

SING!

MAGAZINE

*The little magazine
that's big on Faith,
Hope and
Inspiration*

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Sing! Articles

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*Dennis Jernigan introduces his latest book **The Middle Of Nowhere***

The Middle Of Nowhere is Published by Shepherd's Heart Music and available at Amazon

The Middle of Nowhere: Dennis Jernigan



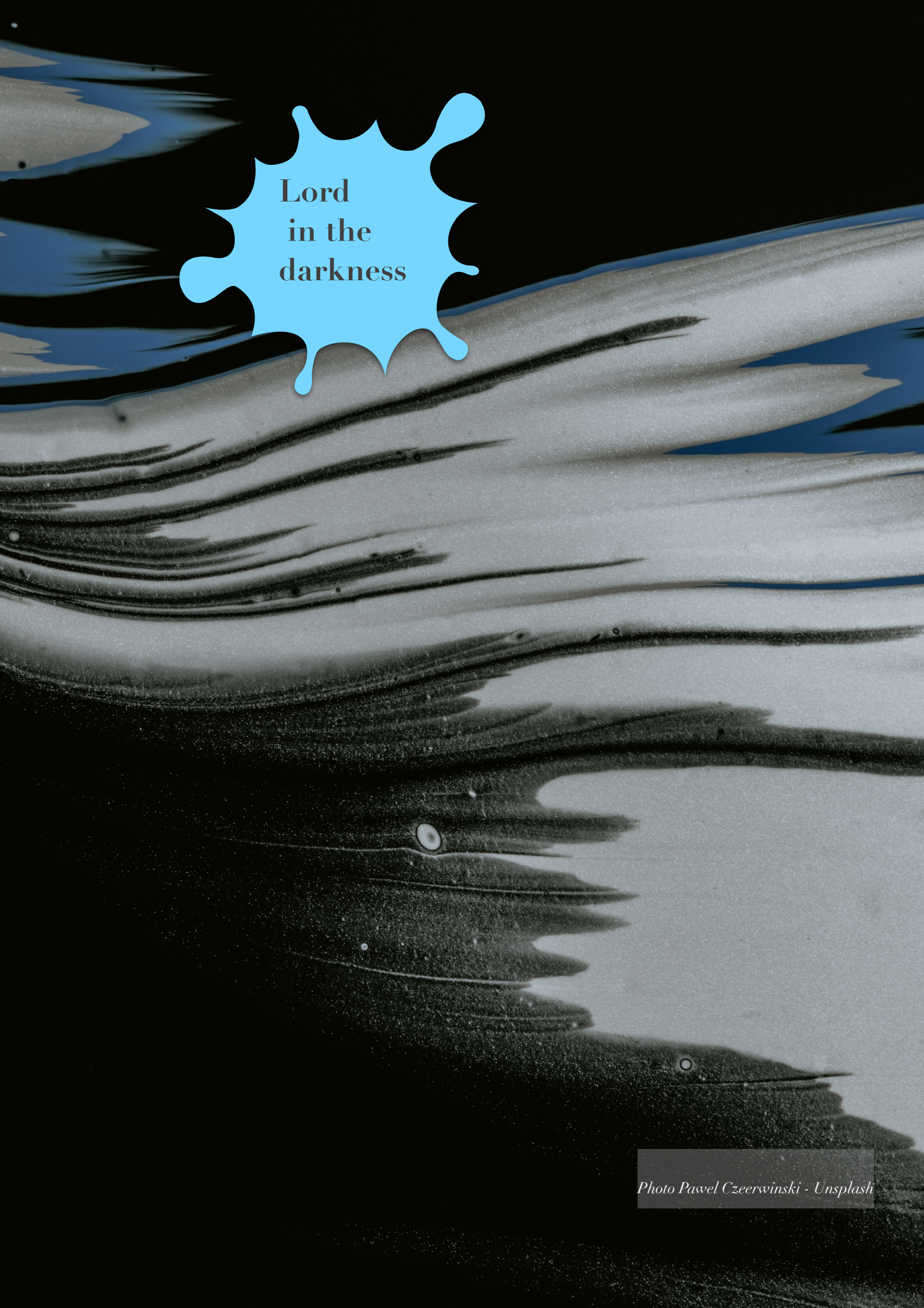
Why write a book about being in the middle of nowhere? Why now? The simple answer to those questions is this: We can expect moments in life in which we feel stranded in a desert of the soul, adrift on an endless ocean of despair, or clinging by a thread to a small sliver of hope as we are bombarded by a storm of life. We might feel we have no direction or

purpose in life; we might feel different, misunderstood, betrayed or abandoned. Or we could be floundering our way through the messiness life can be at times, feeling we are alone in the battles we must face, hopeless and helpless to gain freedom from a besetting sin or bad habit. I had to come to grips with this many years ago, but it all came to

a head again when I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease on January 2017, and knee replacement in August of 2018, my soul was reeling and careening downward in a spiral of grief, despair, and physical suffering I could not yet understand. I felt trapped in the middle of nowhere on so many levels. The good news? God had been trying to show me just how near He was to me during those times of painful loneliness and despair. The even better news? He would meet me in the middle of anywhere I could possibly find myself. He wastes

nothing we go through. Nothing surprises God and nothing is too big for Him to deal with. In fact, He uses the things that the enemy means for evil...for our good and for His glory!

And the best news of all? We do not go through or face any trial alone because our God goes with us through the fire, through the ocean of despair, through the storm, through the grief, through the physical suffering, through the middle of nowhere. He meets us and loves us right where we are, but loves us enough not to leave us there.



Lord
in the
darkness

Photo Pawel Czeerwinski - Unsplash



**Extract from the book *Swimming for Freedom*
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I asked God for an impossible life to live. God has answered my prayer. He has given me an impossible life. I came four tenths of a second from qualifying for Olympic Trials with part of my arm missing and three fourths of it rebuilt.

But living an impossible life isn't my ultimate prayer anymore.

Now my prayer is simply, God let me be faithful to you until the day you take me home. That's it.

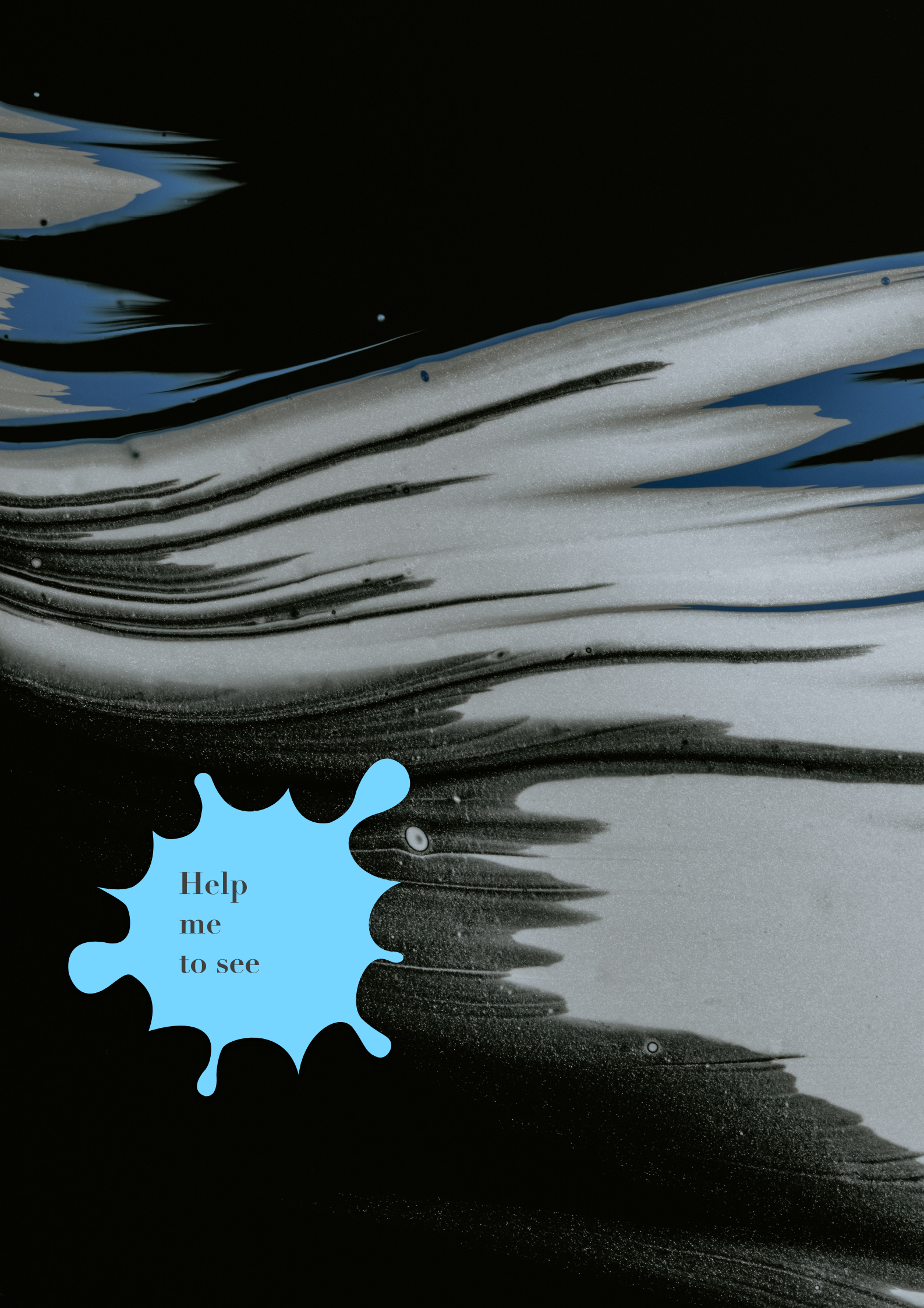
Nothing dramatic. Nothing awe-inspiring. Because that's all we really need. If I am faithful to my King until the end, then He will lead me into the impossible in every aspect of my life. I will impossibly forgive people, I will

impossible challenge the constraints of this reality and I will witness impossible miracles.

But most importantly I will get to know the heart of the One who defeated death and makes all things possible for us: Jesus.

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Podcast at thehealministry.com



Help
me
to see

Born in Song: Brian Hoare

*Born**in**Song*

**Reverend
Brian Hoare
hymnwriter
and former
Deputy
Chairman
of the Pratt
Green Trust
gives an
insight into
the writing
of his popular
hymn Born in
Song**

Back in 1979 while I was serving as New Testament tutor at Cliff College in Derbyshire, the Methodist District of which we were a part was planning a District-wide celebration to mark the 200th anniversary of John Wesley's visit to Sheffield. The event was to be called 'Born in song' (a quotation from the Preface to the 1933 Methodist Hymn Book which began with the words 'Methodism was born in song'). I was invited to join the planning group and it occurred to me that the title would make a good opening line for a theme hymn for the event – but no such hymn existed!

Later, on a train journey back from an engagement in London, I began thinking about those words and by the time the train reached

Chesterfield I had scribbled down both words and music – and a new hymn was born. It was subsequently used around the District and proved popular enough to be considered for the new Methodist hymnbook being planned, *Hymns and Psalms* (1983), then subsequently appearing in its successor *Singing the Faith* (2011). It has also been widely used well beyond Methodism, appearing in hymnbooks such as *Anglican Praise* (1987), *Sing Glory* (1999) and overseas in the hymnal of *The United Church of Canada, Voices United* (1996).

The tune includes some big jumps and when I was deciding on a tune name it felt appropriate to call it Chatsworth since the huge fountain at Chatsworth House that

we could see across the valley from our home seemed symbolic of the music's octave leaps.

The words are firmly based on scripture and follow a Trinitarian structure. After an opening verse affirming that 'God's people have always been singing' verses 2-4 describe the work of God the creator, Christ the redeemer and the Holy Spirit as sanctifier and enabler. Verse 5 is based on the Great Commission and the final verse speaks of the end of time when Christ will reign and his people 'still shall sing his praise'. For those interested a group study based on the hymn can be found at

www.hymnquest.com/resources/bs4.

The book 'Born in Song' written during Lockdown can be purchased from Waterstones or Moorleys.



Your eyes
of kindness
watching
over me

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