

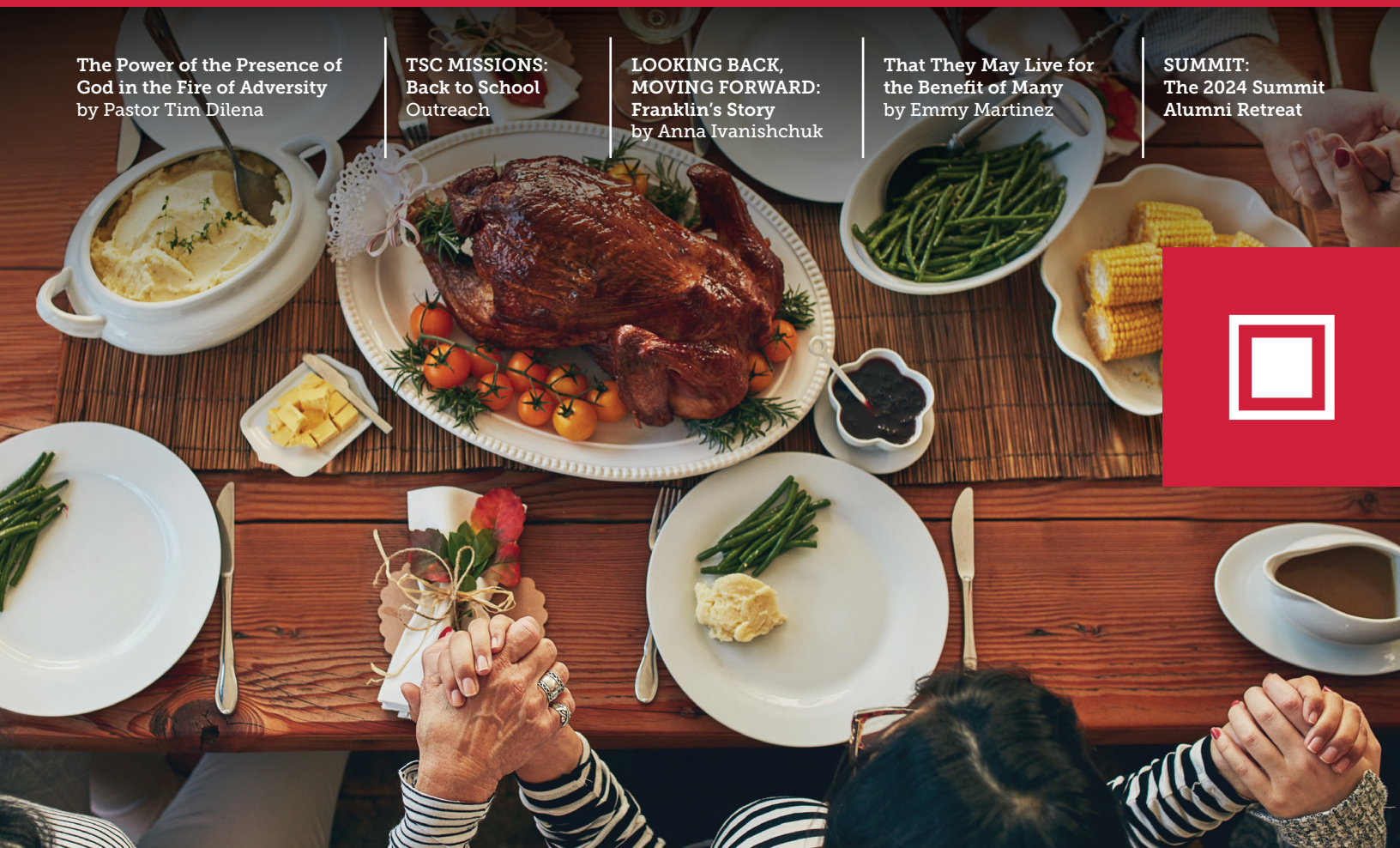
**The Power of the Presence of God in the Fire of Adversity**  
by Pastor Tim Dilena

**TSC MISSIONS:**  
Back to School Outreach

**LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD:**  
Franklin's Story  
by Anna Ivanishchuk

**That They May Live for the Benefit of Many**  
by Emmy Martinez

**SUMMIT:**  
The 2024 Summit Alumni Retreat



## Prayer Points

### GLOBALLY

- 1 billion souls to come to Christ
- Peace of Jerusalem and a revival in the Middle East.
- The end of the Russian-Ukrainian war

### NATIONALLY

- The next president God allows into office
- A national awakening

### LOCALLY

- A Revival in NYC—for a powerful outpouring of God to be felt in companies, schools, and on the streets

### INDIVIDUALLY

- Resistant family members to be touched by the Holy Spirit and return to Christ

# The Power of the Presence of God in the Fire of Adversity

by **Pastor Tim Dilena**, *Senior Pastor*

Recently, I was reminded of why we open the curtains in the sanctuary, it is not so you can hear the music or the sermon, but because we want people to walk in and feel Jesus. Many have testified that when they walked through the doors they are brought to tears. That's what we want to see take place, every time! Dwelling in the presence of God is the ultimate goal, but so often adversity is the opposition. How then do we experience the power of God's presence in the fire of adversity?

First, I want to share a dream that I had recently. I never remember my dreams, but this dream was different. Not only did I remember it, but it also frightened and bewildered me.

I can remember every detail, which is very rare for me. I've never had this kind of dream before:

I was standing with a young teenage girl in front of a squad of soldiers waiting for them to kill us because of the preaching of the gospel and a stance that we took for Jesus.

**The only person that can help you in the midst of the furnace is the fourth man.**

## The Power of the Presence of God in the Fire of Adversity (continued)

The two of us were next in line. We saw others killed for their faith before us. I didn't know who she was, and we didn't know how we would die. We had witnessed people and groups before us that were killed by the squad of soldiers, both with gunshots and even poison.

While we were waiting there, a young soldier came over and very mockingly took oil and anointed me and the young teenage girl who was next to me. He made a cross on our foreheads with his finger and laughed out loud.

Then he said, "I want you to lay on the ground because we're going to kill you."

I was strong until the moment that we laid on the ground. I was afraid as I lay there. I feared how they were going to kill us. I didn't know why I was feeling this. I always thought I was strong, but this fear came over me. I felt an anxiety, and my heart beat rapidly. Then seconds before our death, I woke up.

I was both puzzled and relieved when I woke.

I told the Lord, "I don't understand what this is and I want to be strong. If my faith is coming to that point, I want to be strong with that."

Regardless of what anybody else will tell you, I'm realizing difficult times are coming to this country, and I want us to be ready for it. Don't let anyone ever tell you differently. The persecution of believers is coming to our nation. It's happening right now around the world, and it's not far from happening to us. But here's the good news: You don't have to worry and you don't have to be afraid. God is with us.

The prophet, Isaiah says:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you" (Isaiah 43:2-3, NASB).

"I will be with you," are the five words that

we need to take hold of. God's presence protects us. His presence is what we are to experience every time we gather together whether that is in church, at home, while driving, or on the bus or subway. God says look for Him when the waters are too deep or when the furnace is at its hottest. Hallelujah!

If we reflect on the events that our nation has witnessed in recent months, it can be jolting. We have to be ready! We need the Lord. We need God to protect us from what's coming. We need His presence.

**All Moses knew was, that they needed God's presence.**

When Moses embarked on the journey of his life with three million people. He didn't know where they would find water to drink or food to eat. All he knew was, that they needed God's presence.

In Exodus 33:14, God said to Moses, "My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest."

Moses responded in verse 15, "If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here."

Those are my sentiments as well. If God is not with me, I'm not moving.

That brings to mind a song we sing here at Times Square Church:

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine.  
He's been my fourth man in the fire,  
Time after time ...  
I trust in God, my Savior  
The One who will never fail.  
He will never fail.*

The reference to the "fourth man in the fire" comes from Daniel 3. In this chapter, we learn that society and government were trying to force three, young, Jewish believers to bow to Babylon's culture and belief system. They were being asked to throw away everything. They were told that their God was not God and were commanded to bow down and worship a

90-foot golden image. When the young men refused, officials threatened to throw them into a raging furnace.

Now, unless you've been hiding under a rock, I'm telling you that that's where our world is today. We're being asked and even threatened to throw away everything we believe about God and to bow to society and government idols. We're being asked to bow down to immoral behavior and call it right. We're being asked to join in the chanting against God's chosen people, the nation of Israel. Even ministers and pastors who believe in God and believe in the Bible are too fearful to stand up, so they bow before that 90-foot golden image.

In the days of those three young believers, there were nearly 70,000 Israelites living in Babylon. But where were the other 69,997 believers on this day? Where were the others who heard the same command and saw the same golden image? Were they bowing down and saying, "We'll just bow down and repent later?"

Those three God-fearing people refused to bow their knees regardless of the consequences of their actions because they knew the presence of God was with them and would walk with them through any fire and through any flood. One man or one woman who stands with God is still a majority.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego knew this when they answered the king:

"Nebuchadnezzar, we are not in need of an answer to give you concerning this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods nor worship the golden statue that you have set up" (Daniel 3:16-18, NASB).

God gave me that dream prepare me because there are going to be more trumpets blowing in our nation and around the world. When that happens, the only thing we will need is God's presence.

The young men in Daniel 3 knew God would be with them through the fire:



"Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and cast them in the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego" (Daniel 3:19–22, NIV).

**Babylon's best couldn't stand the heat. But three teenagers with the presence of God lived when the fire came—the Bible tells us they didn't even smell of smoke.**

After Nebuchadnezzar had the young men thrown into the fire, the narcissist king was shocked by what he saw:

"Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, 'Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?'

"They answered and said to the king, 'True, O king.'

"'Look!' he answered, 'I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God'" (Daniel 3:24–25, NKJV).

The part that I love is that they were walking. There had to be a little strut in that walk. They were walking in the midst of the fire, and they were not hurt. This was possible because of the presence of God—the fourth man who was like the Son of God.

Another part that caught my attention is the description of, the mighty men of valor in verse 20. In verse 22, we read that the furnace was so hot that the flame of the fire killed those men. They weren't even in the fire. They were just at the door, and they couldn't make it. But when you take God's people and put them in the fire, there's always the fourth man who's there.

There is not a certificate or a diploma that can get you through a furnace. An MBA or a PhD is not fireproof. You can have a home in the Hamptons, but it can't keep you out of the furnace. You can move to Florida, but you can't escape the furnace. The only person that can help you in the midst of the furnace is the fourth man. His name is Jesus, the Son of God, and He can take us through any fire.

Every day we open up doors, but we don't know what's on the other side. You don't know if Monday's door is the door to your apartment or a door to a furnace. You thought it was just a business deal. You thought it was just an employee. You thought it was just a friend, and you open it up, and the heat comes out. You better have Jesus go with you.

Babylon's best couldn't stand the heat. But three teenagers with the presence of God lived when the fire came. The Bible tells us that didn't even smell of smoke. How does this happen when they'd gone through the fire? It's the presence of the Lord that was manifested.

How do you know if God's presence is with you? Amos 3:3 (NIV) says, "Can two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?"

There's no walking in that furnace unless you agree with God. There is no walking unless you're walking in agreement with the things of God and His Word.

Any Christian, pulpit, or church that is not in agreement with His Word, forfeits the presence of Jesus. You may have "church," but you won't have Jesus. His Word is the very thing that guides your life. Any person who has the presence of God walks with God and says yes to all that God says yes to. When we walk in agreement with God, he walks with us. This means that when you walk with God, you're saying, "God, your Word prevails. Your Word is what I walk in agreement with."

If He walks with you, then He walks with you into furnaces; He walks with you into boardrooms; He walks with you into your home and into your borough or your city; He walks with you into your college campus and into that lecture hall that may be anti-Christian; He walks with you into your locker room; He walks with you into your dressing room on Broadway; He walks with you into your office, whether it's at the UN or whether it's down on Wall Street; When you walk hand in hand with Jesus, He walks with you into every single furnace. When we go through the fires and the floods, His presence is with us.

I believe God's telling us to awake from our slumber. To release our grip on doing things our way. He's saying that He sees what is ahead on your campus, what's ahead for your family, what's ahead for our nation, and you must make sure that He is in the furnace with you. We all need the fourth man in the fire. ■







## Back to School Outreach

At TSC, we are committed to investing in our children—not only spiritually but also practically. On August 24th, our Next Gen Ministries and TSC Missions team hosted the Back-to-School Jam, a city-wide outreach event. We distributed over 1,000 backpacks to inner-city students, ranging from elementary to

college. Each backpack was filled with essential school supplies and a copy of Pastor Tim's book, Prayer 101.

It was an incredible opportunity to connect with, pray for, and show love to families from across the city. We recognize the financial burden many families face at this time of year, and we're grateful to have provided such tangible support. Knowing that each student experienced the love of Jesus through this outreach was truly a blessing.

The TSC Next Gen Ministries offers many exciting services for our younger generations, which allow them to experience God and His love in a life-changing way. The ministry consists of the following groups:

**TSC Kids:** Children aged 6 months to 5th grade

**212 Next:** Junior high students

**212:** High school students

**Young Adults:** Ages 18–29





# That They May Live for the Benefit of Many

by Emmy Martinez

"I will not proceed until I receive clear guidance from God regarding His intentions for me."

These were the sentiments I expressed repeatedly to my friends when asked whether I would consider a new job offer. This opportunity was not merely a change in employment; it represented a significant transition, requiring me to leave behind everything I had known for the past ten years—my home, church, friends, and the familiarity of my environment, all in favor of relocating to an entirely new city.

Engaging in prayer to seek guidance from God is important. Anticipating His revelation regarding His plans for us is indeed a profound experience. However, it is essential to recognize that an exclusive focus on "hearing" from Him may lead us to overlook the significance of "seeing" Him in our lives.

I was so afraid to take a step of faith I insisted on waiting for a clear "Go or stay!"

God did not communicate with me in the manner I had anticipated, nor did He provide the two or three confirmations I sought. Instead, it seemed He left the decision to me. I understood that if I chose to remain in my current position, I would receive His blessings. Conversely, should I take a step of faith and accept the new role, I



would also be blessed, albeit with greater challenges. Ultimately, I could not choose the easier path.

It has now been four months since I began my new position in a new city. The transition has not been without its challenges, and I accept that as part of the experience. However, I have recognized that this step of faith has instilled in me a profound necessity to rely fully on God for all aspects of my life.

Transitions can be challenging, and grieving a loss is often a difficult process. Nevertheless, experiencing God in a new and profound way is truly a beautiful aspect of the faith journey. My dependence on Him can feel almost childlike at times. During this season, I have learned that while I may not fully comprehend why God moves us to take certain actions, I trust that He knows what is best for me.

Perhaps, instead of us approaching the Christian walk with seeking concrete answers we simply rest that the Holy Spirit is faithful to lead us into the perfect will of God for our lives.

This Christian voyage encompasses far more than my personal plans, future, or sense of security; it is fundamentally about the people around me.

A dear friend of mine once shared a quote that God had spoken to her and I often reflect upon: "Live for the benefit of one, that they may live for the benefit of many."

We may not always receive the applause or recognition we believe we deserve. Often, we may serve behind the

scenes, where only God can see the sacrifices we make for the other.

As we continue our pilgrimage with Jesus, may we discover a deeper sense of satisfaction and the profound privilege in serving humbly and quietly alongside a King who came not to be served, but to serve others.

It will all be worth it on that final day just to hear Christ say: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."





# The 2024 Summit Alumni Retreat

This past weekend, Summit International School of Ministry welcomed over 70 alumni, and their families back to campus for the annual Alumni Retreat—a time of refreshing and renewal that embodies Summit's mission of drawing people into a deeper relationship with God and training them to live lives for the benefit of others. This year's retreat truly felt like a homecoming, as alumni reconnected with each other, staff and faculty, and the Lord.

The weekend kicked off on Friday evening with an intimate worship session, a moving testimony from a current Summit sabbatical student, and a precious time of communion led by Pastor Pavel Maftey. He reminded us not to rush through moments of remembrance but to savor the gift of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross. This set the tone for a weekend filled with reflection, fellowship, and personal encounters with God.

Saturday morning began as it often did during our time as students—with personal devotion time. Alumni spread out across campus to their favorite spots for a quiet time alone with God, recalling the daily rhythms that helped shape their faith during their time at Summit. This was immediately followed by a morning session featuring Summit alum Pastor Peter Namawa (class of 2016) and Pastor Carter Conlon, TSC's General Overseer.

The afternoon offered a change of pace, with the much-anticipated annual basketball game between alumni and current students. This year's contest was as competitive as ever, with the students narrowly edging out the alumni, 50-48.

Saturday evening's session was a highlight for many, especially the message from long-time Summit teacher Pastor Tim Williams. His sermon, titled "Byways and Barstools," resonated deeply as he shared personal stories from his life and reflected on the true meaning of ministry. "Ministry cannot be about titles," Pastor Tim reminded us. "It has been and always will be about people—whether God puts you behind a pulpit or a paintbrush." His words were a fitting reminder of Summit's core value of living for the benefit of others.

As the weekend ended, the overwhelming sentiment among attendees was gratitude. Many alumni expressed how refreshed and challenged they felt, excited to return next year. The retreat was a reminder that no matter how far life takes us, Summit will always be a place to come home to—a place where God continues to move and transform lives.



## TIMES SQUARE CHURCH

Times Square Church was founded in 1987 by Pastor David Wilkerson, author of "The Cross and the Switchblade." It is an interdenominational church located in the heart of New York City.

### CONTACT

212.541.6300

info@tsc.nyc

### CHURCH LOCATION

237 West 51st Street  
Between Broadway & 8th Avenue

### OUR SERVICES

**Sunday | 10AM & 1PM**

In Person and Online

**Tuesdays | 7PM**

In Person

**Wednesday | 7 pm**

Worldwide Prayer Meeting  
at TSC Summit Campus  
In Person and Online

[tsc.nyc](https://tsc.nyc)



# CHANGE THE WORLD WITH US!

## Ways to Give

- 1. TEXT**  
"givetscnyc"  
to 77977
- 2. ONLINE**  
at [tsc.nyc/give](https://tsc.nyc/give)
- 3. MAIL**  
**check or money order**  
Times Square Church  
Attn: Finance  
1657 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10019





# Looking Back, Moving Forward

*As we look back on stories of  
God moving through our lives,  
we can move forward with  
encouragement and anticipation  
of what He will do next.*

**by Anna Ivanishchuk**

## **FRANKLIN'S STORY**

Franklin and his wife have been leading the “Prayers for the Seasons for All” group for nearly three years. They have been attending Times Square Church (TSC) since 2005 and were originally part of TSC Bronx. After TSC Bronx closed, they transitioned to the Manhattan location. Unable to attend Bible studies in the Bronx anymore, they started the prayer connect group. Despite occasionally wanting to take a break, the group members consistently express their desire to continue, including participants from as far as Singapore and California—one even wakes up at 3 a.m. to join in prayer.

In addition to leading the prayer group, Franklin serves as a co-advisor for a Christian club at a community college. This past year, many students stopped by to learn more about the club, and 40 signed up. Franklin shared that the community college environment allows him to engage with a wide variety of people, from freshmen just beginning their college journey to adults returning to school, as well as faculty members. He is deeply grateful for the opportunities to share Jesus with them.

To read more stories or to submit your testimony, check out **[tsc.nyc/stories](https://tsc.nyc/stories)**.



# STAY CONNECTED

**AT TIMES SQUARE CHURCH  
VISIT TSC.NYC**



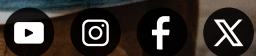
**Submit  
a Prayer  
Request**

---

**Explore  
Connect  
Groups**

---

**Subscribe  
friends to this  
Newsletter**



**tsc.nyc**