Well thank you for allowing us this morning of, not self-indulgence or self-congratulations, but of the many ministries and missions that we as a church support all around the world, Living Truth is of course our own home-grown and home-led ministry. And the way God has led that has been according, we believe, to His choosing.

We didn’t look at a map of the world and say, “Let’s go here, let’s go there.” God opened the right doors at the right time and brought about the right resources to make all of those possible.

Every new opportunity, every new development, is another headache, it’s another set of bills, another resourcing, and so it’s not with great enthusiasm we go into a new area, but when we do we have discovered that God has provided and made all of that possible.

And what I want to do this morning is I am going to read to you from Deuteronomy Chapter 1. We are going to come back to this 40th Anniversary and I want at the same time that the Scriptures I am going to read now in just a moment will have something relevant for all of us.

If you are visiting us this morning, your first time here even, I am sorry you came on this morning because this is a little bit different.

But let me read to you from Deuteronomy Chapter 1 and I am going to read just the first three verses. And then I am going to come back to other parts of this book as well in just a moment.

“These are the words Moses spoke to all Israel in the desert east of the Jordan - that is, in the Arabah - opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth and Dizahab.”

(I practised that verse earlier this morning.)

“(It takes eleven days to go from Horeb to Kedesh Barnea by the Mount Seir road.)

“In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses proclaimed to the Israelites all that the LORD had commanded him concerning them.”

And that’s as far as I am going to read but I am going to come back to a phrase there in a few minutes’ time. “In the fortieth year” they did something, something that was important for them as a nation.

And I believe in relationship to celebrating 40 years of broadcasting, first “The Peoples Worship Hour”, not known as “Living Truth”, I want to draw an important lesson from that.
Oswald Smith, who founded this church, did so out of frustration because since his conversion he had felt a strong call to go to the mission field. According to one of his biographers (and there are four biographies of Oswald Smith) he had intended to go to Africa.

He had applied on four separate occasions to one particular mission and they turned him down each time on the grounds of his poor health. Apparently he was very frail and they considered it would be a very bad investment to train him and equip him, send him off to Africa and three months later he was going to die.

And they gave him this sort of bleak message every time he applied. Everything else was fine; what wasn’t fine is, “you are not healthy enough”.

Well, they weren’t very strong in the prophetic element of ministry because Oswald Smith lived until he was 96. And although he was frail, he was vigorous and had energy that I think few people seem to show.

But he began to say, “If I can’t go, I must send other people.”

He developed one of his several phrases, “If you can’t go, send a substitute.” And he applied that to himself and to his own responsibilities.

He became the minister Dale Presbyterian Church here in Toronto and he tried to give it a global vision. The mission part of the church was part of the women’s ministry that met one afternoon in the week. And he wanted to bring it into the mainstream of the church and make it a vision and a commitment of the whole church. And he came across a lot of opposition; they were not ready at that stage.

So he left Dale and went to Christie Street Tabernacle, and again he faced some resistance with his desire to make global mission a key element of the church’s life.

And so he founded the Peoples Church for the express purpose of preaching the gospel here, deepening people in their walk with God, but with a global vision and sending and supporting missionaries to other parts of the world.

The first message he gave on the first night – it was a Sunday night that he invited people to join with him – was a message on the responsibility to reach the world with the gospel. That was his passion, that was his heart, and the DNA of those foundational days has stayed as the DNA of the Peoples Church. And we trust it will continue to do so because that is how a church is healthy, when it is outward looking and it is serving into the world.

As part of that general vision, the particular desire to start a broadcast ministry came into being 40 years ago. Prior to that in the 1940’s and 1950’s the Sunday evening service was broadcast on CHUM Radio around Toronto and southern Ontario.

But this was going to be something new and Paul Smith, who was then the pastor here, approached CTV and asked if they would be interested in broadcasting a church service.
And they became interested, and to this day, every Sunday since 1973 we have broadcast on CTV, the only Christian broadcast that goes out on CTV apart from the daily mass, which is a short thing they do each morning.

And it was live at first, then it was taped and went out the next week. And then it began to expand a little bit. When I came here in 2001 we were broadcasting on three stations in Canada; one of them, Vision TV, was nationwide.

But then God began to open these other doors, as I said, not by planning it, and as you saw just now, that we are now broadcasting in many countries.

By January we will be broadcasting in well over 60 nations of the world, and picked up in additional countries.

We get letters from people we didn’t know we were broadcasting there, but they pick it up. Somebody actually has been pirating the program and broadcasting it in Nigeria on a Tuesday evening and we were getting a few letters coming in from Nigeria saying, “I love your program, blah, blah, blah, blah…” (Well, where are they seeing this?)

And so it is going to other places as well and we are very happy about that. Nobody owns the truth; anybody can pirate it and the more the better.

And then we began to develop on radio a 30 minute program every day Monday to Friday here in Canada, several stations in the United States. And then some folks from this congregation, from the Philippines arrange and fund them themselves the broadcast within Philippines.

We also broadcast twice every day in New Zealand on radio.

We are going to be broadcasting in Britain in (I think that’s in January) on radio every day.

We have a French version that goes in Quebec. We have Spanish versions that go into a number of countries in Latin America.

We have a Farsi version that goes to Iran and Afghanistan every week. We have Arabic and will be broadcasting shortly on Arabic stations, one FM station in Iraq and covering that whole nation - other areas as well.

These are exciting new developments. And the development that has excited us most in the last two or three years is the opening into the Spanish speaking world and also opening, as we currently are, into the Arabic speaking world.

And I am going to show you a clip in just a moment and then I am going to interview Carlos Lopez, who is the co-ordinator of our Spanish speaking Living Truth ministry called Vive La Verdad.
But first we have a friend, an evangelist named Luis Palau and I want him to just say something on screen.

*You know the Living Truth Program is now coming to Latin America? Charles Price is teaching the truth that he has taught all his life. The way he can help pastors to seek transformation in the lives of Christians in the Spanish speaking world, and that has an effect on society is that he has a style of preaching that I have always liked. He has one, two, three points and he makes number one this, number two that and number three that. And that kind of teaching helps the preachers to pick up the points and then preach it in their own congregations. So Living Truth is a great contribution as a program to the Spanish speaking world, to the churches, to the believers and especially to the pastors.*

So will you support Living Truth? I want to tell you it blesses the preachers who preach in Latin America, copying some of the preaching that Charles Price does, which is fundamental and so good for the nations south of the border.

VIDEO in Spanish…

I just wanted to let you know I speak Spanish as long as it’s on the screen only. Buenos Dias!

Carlos Lopez coordinates our Spanish ministry. He is from Columbia in South America originally. He is a lawyer by training and profession and he headed the Human Rights Department for the Columbian government for a number of years. And if you know anything about Columbia, they need a Human Rights Department. Well this man brought about some significant changes in that country.

And then he was head hunted by Amnesty International and brought to Montreal in Canada to head up one of their legal departments. And then they moved that to Geneva so you were without a job unless you were to go to Geneva and you didn’t want to do that.

So you moved down here to Toronto and you came to join us at Peoples Church.

And you didn’t speak any English the first time you came into the congregation, yeah? You told me I was your English teacher.

Exactly. Thank you.

Listen, let me ask you about your vision for South America and why.

*Good morning, this is a very big privilege for me to be with you today. But I want to share with you what happened in Latin American countries. Latin American countries, churches are growing very fast. But the problem is….our pastors; they don’t have training. They are looking for training because we don’t have too much college, colleges to go, no seminars for theological training.*
So we need training and people, especially pastors in the Latin American country; they are looking around to find a good doctrine. Sometimes they teach their own doctrine about prosperity gospel and this kind of thing.

As soon as we heard from Pastor Price’s teaching, we start to think and to pray to God, “This is the right teaching for our pastors in Latin American countries.” And we started to translate the first message and after that we had - right now have 100 messages in Spanish.

And pastors in Latin American countries are using Living Truth material with Pastor Price’s teaching and transformation is coming.

In Guatemala (may I say that?) – in Guatemala we went with Pastor Price two years ago and we went to be together with pastors and we provided this book, “This is Christ for Real” in Guatemala to 5500 pastors. And all the pastors in Guatemala are using Living Truth material in their churches. And it is amazing how they are changing their mind through the material that we provide to them.

This is just an example.

Although we are broadcasting in how many countries in Latin America?

We are 22 Spanish speaking countries plus 8 countries bilingual like Brazil, but we are broadcasting in Spanish, so in total it is 30 countries.

But we are not just broadcasting on TV and also some radio – you also have teams of people working in a number of these countries that are involved in ministering to people personally. Tell us about that.

We are on TV and we are reaching people by radio in 10 countries. We are looking to connect the people with local churches. So when the people watch the program, they call us and they send us e-mails and we put these people in touch with local churches.

So to do so from here is difficult, but we have people in different countries. Right now we have a group of people, volunteers, in 18 countries. And they are connecting our audience to the local churches. So they become disciples. And we provide to the churches our material and with our material they are teaching the people in the right direction of Jesus Christ’s gospel.

Now I am always impressed that you seem so well connected all over Latin America. You know the key people it seems, the right people. When we go to places and you open all the right doors and well yes, I know God does it, but he is like a little ferret you know, he drags the rabbits out of the holes.

And we probably reach more people in the Spanish speaking world than we do in the English speaking world in terms of numbers of people who are watching the broadcasts and the radio and so on.
What is your vision for the next few years?

Well, first of all, I want to say thank you very much for the support that you are giving us, for the two last years. Without the support it is impossible to do so because we need the resources to print books, to continue to produce programs.

But the vision is to have one group of people in each country and our idea is to expand more in a small community because churches in rural areas are growing very fast and we need to train these pastors because they don’t have training.

So the most important thing for us, as Pastor Dr. Luis Palau said, is to train pastors. And he is mentoring so many pastors in Latin American countries. So we are providing the right doctrine to them. So our vision is to continue growing and consolidate Living Truth in different countries.

Right now we have 18 teams of people. We hope we will have more because we need to help the people in the local churches.

Thank you very much. And, you know, the way it seems to me that God works in opening new areas is first He raises up the people and then we develop the program and then we find the places.

And if you try it the other way around and say, “Well, let’s go to this place; this looks good; let’s go there” and then you try to get the programs together and you try to find the right people, it never works or flows well.

And so when God sent Carlos to us, sent him into this church, wandered in one Sunday with his wife and family, He was sending us a gift. And that has proved to be, and we are extremely grateful to you, Carlos. Thank you so much.

And as this service is being broadcast on television too, I want to thank the viewers all across Canada and some in the United States and other places who have sent in support specifically for the Spanish ministry. And we raised over one and half million dollars just dedicated to the Spanish ministry in the last two years and we are grateful for that.

The exciting new baby, if you like, in the family, that we are nurturing, teaching it to walk and soon it will be running and jumping, is the ministry into the Arabic world, the Arab speaking world.

And I was in Cairo a few months ago and I talked to Sameh Maurice who is the pastor of Kasr El Dobara, the largest evangelical church in the whole Middle East with vast outreach across the Middle East.

And I want to show you something he said when I asked him a question that is pertinent to you and to me. And then I am going to interview Abrahim Awabe who is the person God has brought into our lives to give leadership to the Arabic ministry.
Do you have a message for the church in the west?

VIDEO

\textit{Wake up, wake up. This is the time for the church}....

So Abraham, how is my Arabic?

\textit{You are very good, better than my English.}

If you catch me unawares I can speak three words in Arabic. “Amen, Hallelujah, Coca-Cola.”

\textit{Yeah, you are right.}

Okay, that is the introduction to Hakika Hiya. What does Hakika Hiya mean?

\textit{Hakika Hiya means, Living Truth. Hakika Hiya, the Living Truth, which is Jesus Christ through your teachings.}

Now Abraham you come from Egypt and Egypt is not as much in the news now but it is in our hearts and the concern about the lack of resolution in Egypt, the disruption in Syria, the frequent issues in Libya, the continuing tensions in the Palestinian territories and so on is all a big concern to us.

And how is a program like Living Truth going to help in those areas of the world?

\textit{Yeah, first of all, thank you for giving us these moments to talk about what is going on in the Middle East. As you know, in the Middle East now it is a hard time starting from Tunisia in the west to all over the Middle East, Egypt, Syria.}

\textit{In these hard times and in the time that people got hurt and in pain, they need someone to encourage them. And we know Jesus Christ through many ministries - one of them will be Hakika Hiya – will give them the hope. People now searching, seeking for hope, for an example, for a goal to live, and I believe we need to encourage them with the teaching of the Bible, and this is through Living Truth.}

Now it is not easy in most Arab countries for somebody to walk off the street into a church and so they tell us now that the first point of contact – by far, the first point of contact for people in the Middle East who become believers is that they find Christian programming on television.

You know in Egypt everybody has a satellite. Satellite dishes are everywhere, almost on the back of cars, but even slum areas, big dishes out there. So everybody is watching television.

And how can we pray for the development, the discipling of people like this, and how are the churches like Kasr El Dobara (which I think you had some connections with) – how are they doing this?
Yeah, we used to say that if everything is closed on the ground, still the heaven is open and through the heaven there is the broadcasting. A lot of Arabic speaking people are now converting to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour and their Lord and they need to support – we need to be supported.

And I believe through Living Truth we will give them support. We need to pray for these new babies in faith who are converting to Christ. They need a weekly church and they can’t go to the church. The only hope now is visiting them in their houses and their homes.

And by January we’ll visit this area which is including maybe the population there 358 million will watch the Living Truth. Without you we can’t do that, without the support of prayers, your support. We thank you for that. Without this support we can’t go and disciple these people, and also encouraging pastors there and also the church to take the lead.

And once again we do want to thank our television viewers that they have been supporting the launch of this and we are very grateful to them for that.

We also are translating into radio broadcasts. Just briefly…

We will go on two radios – one of them short wave radio will be covering 150 million people. And another one will be FM to Iraq.

Now we are going initially on two television stations, satellite stations – Alkarma TV and also Kingdom Set. And these together cover the whole world. And in fact you can pick them up here in Toronto in that if you subscribe to, let’s say, Rogers, and you take the Arabic language pack, you know, you will get this channel as well.

And you have got it on your phone right now? Oh wow. Okay, he is showing me this so just talk amongst yourselves… That’s the channel.

That’s Alkarma TV, live on – Alkarma and Kingdom Set will cover the whole world because you know, even here in Toronto, we have a big community of Arabic speaking people and there is a lot of places they don’t have churches, but they will have Alkarma and Kingdom Set and other channels.

Abraham, we are so grateful that God brought you into our lives at this time. You are leading a ministry called LinC (Life in Christ), which is an outreach to Arabic people here in Toronto and you are continuing to do that. But at the same time you are overseeing and producing Hakika Hiya (sounds more Japanese doesn’t it?) But thank you so much and the Lord bless you in that as well.

As I said earlier, it’s the right people that are the key. That’s why God is always looking for people, and out of people there develops the life, the energy, the gifting from which a river flows, other people join in. And of course in due course, many more people become involved.
And it is not until we find people such as Carlos and people like Abrahim we can have these great ideas but they are not going to have traction in life until we have got people whose hearts resonate with this and resonate with ours.

And our concern is that people might know Christ and experience Him and live out of the resources that He makes available to us and build their lives upon what God has revealed to us in the Word of God.

Now going back to this passage in Deuteronomy Chapter 1, I just read. The phrase, or the verse, Verse 3, that I have been thinking about in the light of this 40th anniversary is in Verse 3 of Chapter 1,

“In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses proclaimed to the Israelites all that the LORD had commanded him concerning them.”

Now I don’t want to be corny and just because it is fortieth there, we will make something of that. I have thought about what is the significance of the fortieth year in this particular verse.

Many of you will know the number 40 is a frequent number in the Bible – 40 days, 40 months, 40 years. And often interestingly, I don’t know if we can build anything significant on this, but interestingly associated with that number 40 is often testings and trials and chastisements and renewing.

We see that in Noah – 40 days and 40 nights of rain. Jesus – 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness. And so on.

But here this 40 year period is significant for another reason. You see it says that Moses proclaimed to the Israelites in this fortieth year “all the Lord had commanded him concerning them.”

And the rest of the book of Deuteronomy, which is 34 chapters long, is basically three sermons, three messages that Moses gave to the Israelites.

If you think I speak long sometimes, by the way, you should listen to Moses. He covers 34 chapters in three messages.

And the interesting thing is, is that because this is all the Lord had commanded him concerning the Israelites, much of it is a repeat of what we already have in the book of Exodus, and a little bit in Leviticus, that was given 40 years before to Moses on Mount Sinai.

In fact the name Deuteronomy is a Greek word or combination. It was the name given to the fifth book of Moses when it was translated from Hebrew into Greek. Deutero – second, nomos – law – it is the second law. That’s the meaning of the name given to the book.
And you find the Ten Commandments are there, told much as they are in the book of Exodus Chapter 20. You find that many of the 613 additional laws that God gave to Moses are repeated in Deuteronomy, having already been given to us in the book of Exodus.

So it raises the question, why is this book even necessary in the Old Testament? Why does the Bible have to be so much longer than it really needs to be when there is repetition, especially of these kind of details of law that we get in Deuteronomy and we have had earlier in Exodus?

Well the answer to that question is found in the book of Numbers, at least we get a good clue in the book of Numbers. Because the book of Numbers tells us that during the forty years since the Israelites had left Egypt and they are a month later going to begin to enter Canaan, during those forty years an entire generation has died.

Every man over twenty who left Egypt, which would now be men over sixty, have died and been buried in the wilderness years except three – Moses, Caleb and Joshua. And Moses would die later this same month that he gives this book of Deuteronomy. It was his last word to the people.

And therefore when it specifically takes time to date this message back in Verse 3 that it was on the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year, he is speaking now to a generation that did not know the deliverance of the people out of Egypt. There would have been some who were children, of course, but none of them were adults.

You see the generation that has passed on is the generation who had seen the ten plagues come against Egypt in an attempt to weaken the heart of Pharaoh, culminating in the death of the firstborn son.

It was they who had actually walked through the Red Sea – it was not just a story they told their children; they were there. They had been there; they had experienced it.

It was they who had seen the pillar of cloud that led them by the day and the pillar of fire that led them by night.

It was they who had seen Moses come down from Mount Sinai and they had seen and heard the thunder and lightning where Moses was up there meeting with God. And when he came down they saw that his face shone because he had been with God.

It was they who had eaten every day the manna miraculously supplied for them in those wilderness years.

And now that generation has passed on and died and this new generation that Moses is to speak to in Deuteronomy is a generation who are in danger of not having firsthand dealings with God themselves. They are in danger of leaning back on a great history of God’s intervention.

Now of course it wasn’t all good for the Israelites in those forty years. They actually wandered in the wilderness out of disobedience because they had not obeyed God earlier in a particular incident and He sentenced them to stay there for forty years.
But the point is this: nothing is to be assumed. The challenge he gives, and I will show you in a 
moment and we will just talk about this briefly though – I will show you in a moment that he 
says to them, “You must make this God your God.”

It is not enough to be born an Israelite. They needed to know God for themselves. It is not 
足够的 for us in our day to think somehow we can breed the next generation of believers or 
breed the next generation of disciples. No, we must make disciples. That is our instruction.

And every generation has to be evangelized. It is not just the generations who come from a 
pagan or a non-Christian background that need to be evangelized. The generations of our own 
children need to be evangelized because the danger is that we can grow up in an environment, as 
the Israelites did, where so much of the normality of our lives had to do with what God had done 
with their parents, that they have not entered into a living vital relationship with God for 
themselves.

You see no one is a Christian because they are born into a Christian family – that is a wonderful 
privilege. In most cases I am sure it is, that when people come to Christ from a background of 
ignorance of the gospel it is so fresh and living and exciting to them. You sometimes think, 
wow, that’s an advantage too. You get it all new and you are excited by it. When it is familiar 
stuff sometimes we don’t have that same excitement.

But no one can be indoctrinated into being a Christian. No one can simply be named a Christian. 
It is true in places like Egypt your name tells you which religion you are a part of, and if you are 
a Christian, you have a certain name. Or if you are Muslim you have a certain name that depicts 
you to be Muslim. And if you convert to Christianity, one of the things you do is change your 
name.

But that doesn’t make a person a Christian. No one is baptized into being a Christian. We are 
only Christians when we have had a personal meeting with God and He is working and living 
within our own hearts.

It is not enough to put the next generation into Sunday school. It is important but it is not 
 enough. Or to put them in the youth event - that is important; it is not enough. Or to put them 
into Christian schools without seeking and praying and working for a personal relationship with 
God and communion with God.

Let’s not just be content when the next generation goes to church. They have to come to Christ 
and they have to live out of this active relationship with Him.

And this is really the message of Deuteronomy, if we were to take time to unpack it. It reviews, 
if you like, the manifesto of the covenant that God made with Israel. But it reviews it in such a 
way that it is personalized to the individual members of that nation.
And in this book God tells them all the things that He has done. That is always the beginning: reminding what God has done. He tells them the things that He will do. He gives them the promises that He has made. He reminds them of the resources that He will supply.

But then He says, “But you must respond in obedience. You must respond in dependence. You must make this your own.”

You must have your own personal covenant with God, which is part of the bigger covenant He made with Israel, part of the bigger covenant God makes with the world because now the new covenant is a global covenant. But it has to become personal in our own lives and our own experience.

Let me take you to Deuteronomy Chapter 29, and this is the only passage I will take you to. We’re not beginning a run through this book because we don’t have time to do that.

But in Deuteronomy 29, as he comes towards the end of his third message and then we have a couple of chapters that talk about the last days of Moses and his commissioning Joshua to replace him and so on, but in Deuteronomy 29:12 Moses says to the people,

“You are standing here in order to enter into a covenant with the LORD your God, a covenant the LORD is making with you this day and sealing with an oath, to confirm you this day as his people, that He may be your God as he promised you and as he swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

Notice that carefully. It wasn’t enough that God made a covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, with Jacob and with their fathers. He says He wants to make this covenant with you, “a covenant the Lord is making with you this day and sealing with an oath.”

And that covenant involves what God will do but it must involve what you will do in response to Him. Will you make Him your God?

Joshua did the same thing. Joshua, the next month, began to lead the Israelites into Canaan.

Moses went up onto Mount Nebo, which overlooks Israel and he saw the land from that vantage point.

I have been on Mount Nebo and it is amazing what you can see. You can see right up to the city of Jerusalem across the whole Judean desert and valley, the Jordan valley. You can see a long way to the south, long way to the north.

He looked over the land from Mount Nebo and he saw it and then he died. He didn’t die of old age, though he was an old man. But it tells us later in Deuteronomy that he was 120 years old when he died yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone.

In other words there was nothing wrong with him; it is just that, if I may put it a bit crudely, God put him down. “Moses, you could have entered the land”, but Moses was forbidden to because
of disobedience just a little while earlier. And “Moses, you have come as far as you can go” and He snuffed him out.

Nobody knows where his body was and we know where his soul was - immediately with God. And I have no doubt, despite Moses’ messing up there towards the end and not being allowed to enter Canaan, that he will be one of the great aristocrats of heaven because of all that God did with Moses.

But you see you cannot assume everything is going to be okay. Even Moses did not enter into the fullness that he could have done and should have done.

And so his challenge to the nation is that, “You are standing here to enter into a covenant with the Lord your God. He is making it with you this day.”

And when Joshua had led the Israelites into Canaan he got the people together in a place called Shechem at the end of his life and he did exactly what Moses had done here.

And he said to the people, “I have been with you for a whole generation. I have seen God do wonderful things. He has given us the land. We are occupying it.”

He gave a list of all the things God had done and then he said, “But” and these were his words before he died: “But choose you this day whom you will serve.”

“Whether the gods of the Amorites or the gods that you find here in Canaan, it doesn’t matter which, if you are going to another god, take any god you want because none of them are any good. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

And the people responded and said, “We will serve the Lord.”

This is what Moses did at the end of Deuteronomy, at the end of forty years, and what Joshua did at the end of the next generation at the end of the book of Joshua.

And with forty years of history of those who were leaders of this church, those who were board members of this church, those who were working with Dr. Paul Smith, who was then the Senior Pastor of this church; as they stepped boldly out in faith, recognizing God has provided a door for us. We are going to go through it and we are going to see what God does because if God is not in this, the whole thing is going to collapse.

And they walked through it and they began to minister to multitudes who would never be inside this church building. We don’t know how many people – you can’t tell how many people watch television.

CTV did tell us a few years ago on a good day in southern Ontario we have 100,000 viewers; on a bad day we have about 70,000 for Living Truth within – that’s just on CTV, their own channel.
There are hundreds of thousands of people. There are probably literally millions of people around the world who share in what goes on in this building on a Sunday morning (they share it weeks later of course).

Because forty years ago there were men and women who said, “This is from God; let’s step out and see what happens.” They don’t know where the river is going to flow, as we don’t know where the river is going to flow. We just know where it is flowing now and we have got to keep up with it.

But you know, it’s so easy when the decades go by that people get caught into the slip stream of a church’s life and ministry and work and they kind of become involved and they come on a Sunday, they may come at other times, but they don’t have a personal renewed daily walk with God.

And I want to challenge you about that on this particular 40th anniversary. You may have parents who knew God and maybe they are in heaven now.

And you may be Christianized without being evangelized. You can subscribe to the Christian ethic, you can subscribe to Christian doctrines but you don’t know the life of God in your soul and the fellowship you enjoy with Him. And as you read the Word of God it is not just trying to learn a bit of doctrine or trying to learn a little bit of truth. It is because in the Word you fellowship with God Himself because He is speaking and your heart is responding and it becomes a conversation with Him.

That’s what sets people free. That’s what makes people excited to be a Christian.

And Moses is wise enough to say we are going to take 34 chapters, we are going to stick a big book, extra weight for people to carry around. We are going to stick this book slap into this place here to say many of the things we have already said to make sure that, though that generation knew God and had experience with God, that this generation also knows it’s not just a covenant with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob or our fathers; it is a covenant with me that God has made and I have responded to.

And I am going to pray now in just a moment and we are going to ask that - I am going to lead you in a prayer that I trust will be a prayer in which you ask that God will renew and refresh your own relationship with Him.

If you don’t know Him, if you have never come into that living personal relationship, seek Him, because if you seek Him you will find Him. Allow the Holy Spirit to draw you in that living relationship and if we can help you with that, of course we want to and we would love to do that. And we love it every week when we see people who make that discovery and come to know Christ.

And I prayed with a man this morning who said, “I wandered from God and I have been coming to this church for two years now and I hadn’t been to church for many years. And I realize this morning I need - this is the point I need to say yes and I am getting right with God.”
Maybe somebody else is in that very same situation.

We are going to pray together. And maybe you should pray with me words which will reconnect you or connect you with God as you affirm your need for that personal living relationship with Him.

Lord Jesus Christ, I thank You that You reconcile me to God and You give the gift of Your Holy Spirit to live within me. It is not just that I believe things about You; it is that You become a living reality in my life. You become the One who loves me and You shed abroad the love of God in my heart so I know it and experience it. And You forgive me and cleanse me of all my sin and by the Holy Spirit You keep that active, growing, developing relationship with Yourself.

And Lord Jesus I pray that You will renew that in my life. If I have never known You at all, that I will be born again by the Holy Spirit and experience Your presence.

Thank You that You died to make this possible and You rose again to implement it in my life.