

Everything Comes to Life

On a hiking trail in Tennessee called the Fiery Gizzard, after the first hour or so of lush loveliness alongside a nice sized, lively creek, you come to a place where you notice something is missing. While you were concentrating on your footing in this rocky, steep place, the creek bed dried up. Hiking feels very different here. You miss the brighter greens, the mossy rocks, and, most of all, the voice of the waters. Why? Because the creek plunges into a sinkhole someplace beyond Sycamore Falls. Your hike continues onward beside an empty creek bed until farther south along the trail.

To me, everything feels different in the woods, where the waters have gone underground. Everything feels steep, rocky, dry—lonely.

In the same way, the rivers of living water that flow from the believer's heart may sink into an underground riverbed, hidden from the companions God places alongside the creek that is you. You go mute at times. Doubts, fear, or cares create a sinkhole.

But your voice, your influence—your living water—is God's; it flows from the sanctuary. The more communion with God, the more life you bring! When your waters are flowing, they call forth life! Christ is in you; you bring the fresh, lively element to the woods. Your companions feel it. "There will be life everywhere the river goes" (Ezekiel 47:9).

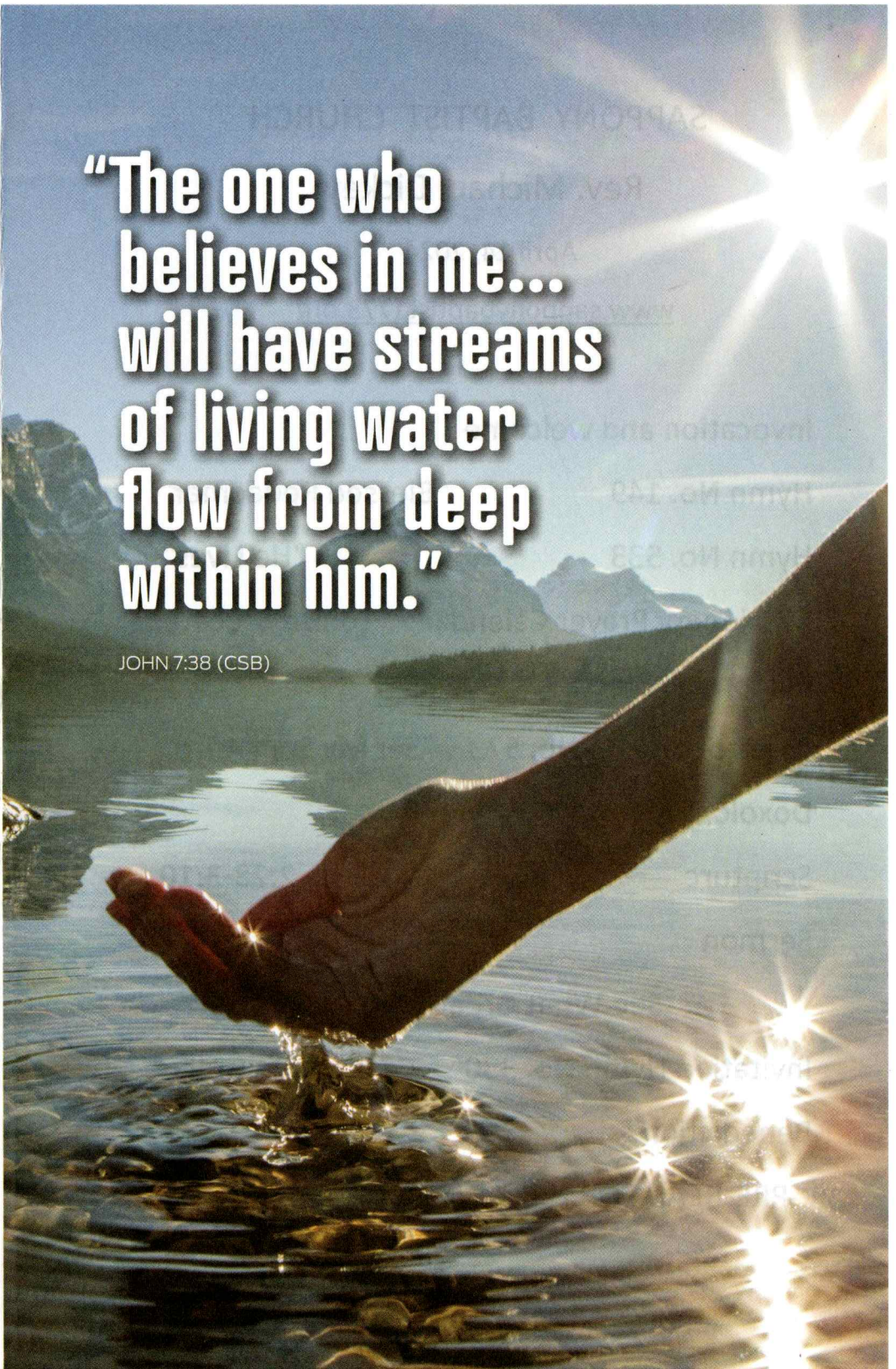
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A photograph of a hand holding water over a lake. The sun is bright in the sky, creating a starburst effect. The water is rippling, and the mountains in the background are reflected in the water.

**"The one who
believes in me...
will have streams
of living water
flow from deep
within him."**

JOHN 7:38 (CSB)

SAPPONY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Michael Dickey

April 14, 2024

www.sapponybaptist1773.org

Invocation and welcome

Hymn No. 149 "Blessed Redeemer"

Hymn No. 533 "He Lives"

Missionary Prayer Calendar Louise Brucato

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Hymn No. 573 "Set My Soul Afire"

Doxology

Scripture 1 John 2:28-3:10

Sermon Rev. Mike Dickey

"See What Great Love"

Invitation Hymn No. 330 "Amazing Grace"

Benediction

PRE-READ FOR NEXT WEEK" 1 John 3:13-24

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be in prayer for our sick and shut-ins as they are unable to be here with us.

The children will be collecting soap and washcloths for the month of April for The Shoe Box Ministry.

Pauline Kennedy's funeral service will be here at Sappony today at 3pm. Family will receive visitors on hour prior to the service.

Streets of Gold will be at Sharon United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 27th. Covered dish supper at 6:00p.m. Music at 7:00pm.

PBA Executive Council Meeting is Monday, April 15th at Dinwiddie Baptist Church. 14818 Wilkinson Road. Executive Council Representatives need to be present.

Kehukee Spring Clean-up is Saturday, April 20th from 8-noon. Please bring rakes, shovels, chain saws, cleaning products, windex, furniture polish, paper towels, etc. to assist in getting the job complete!! If you have any questions, please contact the office 804-733-2010. All are welcome to assist. women's group, Youth with supervision and Men's groups.

PBA Complex Clean-up Day is on Sat. May 18th from 8-noon. Please join us as we purge unused items no longer needed at the PBA Complex. Everyone is invited to join in, but especially men and youth would be welcome for this endeavor.