

## Pewsheets Extra 14 – Sarah Peters

Sarah has completed her year in Romania but feels called to continue her work there with Firm Foundations so she will return soon for a further year. Sarah has produced two further articles about her time in Romania and these form this week's Pewsheets Extra.

### He provides.

As part of the internship program, we have been reading the autobiography of George Muller, an incredibly prayerful and faithful man who set up a Scriptural Knowledge Institution for the purpose of supporting missionaries, providing Sunday school and day classes to adults and children and providing bibles and tracts, and who pastored 2 churches. In addition, he felt led to set up 5 orphanages in Bristol in 1800s, providing care, education, and spiritual guidance for thousands of orphans. He did all this with full trust that God would provide for all their needs from their physical health and wellbeing, land and finances for building the orphanages, for the salaries for all the staff, to the bread on the table at dinner time. Many times they would have nothing left, and God would provide just as much as they needed, just as they needed it. Muller held firm to this trust and documented his journey for the sole purpose of proving God's faithfulness to those who trust in Him, so that others may see God and give Him all the glory.

His incredible story and faith greatly challenged and inspired me, and caused me to reflect and take notice of all of the times God has provided for me also.

For my family, there's a poem that's been passed down and shared, inspired by Matthew 6:25-27:

Said the robin to the sparrow,

“I should really like to know,  
Why these anxious human beings  
Rush about and worry so.”

Said the sparrow to the robin,  
“Friend I think that it must be,  
That they have no Heavenly Father,  
Such as cares for you and me.”

– Elizabeth Cheney

I have been very blessed to have been raised in a family that has leant on this and trusted in God to provide, and he has graciously done so always. Yet, it's not always easy to remember and to spot. God has really encouraged me recently, through personal circumstances and Mueller's story, not only to see how God provides for me, but also how God uses me to provide for others.

A few weeks ago I recruited a few of the girls from the teens project to come and help me deep clean FFR's volunteer apartment while no one was staying there for a week. It had been a very busy week for me, and I hadn't had time to shop, so had very little food on my shelves. The night before the deep clean, I felt a strong urge to go to the store to see if they had a cleaning product we didn't have. I would never usually go shopping that late at night, and the store would only be open for one more hour, we could do without the cleaner, but I couldn't help the

feeling I had to go. The cleaner I needed wasn't there, but I picked up a couple of food bits, some bread, a frozen pizza, and I can't explain it but I felt that night there was still a purpose in me doing that. The girls and I the next day spent almost 3 hours deep cleaning the apartment on a very hot day. The girls then told me there was another activity they had to go to and they wouldn't have time to go home to eat before that. Only because I had gone to the store the night before did I have pizza to offer them, and (Heinz!) beans on toast for the one who had earlier said she was craving beans! I just knew that God had sent me on that late night stroll so that I would have what I needed to bless the girls with the food they needed, after they blessed me helping me clean. It was such a joy to hand, really the only food I had, to these girls. I also got 3 invitations to dinners that week, so despite me having empty shelves God also provided for me and I did not go hungry either.

This experience brought me such joy and wonder at the awesome power of God. He really does care for us, and sees what we do not yet see. He provided when I did not even know I would need!



This is just one of the countless ways God has provided for me during my time here in Romania, and throughout my life. I have also been thoroughly blessed with finances, just as I've needed it, provisions of items such as furniture, just as I have needed it, and words of encouragement and support from friends or through bible readings and devotionals, just as I have needed.

God is gracious to provide, and that is so incredibly humbling.

For those inspired by this, I really encourage you to read George Mueller's autobiography and to "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

## Reflections on hope, faith, love...

### Hope

This past year I have had the pleasure and privilege to have worked with many volunteers from around the world, each with a heart for loving, serving and caring for the babies, kids and families in Brasov and Romania who are poor, cast out, and downtrodden. These people bring life and love to those they meet and work with. Their heart, dedication and God's love for our families give me hope that our families will be loved, provided for and have a future that is promising.

*'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.'* 1 Peter 1:3-6



### Faith

This year I have learnt an awful lot about faith. I have learnt how faith grows in the good times and is tested in the hard times, only to grow and be strengthened further. I have learnt how faith combined with trust and obedience creates wonders, though not always in the way you expect. I have learnt, and am still learning, that faith without action is not faith at all. Faith is one of the greatest gifts God can give, for through faith by grace, all things are possible.

*"But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"* Matthew 14:30-31



## Love

This year I have experienced all kinds of love. Precious love for the babies I hold in my arms and who cling to my fingers, love for the vibrant and potential-filled kids in the Roma village, love for the parents who watch their children suffer in the hospital, who are unable to stay with their children, who are desperate and searching. I have experienced a deeper love for those back home, who I miss, and those I work with here through the ups and downs of Romanian life. I have experienced a love for the things that have pushed me out of my comfort zones and helped me to believe God's love for me and all that that entails.

The more I have grown to know God, the more I love Him and His ways, and the more He fills my heart with His love for the world and His people.

*'We love because he first loved us.' 1 John 4:19*



I came here seeking to share and to find Hope, Faith and Love in Romania, and I for sure found it and so much more! I thank God for leading me here, for providing me with so many amazing opportunities and challenges to help me grow. I thank Him for His faithfulness and provision, and for His grace.

When I reflect on this past year I am overwhelmed with love and joy, and excitement for the future - 'For greater things have yet to come and greater things are still to be done in this city!'

I now look forward to spending 6 weeks with family and friends at home, and to then returning here to the city and the people that God has filled me with love for, and seeing what the next year here brings!

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has supported me, and continues to support me, through prayer, caring words and messages, donations and various encouragements along the way. God has graciously provided for all my needs, and I really appreciate all of your support!