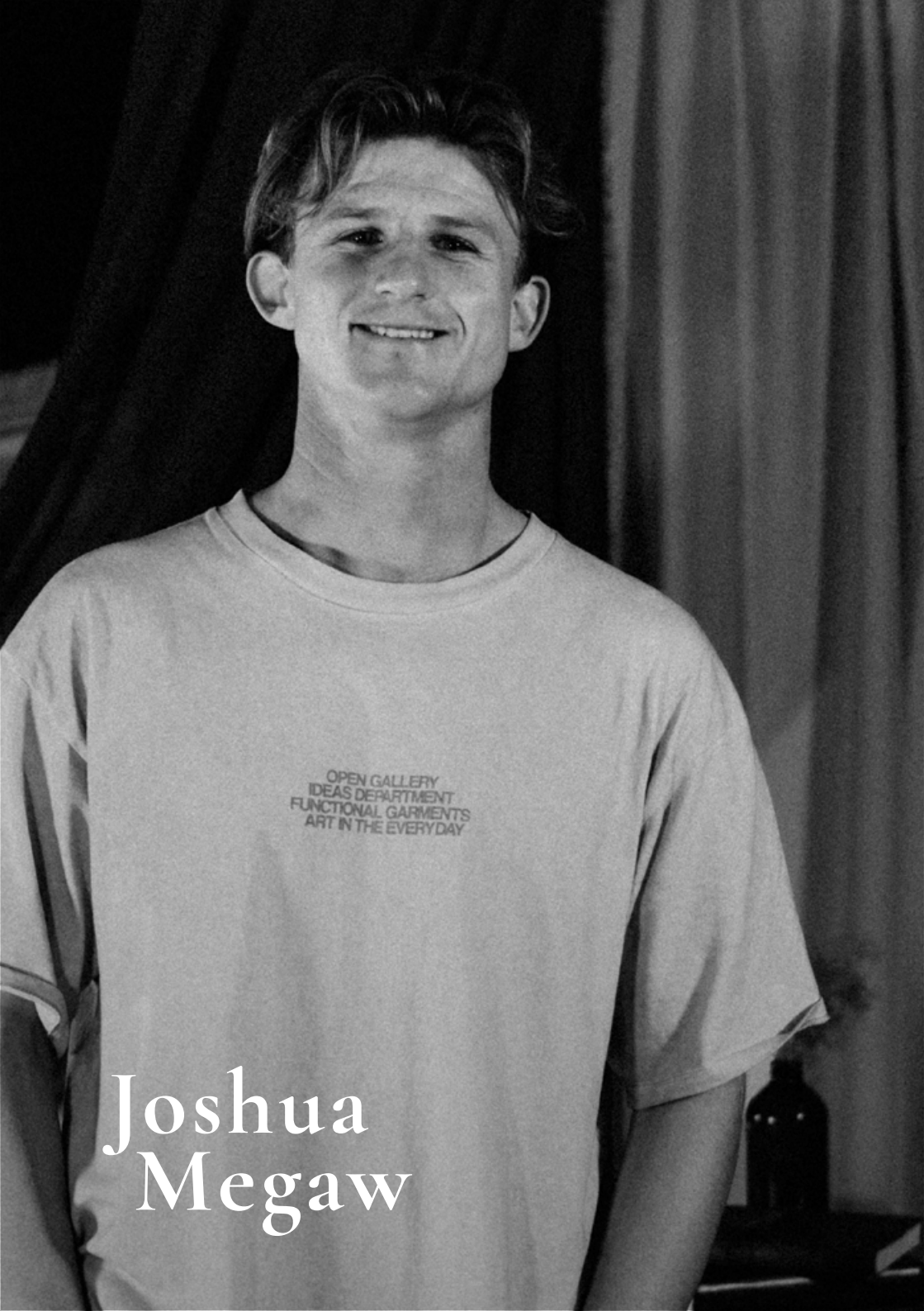
The resistance to the Holy Spirit is a recurring theme in the history of Israel, as seen in their rejection of the prophets and ultimately, Jesus Christ. John 16 highlights the Holy Spirit’s role to comfort, counsel, convict, guide, and empower believers.

By resisting the Holy Spirit, we reject God’s direct influence and guidance in our lives.

By resisting the Holy Spirit, we reject the Helper whom Jesus sent us to aid us in our weaknesses.

Devoted people behold and befriend the Holy Spirit with fervency and enthusiasm.

PRAY



Joshua
Megaw

*“When my family fell apart,
God used community to hold
me together - and years later,
I watched Him restore what I
thought was lost forever.”*

I grew up in a loving Christian family and was deeply involved in church from a young age. Life seemed secure and predictable—until everything changed.

At sixteen, my parents announced they were getting divorced, my mother entered a lesbian relationship, and the stability I had always known suddenly disappeared. Confusion, pain, and uncertainty became part of my everyday life.

In one of the hardest moments of my life, I reached out to my youth leader. That simple phone call became the beginning of a journey where God showed me the power of genuine community.

While I struggled to process the pain and often tried to bury it beneath busyness and activity, God surrounded me with people who encouraged me, challenged me, and continually reminded me of His love and purpose for my life.

Years later, after what seemed impossible, God performed a miracle in my family. My parents reconciled and remarried, restoring what had once been broken. Through that journey, I learned that God is faithful even when life feels chaotic, and that healing rarely happens in isolation.

Looking back, I can see that God used His people to carry me through some of my darkest seasons.

My story is a testimony that no situation is beyond His redemption, and that community is often one of His greatest gifts in the journey toward healing.



WATCH HIS TESTIMONY

Devoted People Are Always Ready To Preach The Good News

FIND AND READ ACTS 8

Acts 8:4 “But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went.”

One might wonder how the believers were so brazen after having just witnessed the stoning of Stephen. Stephen infuriated the Jewish leaders by preaching about the Messiah; they shook their fists at him in rage and dragged him to his death. Yet, the believers did not stop talking about Jesus.

Too often, our circumstances dictate our devotion. But God overrules suffering and uses it for His good purposes and His glory.

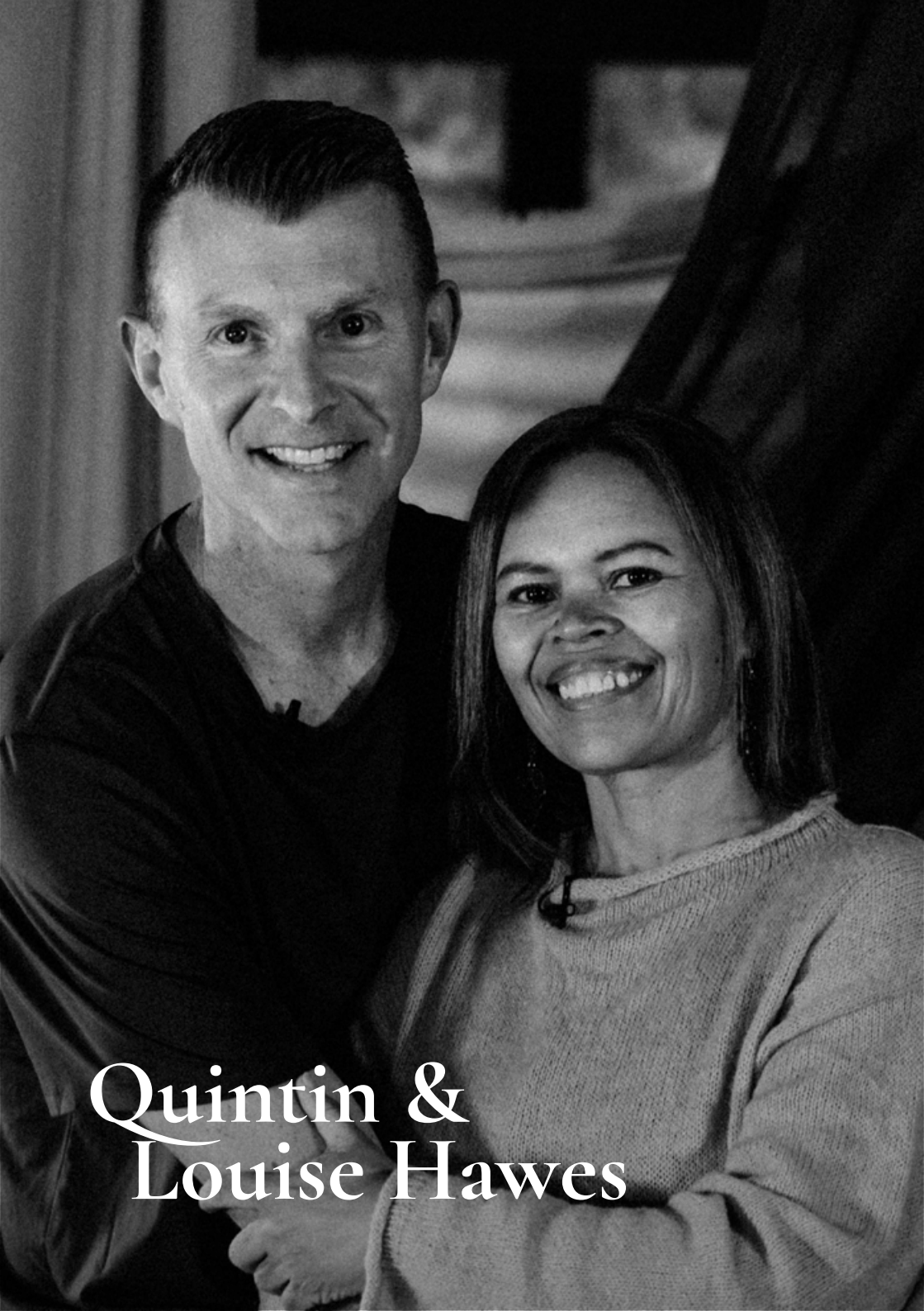
We are refined in the precious furnace of affliction.

Vaneetha Rendall Risner writes that ***“God refines us in the fire. The flames in our life sanctify us and draw us to God in ways that nothing else can.”***

Stephen’s suffering sent him straight up to the staircase of Heaven.

Devoted people are always ready to talk about Jesus and how He saved their souls.

PRAY



Quintin &
Louise Hawes

*“We met in brokenness,
searching for love in the
darkest places - but Jesus
found & healed us”*

“Before Jesus, our lives were marked by brokenness, addiction, and loneliness.”

Louise was trapped in drugs, alcohol, and prostitution, searching for love and acceptance in all the wrong places. Quintin battled deeply with lust and pornography, carrying shame he didn't know how to escape.

“We met in a brothel, both lost and hurting, never imagining that God could redeem our story.”

Everything began to change when Louise came to church, desperate to leave a different legacy for her children. In that community, she encountered the love of God and began to experience healing for the first time. For two years, she prayed faithfully for Quintin. Watching her transformation, he realised he needed the same freedom and healing that only Jesus could bring.

“What we found in Christ was more than forgiveness – we found family, purpose, and unconditional love. Through honest confession, faithful community, and the grace of God, our lives were completely transformed.

Today, after many years of walking with Jesus, we know this to be true: no one is too broken, too lost, or too far gone for the redeeming love of God.”



WATCH THEIR TESTIMONY

Devoted People Get Up And Take Action

FIND AND READ ACTS 9

Acts 9:16 “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

Throughout the book of Acts, we see the words **“get up and go”** inked all over the pages. In this chapter, it is specifically mentioned three times. All three stories are drowning in spiritual death or physical decay.

The words **“get up and go”** signify a turning point in Saul’s life, marking the beginning of his transformation from Saul, the zealous persecutor of Christians, to Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God (Ephesians 1:1).

In verse 33, Peter meets a man who has been paralysed for eight years. Peter says, **“Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat.”** These words also mark a turning point in Aeneas’s life. Immediately, Aeneas was restored, and he began to walk.

Again, in verse 40, we read about Peter, turning to the body of a dead woman, he says, **“Tabitha, get up!”** Immediately, she opened her eyes and was fully restored to life.

These moments symbolise an awakening, spiritual rebirth, salvation and resurrection power. Where in your life is the Lord wanting you to “get up and go” and walk in the fullness of what He has promised you?

Devoted people arise and take action because we know that we don’t belong to a defeated gospel, but a victorious story that carries resurrection power.

PRAY

Devoted People Are Consumed By Zeal

FIND AND READ ACTS 10

Acts 10:46 “For they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God.”

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God”

– William Temple

John 4 reminds us that Jesus is actively seeking out those who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

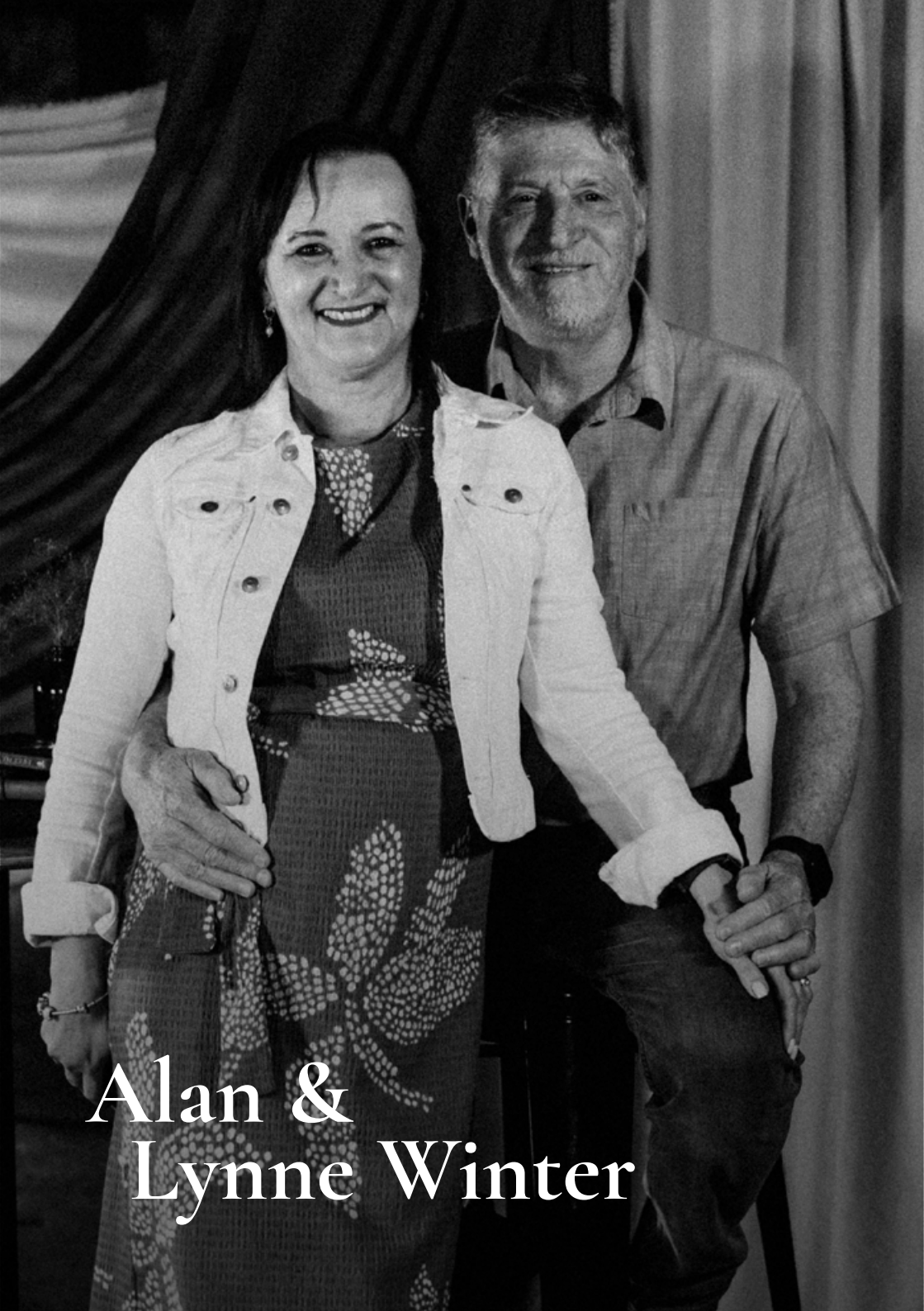
A life filled with true devotion requires a heart filled with true adoration.

Roma Waterman says that the cure for anxiety is not peace, it's wonder. We need to fill our hearts with awe and wonder as we daily spend time in the presence of God, worshipping Him with admiration and reverence.

Richard Foster says in his book, Celebration of Discipline, ***“If the Lord is to be Lord, worship must have priority in our lives.”*** By doing this, we fulfill the first commandment to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind, and with all our strength.

Devoted people are passionate about the Lord, and their zeal consumes them.

PRAY



Alan &
Lynne Winter

“Different church backgrounds, a blended family on the brink of struggle, and 23 years planted in one community that transformed our lives.”

Prior to our engagement, we began searching for a church where we would both feel at home. I, (Lynne) came from a more charismatic background, while Alan had been raised in a strong Baptist tradition, so finding a church where we both felt comfortable was important to us.

From our very first visit – which happened to be the opening of the church in Echium Road – to now, 23 years later, we can honestly say that the thought of leaving to find another spiritual home has never crossed our minds.

The year after joining the church, we entered marriage as a blended family, and it was incredibly challenging at times. Without the support of our church community, biblical counselling, and sound teaching, we may easily have become another divorce statistic. We were encouraged to serve and to join a Life Group, and we did both.

Being part of a Life Group has grown us in countless ways. The weekly connection, encouragement, and accountability have strengthened us as we’ve navigated life and grown together in faith.

Today, we have the privilege of leading a Life Group ourselves, something we have been doing for the past four years.

To us, being devoted means being committed. We believe in staying the course – even through seasons of change, when leaders move on, or friends leave.

“Grow where you are planted” has become our motto, and we are deeply grateful for this wonderful community.

Over the years, we have grown both individually and spiritually. Our characters have been shaped to reflect Jesus more closely, and we have come to understand that true devotion means staying connected to Jesus and fully plugged in – in community.

Devoted People Understand The Privilege Of Repentance

FIND AND READ ACTS 11

Acts 11:18 “They said, “We can see that God has also given the Gentiles the privilege of repenting of their sins and receiving eternal life.”

A repentant life is a rewarded life.

David writes in Psalm 32, ***“Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt.”***

Our repentance empties our hearts and minds of our selfishness as we lay ourselves down at the altar of His throne. God does His best work with our emptiness, as we repent and bring it all before Him at His feet, He takes our emptiness and fills it with His redemptive power, His presence, His kindness, and the fullness of His grace and mercy (John 1:16).

He takes our emptiness, and He fills us with His joy.

Romans 15 reminds us that God, who is the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow and abound with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Devoted people understand the reward and privilege of a true repentant heart.

PRAY



Levashan
Naidoo

“I asked God to take my life, instead, He gave me a brand new one.”

For nearly two decades, my life was consumed by addiction, violence, lust, and darkness. From the age of seventeen, drugs controlled everything. What began with experimentation became a relentless cycle of cocaine, methamphetamines, and self-destruction. I isolated myself from everyone who cared about me and convinced myself I could survive on my own.

But eventually, I hit rock bottom.

One night, exhausted, broken, and unable to keep fighting, I fell to my knees and cried out to God. I told Him I didn't want to live anymore.

In that desperate moment, something changed. It was as if God reached into the pit I had buried myself in and pulled me out. I realised He had seen me all along and had never stopped pursuing me.

Recovery was not instant, but God faithfully led me toward freedom. He brought me into a church community where I experienced genuine love, acceptance, and accountability for the first time. The people around me showed me what the love of Christ looked like in action, and through them I began to discover my true identity.

Today, I live with peace, purpose, and freedom that I never thought possible. The man I used to be no longer defines me.

God met me in my darkest moment and transformed my life completely.



WATCH HIS TESTIMONY

Devoted People Are Praying People

FIND AND READ ACTS 12

Acts 12:5 “So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was praying fervently to God for him.”

Andrew Murray says this in his book on prayer: ***“Let us realise that we have here a call to every believer to give himself without ceasing to the exercise of love and prayer.”***

Ephesians 6:18 further encourages our hearts and says, ***“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”***

When devoted people pray, powerful things happen.

The early church’s response to Peter’s imprisonment was fervent and persistent prayer. This demonstrates their reliance on God in times of pressure, crisis or need. The early church represented a community deeply committed to intercession on behalf of others. The communal aspect of their prayers emphasises the unity and solidarity among the believers.

Psalms 133 reminds us that where there is unity, God commands a blessing. The power of a praying community changes circumstances.

Who can you pray for today that may feel trapped in their own sort of prison? Gather around other believers and pray and seek God to bring freedom into their lives.

Devoted people understand the power and responsibility of praying for others!

PRAY

Devoted People Are Set Apart for God's Purposes

FIND AND READ ACTS 13

Acts 13:2 “As they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’”

The words ‘**set apart**’ indicate a divine selection for a specific purpose. We first stumble upon these words in the Old Testament, where we encounter people who have been appointed for God’s purposes.

Jeremiah 1:5 says that before we were born, God set us apart. Ephesians 2:10 says that we are His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

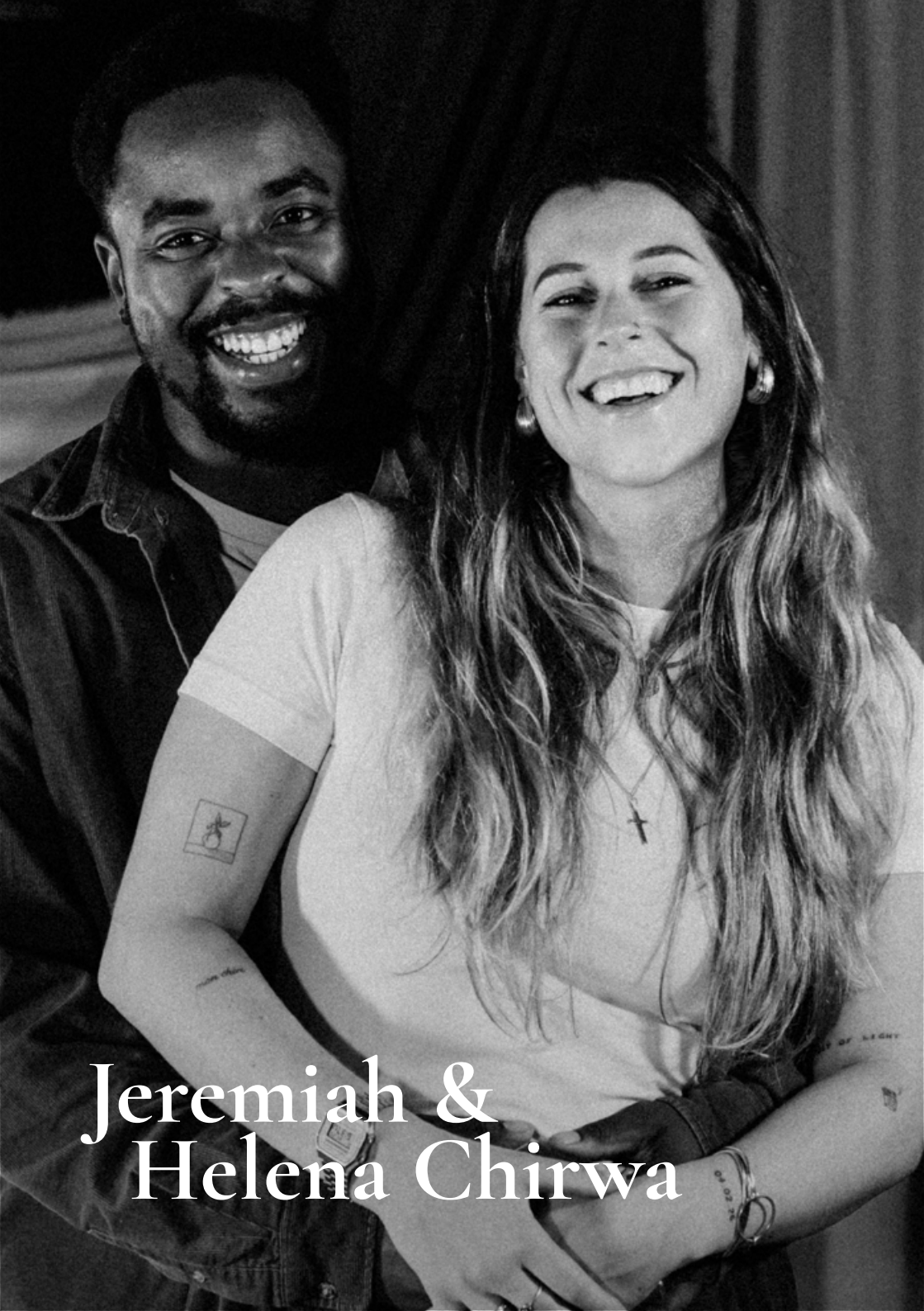
God has set you apart. He has fashioned your very DNA. His plans and purposes for your life are written into the very fibres of your being. He has given you spiritual gifts that have been tailor-made with your personality, for the edification and exhortation of those around you. He created you to be a blessing to your community.

The Holy Spirit equips us to fulfil this God-given mandate. We have been given the great commission, the mission of the saints. We are set apart to serve.

The recipe has been written on the wall “*to raise up, reach far and release wide*” as God beckons us beyond our four walls and out into our neighbourhoods.

Devoted people recognise the purpose of their lives, and they pursue all that God has for them.

PRAY



Jeremiah &
Helena Chirwa

Everything began to shift when God brought us into life-changing encounters through the local church.

For Jerry, Life Changers became more than a place to attend – it became family. In moments of difficulty, people showed up, prayed, encouraged, and reminded him he wasn't alone. Even when he had to leave his family home during difficult times, the community opened up their hearts and homes to him.

It was through this community that he also met Helena, a reminder that God writes stories no human could plan.

For Helena, moving back to Cape Town after COVID marked a turning point. She was surrounded by people who loved Jesus and kept inviting her to church. In one powerful encounter with the Holy Spirit, her addiction was instantly broken, and the desire for drugs disappeared completely.

God began restoring her life step by step, healing trauma and rebuilding her identity through His presence and His people.

"As our journeys continued, God brought us together in the very same church community that had carried both of us. What began as separate stories of healing became one shared testimony of grace. We got married, and God continued to provide for our relationship, calling, and even our wedding in ways we could never have orchestrated ourselves.

Today, we stand as living proof that God heals, restores, and redeems.

Through community, encounter, and His unfailing love, He turned isolation into family and brokenness into purpose."

Devoted People Are Not Divided People

FIND AND READ ACTS 14

Acts 14:4 “But the people of the city were divided, some siding with the Jews and others with the apostles.”

Ephesians 5 reminds us that we need to walk in the way of love just as Christ loves us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

When we walk in fruitlessness and fall down the rabbit hole of unholy speech about others, then we no longer carry the heart of Christ. Our words become distasteful and cause division.

When we choose division over devotion, we minimise the power of our oneness.

If devoted people are committed to community, then we are to make no space for divisive speech. Our commitment comes through our communion, and division destroys divine union.

“Dwell on the life and love and power and wisdom of God, in unity with one another and with God; and the peace and wisdom of God will fill your hearts, that nothing may rule in you but the life, which stands in the Lord God”

– George Fox.

Devoted people celebrate the gift of community and intimacy with others.

PRAY

Devoted People Are Growing People

FIND AND READ ACTS 15

Acts 15:10 “Now then, why are you testing God by putting a yoke on the disciples’ necks that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear?”

Dane Ortlund says this in his book called *Gentle and Lowly*: ***“In the one place in the Bible (Matthew 11:28–30) where the Son of God pulls back the veil and lets us peer way down into the core of who He is, we are not told that He is “austere and demanding in heart.”***

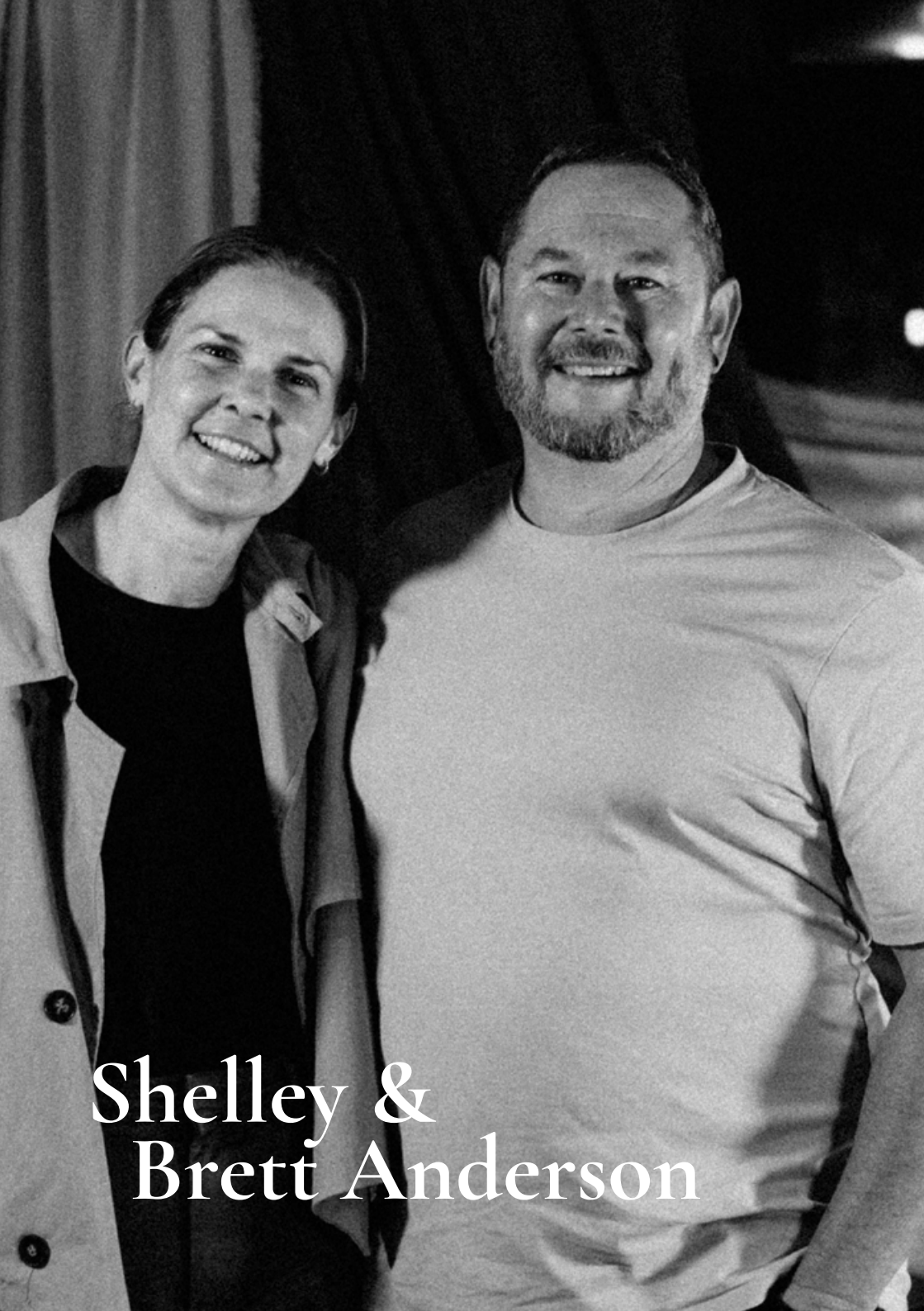
We are not told that He is ***“exalted and dignified in heart.”*** We are not even told that He is ***“joyful and generous in heart.”*** Letting Jesus set the terms, His surprising claim is that He is ***“gentle and lowly in heart.”***

The heavy yoke symbolises the burden of the law, which, when we neglect growing in our understanding of God’s grace, we easily slip into a flawed and burdened mindset. But Jesus reminds us that His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

The heavy burden has already been shouldered and was nailed to the cross. From Christ’s abundance and sacrifice, we have received grace upon grace upon grace (John 1:16).

Devoted people intentionally grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

PRAY



Shelley &
Brett Anderson

“We were building our lives on chaos and brokenness, until Jesus stepped in with real love, healing, and freedom.”

Before Jesus, we were searching for identity, purpose, and belonging in all the wrong places. Shelley grew up without knowing God, desperately trying to find acceptance through relationships and unhealthy choices.

Brett carried wounds from his upbringing without truly knowing Jesus, and together we built a life centered around partying, excessive drinking, and chasing what the world promised would satisfy.

Everything changed when we were unexpectedly invited to an Alpha course. There, we encountered the Holy Spirit and began to realize that Jesus was real — and that our lives could no longer stay the same.

The journey wasn't instant or perfect. We still struggled, failed, and wrestled with old habits. But through faithful community, honest conversations, and learning to trust God's Word, Jesus slowly transformed our marriage, our family, and our identity. The local church became a place of healing, accountability, and unconditional love.

Today, after decades of following Jesus, we can say with confidence that surrendering our lives to Him changed everything.

Where there was chaos, God brought peace. Where there was brokenness, He brought restoration. And where there was emptiness, He gave us purpose, freedom, and family.



WATCH THEIR TESTIMONY

Devoted People Are Hospitable People

FIND AND READ ACTS 16

Acts 16:15 “When she and the members of her household were baptised, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.”

Lydia demonstrates the importance of Christian hospitality. Hospitality was a significant cultural value in the ancient Near East, and Lydia's offer here reflects the early Christians' emphasis on community and providing a safe space and support system for fellow believers.

Rosaria Butterfield writes, in her book called *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*: ***“Those who live out radically ordinary hospitality see their homes not as theirs at all but as God’s gift to use for the furtherance of his kingdom. They open doors; they seek out the underprivileged. They know that the gospel comes with a house key.”***

Romans 12:13 encourages us to ***“always be eager to practice hospitality.”*** A simple dinner invitation can be the catalyst to someone else's salvation and spiritual redemption.

Are you living a life of tangible generosity?

Are you generous with your time, your talents and your toilet paper?

Devoted people are committed to having homes that host the presence of God.

PRAY



Carin
Rolstone

“I searched for peace in a broken relationship, but it was only when God revealed Himself through His church that everything in my life began to change.”

I was in a toxic relationship for many years, always angry and full of resentment. There were very good times, and at the time I could not see that it was not good for me. It was a relationship of extremes, and I never experienced complete peace and fulfillment. I looked to this person for my happiness and fulfillment which ended in constant disaster time after time.

Things slowly changed as I started seeing the power of the local church through the eyes of my daughter Fiona and her husband, Gabe, over a period of about 2 years. That started changing everything in me and I began to know a God that is gentle, kind, forgiving and so giving!

Coming from a background with the Dutch Reformed church, I saw the way people worshipped God, heard the testimonies, and I thought “I want that!”. I was attracted to “that” and I learned about my Heavenly Father. I remember that there was one lady that I could not take my eyes off as she worshiped, and I got to know her as Louise Hawes, someone with her own story of redemption.

In 2016 I decided to give my life to Jesus completely and was baptized by my own daughter, a defining moment in my life.

Now I know, I have 100% certainty that where I am today, is precisely what God’s plan was for me. I have such peace and an inner joy that I never had before.

For all those who have not yet taken that step into community, just come to church! Come each Sunday! You will experience the kindness & acceptance of a loving community.

Devoted People Fear God



FIND AND READ ACTS 17

Acts 17:5 “But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city.”

The Jewish authorities had become jealous and fell into fear. Their response was to start a riot against Paul, Silas and Timothy.

Proverbs 29:25 says that ***“The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.”***

We quickly learn that the fear of man will provoke us to act irrationally. But the fear of God leads us to act intentionally.

- The fear of man causes us to react, but the fear of God helps us to respond.
- The fear of man holds us captive, but the fear of God brings us into freedom.
- The fear of man silences us, but the fear of God keeps us surrendered.
- The fear of man gives rise to a coup, but the fear of God helps us reach out to the community.

Proverbs encourages us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Devoted people live with reverence in their hearts towards the Lord of Heaven and Earth, who uses His people to turn the world upside down with the gospel truth.

PRAY



Candace
van der Vyver

“Infertility, impossible odds, and three children who stand as living proof of God’s faithfulness.”

In 2014, my husband and I began praying for a family. After a heartbreaking miscarriage and seven long years of infertility, we turned to IVF. By God’s grace, I fell pregnant with twins. But what should have been a joyful ending quickly became a fight for our lives.

My son was born critically ill, suffering seizures and a blood clot on his brain. Days later, I developed severe internal bleeding and sepsis so serious that, medically speaking, I should not have survived. Yet through countless prayers and the faithful support of our church community, God carried us through. My son’s clot disappeared, my health was restored, and we experienced miracle after miracle.

Just when we thought our family was complete, God surprised us again with a naturally conceived daughter. She too faced medical challenges, including a cyst on her brain, but once again God proved Himself faithful and brought healing.

Today, I look at my three children and stand in awe of what God has done.

Through loss, uncertainty, and impossible circumstances, He has shown Himself to be a miracle-working Father, a faithful provider, and a constant source of hope.

Our story is a reminder that even when the odds seem overwhelming, God is never finished writing the story.



WATCH HER TESTIMONY

Devoted People Are Dedicated To Sound Doctrine

FIND AND READ ACTS 18

Acts 18:25 “He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. After Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the way of God to him more accurately.”

This phrase underscores the importance of discipleship and mentorship in our community.

Priscilla and Aquila were a Jewish Christian couple who had previously worked with Paul in Corinth. Apollos, though knowledgeable, needed further instruction, illustrating that learning and studying God’s Word is a continual ongoing process.

As Christ followers, our hearts need to remain faithful, approachable and teachable. The **FAT** Christian walks with wisdom and humility, valuing discipleship.

Proverbs 4 implores us with these words: ***“Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth.”***

Furthermore, Proverbs 12 encourages us to remain teachable and open to instruction: ***“Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.”***

Devoted people are committed to learning sound doctrine, they understand the value of discipleship, and in reproof, they remain humble.

PRAY

Devoted People Are Passionate About The Kingdom Of God

FIND AND READ ACTS 19

Acts 19:8 “Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly for the next three months, arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God.”

There is a saying that goes: *“In the light of eternity, does it really matter?”*

Too often, we get caught up in frivolous and fruitless situations that bear no good fruit. Instead, our harsh words and opinions have us arguing about matters that carry little eternal consequence.

The early church argued passionately and persuasively about the Kingdom of God and the mission of spreading the gospel message. They were soul-focused, soul-fearing men who unashamedly carried the message of Christ with courage and conviction. They were persuaded by little else, other than what the Holy Spirit had called and assigned them to do.

Glenna Marshall, in her book, *Everyday Faithfulness*, encourages believers: ***“When Christ is our daily treasure during the seasons that challenge our steadfastness, we’ll reap the benefits of being safely fastened to his side during every shifting shadow and change in life.”***

May we be devoted people who have a kingdom mindset that carries the heart of the Father to the world around us.

PRAY

A black and white portrait of a woman with long, dark hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a dark-colored top under a light-colored, double-breasted blazer. Her arms are crossed in front of her. The background is dark and out of focus, with some vertical lines suggesting a curtain or wall.

Devania
Naidoo

“From a broken 10-year relationship to grace, healing, and a new identity at Life Changers.”

My journey with Christ started when I was 8 years old. Coming from a Hindu background, with a lot of brokenness it was difficult as a child to truly understand God. Because of this, I did not have a genuine relationship with Christ and instead lived life on my own terms, with Jesus on the side.

Three years ago, I arrived in Cape Town feeling broken and lost. I had just come out of a 10-year relationship that carried pain, abuse, and loss — a relationship from which both my deepest brokenness and my greatest testimony would come. I felt uncertain about my life and my future, and I was desperate for healing and restoration after years of self-condemnation and trying to control my own pain and circumstances.

When I visited Life Changers, after two of my siblings had already joined, I wasn't sure whether it would become my home church. I was very particular about the church I joined because I wanted a place where people would truly get to know me for who I am and where I could grow as an individual. So, I prayed about it.

Then, during one service, Gabe preached a message called “Your New Story.” In that moment, God placed it in my spirit that this was my home.

The following week, I met with my leaders to share my journey. I was nervous because my story has never been an easy one to tell, and I was certain they would judge me the same way I had judged myself for all those years. But to my absolute surprise, they welcomed me with open arms and showed me grace and kindness that overwhelmed me.

God answered my prayers, and I began to grow as He continued to shape me into the woman I am today. I have developed deep friendships and built a life of my own. But the greatest gift of all has been growing closer to my family — something I needed far more than I ever realised.

I am forever grateful to my siblings for helping me find my way home. What I once feared would simply be conforming, God turned into a journey of comfort, growth, grace, and love — and He has done so abundantly through my family and Life Changers.

Devoted People Do Not Shrink Back



FIND AND READ ACTS 20

Acts 20:20 “I never shrank back from telling you what you needed to hear.”

Corinthians reminds us that as Christ followers, we move from one degree of glory to the next.

Romans reminds us that we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians reminds us that we are chosen, lavished and redeemed in Christ.

Colossians reminds us that we are God's elect.

1 Peter reminds us that we are a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

We are not designed to shrink back but rather to stand tall and fight the good fight of faith. And then, when we have done it all, to stand. To stand means to remain full of faith, anchored in the truth, no matter the circumstances.

How do we shake off the desire to shrink back?

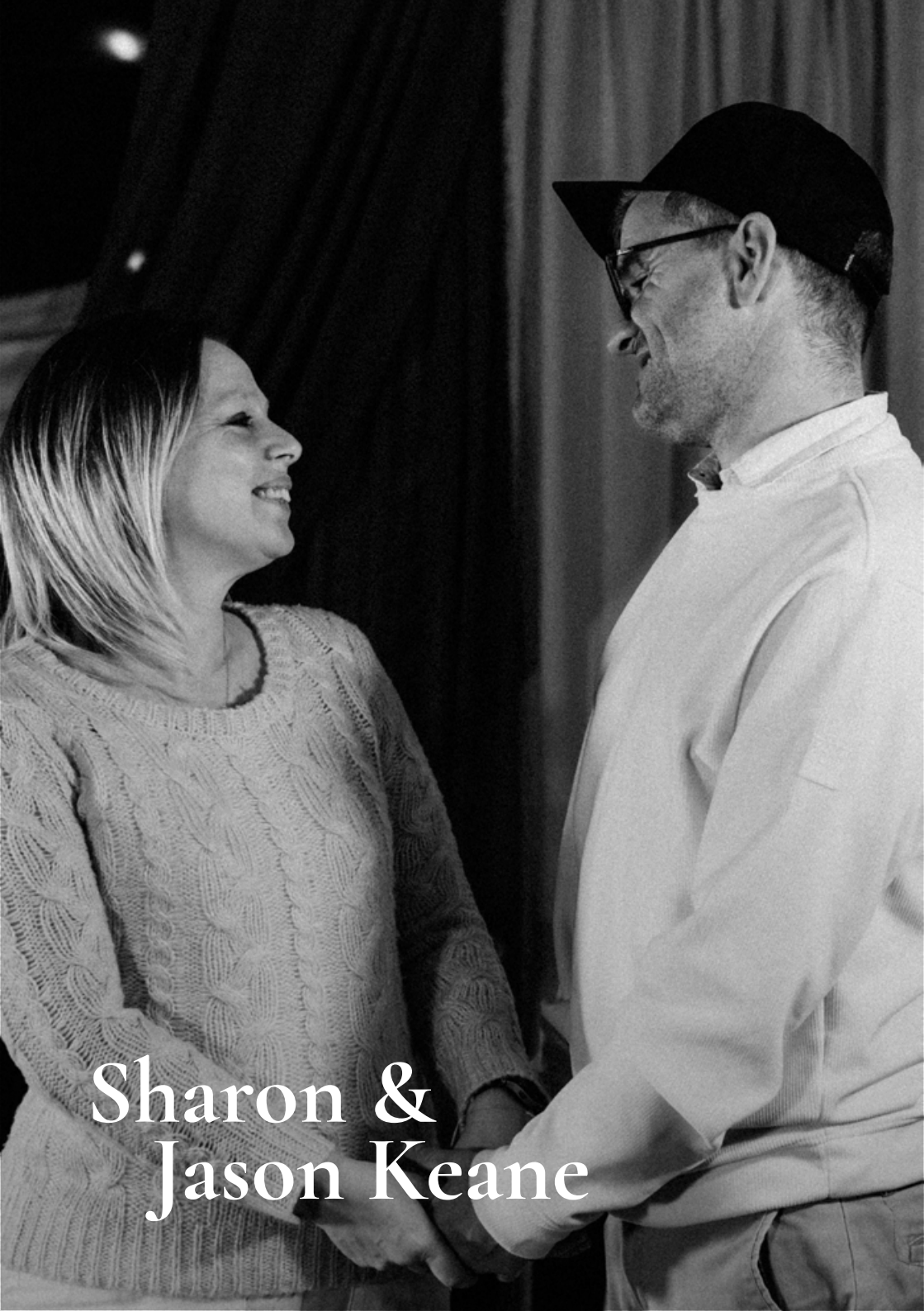
We keep close to community who are able to carry us through tough circumstances.

We keep close to Christ through prayers and supplications.

We keep close to God's Word and allow His truth to ruminate within our hearts and minds.

Devoted people resist the temptation to shrink back, and instead boldly declare ***“I am His and He is mine”*** (Song of Songs 2:16).

PRAY



Sharon &
Jason Keane

“Our story should have ended in divorce, addiction, and death. Instead, it became a story of redemption.”

Before Jesus, our lives were marked by chaos, brokenness, and pain. Jason battled addiction for more than two decades, beginning with drugs at a young age and spiraling into destructive habits that nearly cost him his life, his marriage, and his family. Sharon carried deep wounds from trauma and spent years searching for acceptance and worth in places that could never satisfy.

Everything came to a breaking point when Jason attempted to take his own life. Sitting alone and devastated, he cried out to God, asking where He had been through all the years of addiction and suffering. In that moment, he experienced God’s presence in a powerful way and sensed Him saying, “I have never left you.”

That encounter changed everything.

Through surrender, faithful community, and the grace of God, our marriage was restored, our family was reunited, and our lives were transformed. Where there had been addiction, shame, and hopelessness, God brought healing, freedom, and purpose.

Today, we serve others who are walking through similar struggles, sharing the same grace that rescued us.

Our story is proof that no one is beyond God’s reach. No matter how deep the darkness, His love is able to restore what seems impossible and bring beauty from even the most broken places.



WATCH THEIR TESTIMONY

Devoted People Are Willing To Carry The Cost

FIND AND READ ACTS 21

Acts 21:13 “Then Paul answered, “Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

It would have been easy for the apostle Paul to get discouraged. He had worked so hard to share the gospel and plant churches. Yet, he was regularly imprisoned, the churches he founded were bickering and embracing false teaching, and his own people accused him of defiling the Temple (Acts 21:28).

Despite all the hardships, Paul stayed focused on his mission. While sitting in a jail cell, he wrote to the Philippian church: ***“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus”*** (Phil. 3:13–14).

“Desire only God, and your heart will be satisfied.”

– St. Augustine.

Paul desired only God, and he was fully satisfied. He did not count the cost. He carried the message of the cross with audacity and tenacity. It is this perspective that encourages the hearts of believers today.

Devoted people anchor their hearts in a future hope, the same hope that Paul carried in his heart when he wrote these words: ***“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”***

PRAY

Devoted People Walk In The Light And Clarity



FIND AND READ ACTS 22

Acts 22:6 “About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me.”

The timing of this event is significant. Midday is when the sun is at its highest and brightest, emphasising the supernatural nature of the light that Paul encountered. It was the light from heaven that outshone the midday sun.

This reminds our hearts that we are called to be children of light. Ephesians encourages us that we were once full of darkness, but we now walk as people of light, and this light within us produces only what is good and right and true.

David Gibson writes in his book called The Lord of Psalm 23, ***“In Psalm 23, there is both a picture of total, ultimate rest and a picture of the Shepherd leading, with us following behind him on His righteous paths. He is leading us home, yes, but the way to His house is a scenic route we need to savour”***

Jesus says, in John 8:12: ***“I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”***

Devoted people trust God as He leads them Heavenward, and they shift atmospheres along the way Home!

PRAY



Monique
Janse Van Rensburg

“From brokenness and shame to a love that rebuilt my life from the inside out.”

On my very first day at Life Changers, I was sitting alone before the service, nervous and overwhelmed, when my son crept up behind me and startled me so badly that I jumped up and swore out loud. In that instant, the entire auditorium turned to look at me and silence filled the room. I was mortified.

But instead of running away like I wanted to, I stayed. And in that moment, I began to discover something life-changing: God’s redemption is greater than every mistake I’ve ever made, and His forgiveness was already written over my life long before I understood it.

Before that encounter, I was living in deep brokenness – coming out of an abusive, toxic marriage, carrying lies that told me I was worthless, and trying to raise my children from a place of pain and survival. I felt invisible, unloved, and unequipped as a parent, often reacting from wounds I didn’t know how to heal.

My son had already started attending LC Youth, and I saw a change in him that I couldn’t ignore. Something in me longed for that same transformation, so I came to church, uncertain, but desperate.

What I found was unexpected: kindness without conditions.

Over time, I stopped drinking, started facilitating Life Changers Recovery, and discovered purpose in serving others. My heart changed as I worshipped, cried, and encountered God’s love in ways I had never known before. I learned that my emptiness wasn’t something to hide – it was something God could fill.

Life Changers also carried me through deep personal loss. God’s peace sustained me when my mother passed away, and nine months later, when my father passed away. In those seasons, this community surrounded me with strength, prayer, and love.

Today, my sons are growing in the church, my family is being restored, and I am no longer living from an orphan spirit but from identity, peace, and joy in Christ.

This community has walked with me as a single mother, a daughter, and a believer, helping me become who God always intended me to be.

Devoted People Know God's Presence

FIND AND READ ACTS 23

Acts 23:11 "That night the Lord appeared to Paul and said, 'Be encouraged.'"

Charles Spurgeon says that the simplicity of our faith gives us an unusual degree of confidence. Paul was encouraged by Jesus, as He appeared to him at this moment.

Being rejected again and again by those who were once his friends, Paul's simple faith gave him the confidence to carry on.

In his isolation, Paul relied on his revelation of Jesus. Here we see the boundless affection of Christ, His tender nearness and His loving presence. Echoing the truth we all know in our hearts, as Matthew 28:20 says, ***"And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."***

If there is one thing that we can stand firm in, it's this: that Jesus will always be with us. His presence is His promise. And the promise of Jesus' presence is a profound assurance for us.

This assurance would have been particularly comforting to the early Christians facing persecution, reminding them and us that we are never alone in our mission.

The promise of Jesus' presence is a fulfilment of the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, where the coming Messiah is called ***"Immanuel"*** meaning ***"God with us."***

Devoted people take courage in the tender nearness of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAY



Kawthar
Philander

“I never thought I would live past 23, but Jesus met me in my darkness and gave me a reason to live.”

Before I knew Jesus, my life was consumed by addiction, depression, anxiety, and hopelessness. Although I grew up knowing about God, I didn't truly know Him for myself. Deep down, I felt empty and without purpose, convinced that my future held nothing worth living for.

Everything changed the day I walked into church and unexpectedly found myself at a baptism service. In that moment, I sensed God calling me, and when I was baptised, I experienced a peace I cannot fully explain.

It was as if the weight I had been carrying for years was finally lifted.

Through the church community, I found the courage to be vulnerable, honest, and known. The friendships I formed and the support I received helped me navigate healing and discover who God created me to be.

As I grew in my faith, I began serving, studying Scripture, and investing in the lives of others.

Today, I am overwhelmed by God's goodness. The person who once felt lost and hopeless now has purpose, community, and hope for the future.

Looking back, I can see that God was pursuing me all along, and His grace has transformed every part of my story.



WATCH HER TESTIMONY

Devoted People Believe In The Accuracy Of God's Word

FIND AND READ ACTS 24

Acts 24:14 "I worship the God of our ancestors, and I firmly believe the Jewish law and everything written in the prophets."

This scripture highlights the importance of scripture and indicates Paul's adherence to the teachings and prophecies found in the Old Testament.

Hebrews reminds us that "the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to divide soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Glenna Marshall encourages us, in her book Everyday Faithfulness, "***persistent, regular exposure to Scripture and consistent connection to the church anchor our faith.***"

We are encouraged to dive into God's Word, discover its deep pockets of grace, dedicate time to studying it and develop a love for the truth. As we read God's Word, we see the person of Jesus. As we spend time in His Word, we grow in our relationship with Him.

John Stott says this about God's Word: "***We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behaviour.***"

It is with this thought that devoted people continue to pursue the accuracy of God's Word and the intimacy of its Author!

PRAY

Devoted People Declare The Name Of Jesus

FIND AND READ ACTS 25

Acts 25:19 “Instead, they had some points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a dead man named Jesus who Paul claimed was alive.”

Paul often faced opposition from the Jewish authorities, who saw Paul's teachings as a threat to their traditions and way of life. The contention over Jesus' death and resurrection is a continuous theme throughout Acts.

Similarly, we too face contention in worldly circumstances, where the truth of Christ remains unaccepted. But as devoted people, we continue to hope in the truth that we believe.

Paul's affirmation of Jesus being made alive is a declaration of his faith.

G.K. Chesterton writes: ***“Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair.”***

We don't declare the name of Jesus because it's formulaic or fashionable; we declare the name of Jesus because it's lovely. It evokes within us a sense of awe and wonder, fascination and admiration.

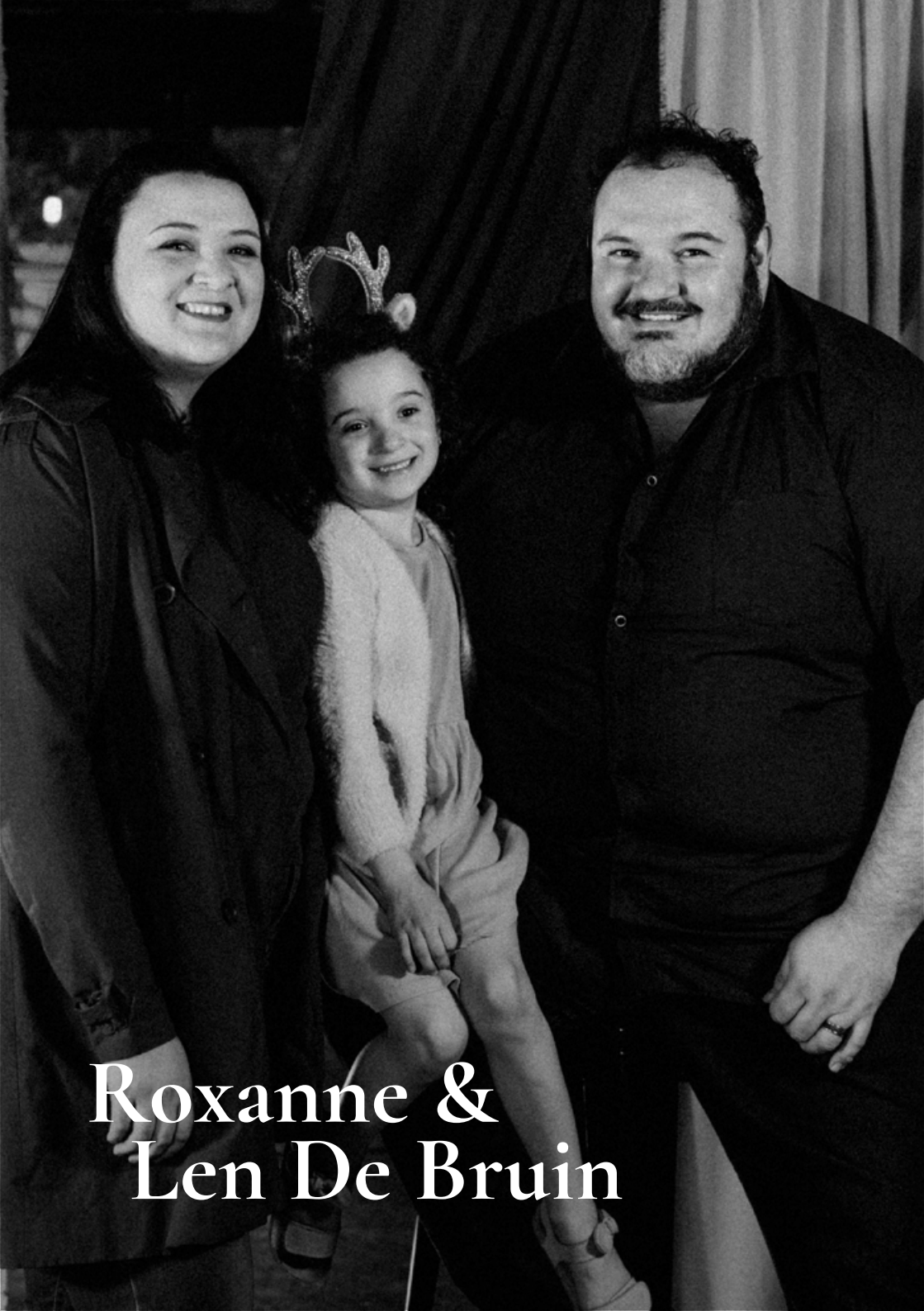
We declare the name of Jesus because our spirits leap at the sound of His name. It is beautiful, it is powerful, it is wonderful.

Where in your life do you need to make a declaration of faith?

Our declarations hold power; they witness to the truth, proclaiming Jesus' triumph over death. And in the places where we declare His name, there is power, there is life, there is victory!

Devoted people are consistently insistent about the power of the name of Jesus!

PRAY



Roxanne &
Len De Bruin

“From cycles of fear and self-effort to a restored identity and a rebuilt marriage.”

Looking back, life for us was lonely, directionless, and often in turmoil. We lived quite selfishly, focused only on ourselves and what we were going through. We found ourselves in a constant cycle – going around the same old mountains, telling the same stories to the same people – and life began to feel as though it was simply drifting by. Both Len and I were consumed by our own traumas, which caused us to self-isolate and try to fix everything in our own strength. We had a newborn, no close community, and were fearful of even simple things. Although Len attended church, fear rooted in childhood trauma kept me from taking our daughter anywhere. I settled for online church, convincing myself that it was enough and we didn't need community.

Everything began to change the day Lionel Megaw prayed over Len after a service. From that moment, both Kath and Lionel invited us to join their life group. At first, I was hesitant, but looking back now, we can clearly see how instrumental that invitation was in changing the course of our lives.

Kath encouraged me to join Devoted, where Mariette and a group of women ministered over eight weeks on identity. In the final week, I experienced a complete breakthrough as the stronghold of fear was broken and I truly got to experience the love of the Father. For Len, attending his first men's camp revealed the power of men standing together, contending for their families and encouraging one another. He too, began to have revelation of the true love that the Father has for his sons.

Our understanding of identity has been transformed. We no longer see ourselves as orphans, but as sons and daughters in our Father's house. We now walk in the authority He has given us to live out His will and advance His Kingdom. God has also restored order in our marriage. We are now moving in the same direction, working together as one instead of against each other.

You were never meant to do this alone. The very thing you are avoiding could be the doorway to your breakthrough. Fear will keep you isolated, but freedom is found when you step out and allow God to place the right people around you. Don't wait until you feel ready – take the step anyway. God meets you in your obedience, not in your comfort.

PRAY

Devoted People Know The Voice Of God

FIND AND READ ACTS 26

Acts 26:14 “We all fell down, and I heard a voice..”

Andrew Murray says: ***“Our heart is the scene of a divine operation more wonderful than creation. God only asks us to yield, to consent, to wait upon Him, and He will do it all.”***

Pauls testimony was radical. The Lord called him by name. ***“Saul, Saul.”*** And at the sound of Gods voice, he fell face down. His immediate response was to surrender to the authority that summoned him. In this moment, He recognised the power of Christ, the One who he had been persecuting.

John 10:3 says that ***“The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognise his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.”***

Matt Redman writes, in his song called, Facedown: ***“Welcomed into the courts of the King, I’ve been ushered into Your presence Lord, I stand on Your merciful ground, Yet with every step tread with reverence.”***

May we all be like Paul, devoted people who recognise the voice of God. May the revelation of Jesus bring us to our knees, in surrender and submission.

And may we never lose our wonder, of the Wonderful person of Jesus Christ!

PRAY

Devoted People Carry Prophetic Vision



FIND AND READ ACTS 27

Acts 27:10 “Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.”

Paul, speaking as a prisoner on a ship bound for Rome, demonstrates his prophetic insight in warning the sailors about the storm ahead. This phrase highlights his role as a spiritual leader, even in captivity. Paul's insight reflects the wisdom given to him by God.

Habakkuk 3:2 says that God gives us vision ahead of time so that when the time comes, we can run with what he's called us to do.

Proverbs 29 warns us that without vision, people perish. The absence of such vision implies a lack of wisdom.

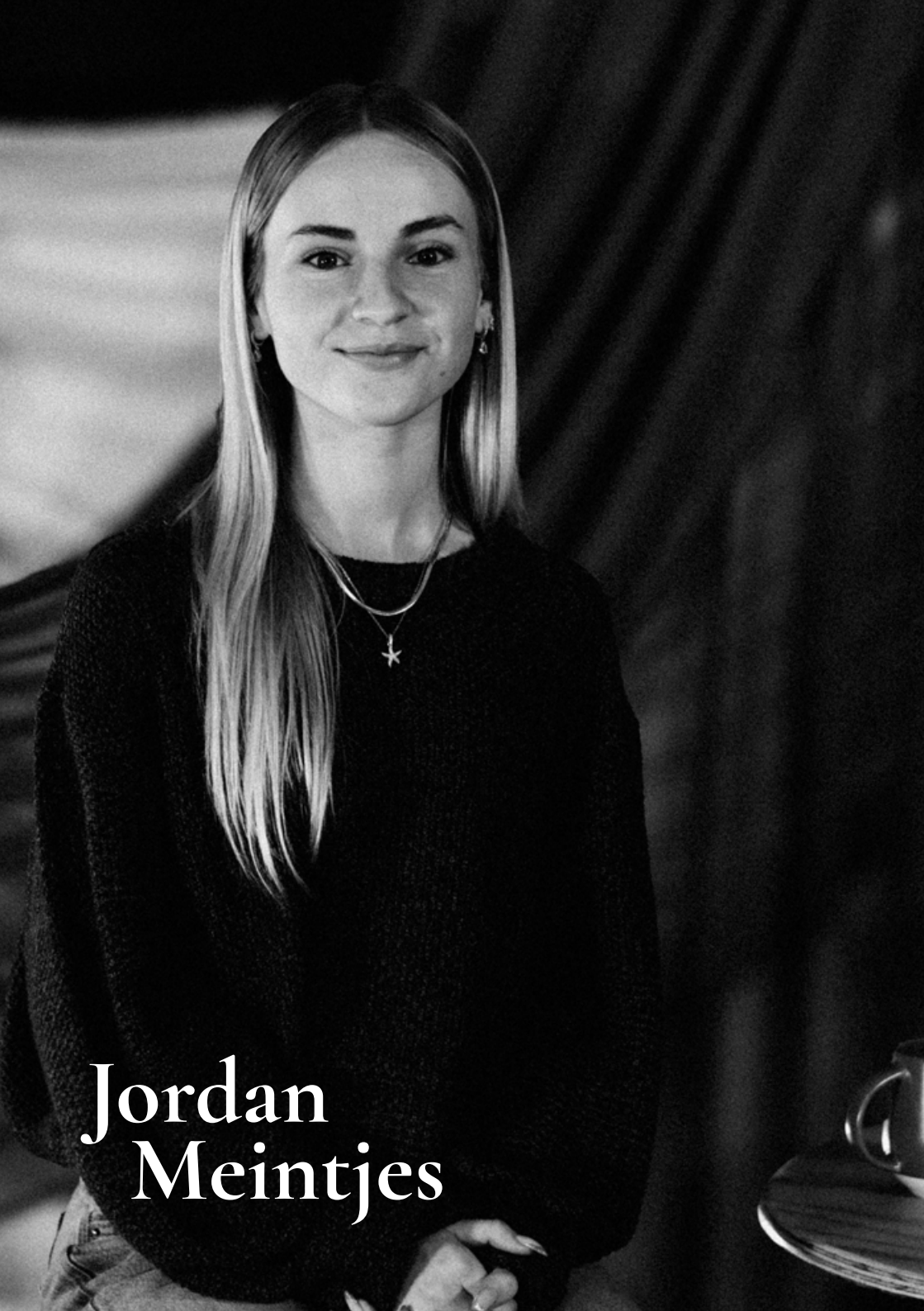
God gives His people insight and discernment, and as James says, ***“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”***

This emphasises the importance of prayer and reliance on God. The act of asking God highlights a relationship of dependence and trust. And as we ask God, He willingly gives us what we need.

The Bible serves as a source of divine vision and guidance. Regular engagement with Scripture helps believers align with God's will.

Devoted people are committed to carrying prophetic vision as they seek out God's will and His ways!

PRAY



Jordan
Meintjes

“I spent years trying to escape the pain, until one moment in God’s presence gave me the peace I had been searching for all along.”

For years, I felt lost, lonely, and trapped in a cycle of pain. Even when I was surrounded by people, I carried a deep emptiness inside. I tried everything I could to distract myself from what I was feeling, but nothing brought lasting peace.

The more I tried to escape the loneliness, the more isolated I became.

Everything changed after a conversation with my mom. She encouraged me to read Matthew 6, and as I sat alone reading Scripture, I experienced something I had never felt before. A deep sense of peace washed over me. My racing thoughts became quiet, and for the first time in a long time, I felt safe. At that moment, I knew God was with me, and I sensed Him saying, ***“You’re going to be okay.”***

Since giving my life to Jesus and being baptised, He has transformed my heart. The loneliness that once defined me has been replaced by hope, peace, and a sense of belonging.

Through God and the support of a loving church community, I’ve discovered that I don’t have to carry life’s struggles alone.

My story is proof that your past does not define you. God’s plans are bigger than your pain, and His love is always waiting for you.



WATCH HER TESTIMONY

Devoted People Are Protected People

FIND AND READ ACTS 28

Acts 28:6 “Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta.”

“Malta” is from the Canaanite word **“Melita”**. Phoenician sailors named the island Melita, which means **“refuge”**. God led Paul and the crew to an island that provided them ‘a place of refuge’.

At this point in the story of Acts, Paul has endured a prison sentence, a shipwreck, and, soon to read, a snake bite. However, through it all, he remained unharmed.

Psalms 46 reminds us that God is our refuge and strength. He is our help in times of trouble. The Psalm goes on to say that we need not fear when earthquakes come, and the mountains crumble into the sea because the LORD of Heaven’s Armies is here among us; He is our fortress.

Ann Voskamp writes in her book, *WayMaker*, **“You can be a firsthand eyewitness to God’s work and still not trust God to take your hand and make a way”**.

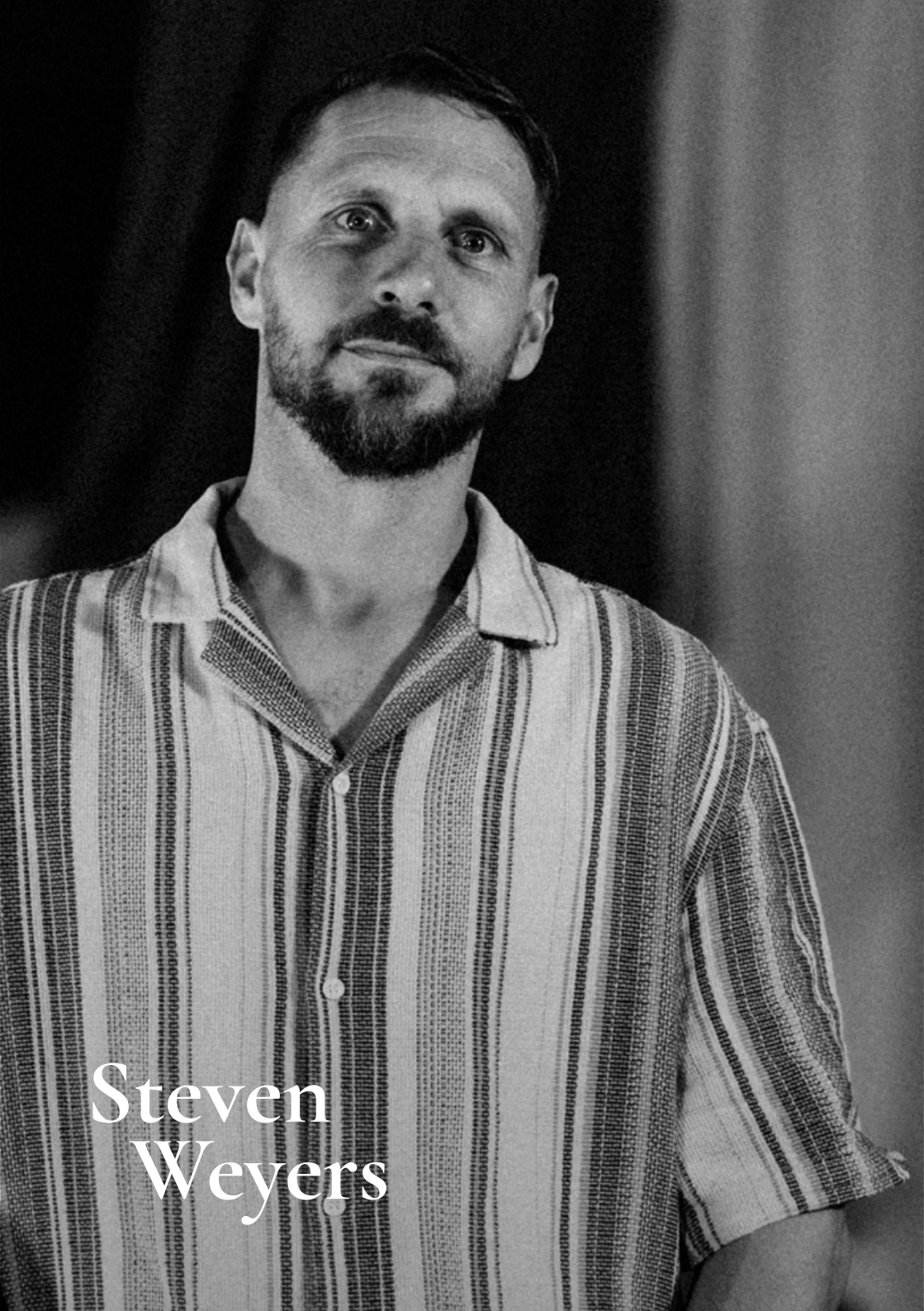
Do we trust that God will make a way where there seems to be no way?

Psalms 91:2 echoes **“You are my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”**

As we hold on to the hem of His garment, we will find safety under the shadow of His wings. We are anchored in Christ, we are held by Him, and we are surrounded by angels on assignment.

Devoted people trust the Lord; He is their refuge and their strength!

PRAY



Steven
Weyers

“I lost my family, my home, and eventually found myself sleeping on the streets, but God was not finished with my story.”

For years, addiction controlled my life. What started as a drug dependency eventually cost me everything – my marriage, my family, my home, and my dignity. I found myself drifting from couch to couch, renting garages to survive, and eventually living on the streets for over two years. At my lowest point, it seemed impossible that life could ever be different.

But God met me there.

Through a church community and a recovery program, He began rebuilding what addiction had destroyed. Step by step, He surrounded me with people who cared, encouraged me, and refused to give up on me. At a men’s camp, God captured my heart in a fresh way and set me on a journey of healing and freedom.

Today, I am two years sober. I own my own business, have a home, meaningful friendships, and a supportive community around me. Most importantly, I have a restored relationship with my daughter – a gift I once thought I had lost forever.

When I look at my life now, I’m overwhelmed by the grace of God. I don’t fully understand why He would show me such kindness, but I know this: no one is too far gone for God to reach. If He could restore my life, He can restore yours too.

“Thank You, Jesus!”



WATCH HIS TESTIMONY

TAKE YOUR **NEXT** STEP

“They devoted themselves”

- 1 Join a Life Group
- 2 Join a Serving Team
- 3 Watch the Sermon Series below



COME OUT OF HIDING



THE SENT LIFE