



Fall 2020

HOLD ONTO THE PROMISE!

What do you do when it feels like your world is falling apart? Perhaps you received a promise from God long ago but it seems like it will never come to pass. I have a word for you. Don't quit believing now! Hold onto the promise and keep expecting a miracle!

The Lord spoke to my heart as we came into 2020 telling me *"This year will be marked by upgrades."* I was excited to see what God would do. Then the Covid-19 pandemic hit. Ministry meetings for both Bill and I had to be cancelled and our travel set aside. How could God's promise of upgrades possibly be fulfilled now?

The Book of Judges, chapter 7 gives an account of one of the most overwhelming circumstances anyone could imagine. A young man named Gideon received a promise from God that the Israelites would defeat their enemy, the Midianites. With only 22,000 men against the Midianite's 120,000, the 6-to-1 odds seemed overwhelming. But when the Lord told Gideon to cut the numbers several times until only 300 men remained, the odds of more than 400-to-1 looked virtually impossible. But God, who had promised victory, came through for them and the Israelites were victorious!

Our God makes the impossible possible! In spite of the toll the pandemic took on the economy, this ministry has continued to prosper and grow as partners stepped up and stood with us. Through the blessing of the internet we've had opportunities to reach countless numbers of people around the world through our online videos, Zoom meetings and social media posts. The promises of God can't be obstructed by the world's economy or health and safety restrictions. He keeps His word.

Of course, one of the biggest upgrades God gave Becky and I are our beautiful twin daughters, Elizabeth and Anna. They are thriving and enjoying being loved on by their three sisters, Claire, Ada and Esme. Another major upgrade was the unexpected gift of a brand new SUV to accommodate our family of seven. What a blessing!



Anna



Elizabeth



We are continuing to operate our Champions of Hope program for Inuit youth by going online and are looking to expand into all three regions of Nunavut by the end of the year.



This picture was Igor going back to Aksarka.

Our Russian missionary, Igor Bogomol, travelled and ministered to many families in remote regions of Arctic Russia this summer. When he returned home he told us, "I had a great trip, meeting many people. I really sensed that people are very open to the Gospel now! I think with everything going on in the world right now, people have become more open and more receptive to the Gospel. So it's a great opportunity for us Christians to let our light shine in the darkness and reach as many people as possible with the precious Gospel!"



Igor shared the gospel with this couple and the woman gave her heart to Jesus in Tovopogol

Even in a global pandemic we continue to push forward!



This is in Laborovaya where Igor brought food and the Gospel!

We also had the first Fresh Hope Conference in Kingston, ON in early September. Even with having to employ all the required Covid-19 protocols we were thrilled to see so many people touched by God's power.

We've heard all the predictions that a second wave of the virus could hit the nation. But we know this: the Lord proved Himself faithful already this year, and we believe that as we enter this new season, He will fully supply and empower us to carry out all He has given us to do.

Now here's a promise for you. Romans 8:37 tells us, *"We are more than conquerors*

through Christ Jesus." Nothing in your life is too big or too impossible for God! Hold onto every promise He has given in His Word and expect victory!

God bless you for standing with us in these challenging days. He is working miracles through your faithful and generous support and continues to open doors of opportunity

With Fresh Hope,

Steven & Becky Carleton



YOU'RE NOT IN THE VALLEY – YOU'RE JUST CHANGING MOUNTAINS!

What is the best way to get discouraged, depressed or feeling hopeless? It's by keeping your focus on the valley you find yourself in. Everyone goes through difficulties, in fact Jesus prepared us when He said, *"In this world you will have trouble,"* but He didn't stop there. He declared, *"But take heart; I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33).

In order to have a valley there must be hills or mountains on either side. You may have been enjoying a mountain-top experience and then suddenly a sickness, financial reversal or broken relationship sent you to the depths of despair. That's when it's time to look up! God has another, higher peak for you to scale! The vista on the top of that higher mountain is broader and more glorious than the first one you stood on.

The disciples thought their lives were the best they could possibly be when Jesus called them to follow Him as He healed the sick and raised the dead. Then He was crucified and their worlds were shattered. But remember what Jesus had told them? *"Take heart; I have overcome the world."* He was victorious over the grave and

empowered them by His Spirit to do *"greater things"* just as He promised!

A dear friend of mine was living on the mountain as a successful businessman, then a motorcycle accident left him with a catastrophic brain injury and numerous broken bones. The doctors gave him no hope for survival, but we joined forces in faith with his wife and hundreds of believers to contend for his healing. We refused to focus on the deep valley. He is now not only fully conscious but is daily astounding his medical team as he makes his way back to full health and strength. He is on his way to a higher mountain peak than he has ever experienced before!

Don't allow this pandemic to keep your focus on the valley. Take the advice of the psalmist David who said, *"I will lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."* (Psalm 121:1). Keep looking up - your next mountain peak is within view!

Bill Prankard
Evangelist & Founder BPEA

Canada Shall Be Saved!