



Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

Hello and welcome to Scripture Untangled, a podcast by the Canadian Bible Society. My name is Joanna la Fleur. I'm a friend of the Canadian Bible Society and I'm going to be your guide for today's episode.

Today, seasoned journalist Lorna Dueck will be interviewing Rosemary Siemens. Originally from Plum Coulee, Manitoba, five-time gospel music award-winning violinist and vocalist, Rosemary Siemens has performed at the Grand Ole Opry, four times at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, four times at Carnegie Hall, and for two U.S. presidents and Canadian prime ministers. She was the first violinist to ever perform at the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican since its first mass in 1483.

So, in addition to her multiple music awards, Rosemary was also awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal and the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her contributions to the arts in Canada and received a letter of thanks from the Queen herself for her recorded version of God Save the Queen. Rosemary's weekly YouTube show, Sunday Hymn Serenade, Bring Back the Hymns, has received over 150 million views on YouTube. So please enjoy this conversation between Rosemary and Lorna.

Lorna Dueck: Rosemary, welcome to Scripture Untangled.

Rosemary Siemens: Thank you so much. It's so great to be here.

Lorna Dueck: Oh, what a wonderful blessing you have brought to so many through your YouTube pioneering. And I guess it's not pioneering anymore, but I remember when it was.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

But Rosemary, you've just got such a broad audience. When did this start? When did you start playing hymns and your violin in this way?

Rosemary Siemens: Well, hymns have always been a part of my life, which is so cool. My mom started me on piano, violin, and voice when I was a baby.

She saw that I had a love for music and had a talent for music from the age of one, she said. And so, my first songs were hymns. And so they've always been a part of me.

My parents led congregational singing at a small church in Plum Coulee, Manitoba, Canada. And they led hymns for over 50 years. And you know, my first performances were playing at that church special music, which they don't have very much anymore in churches.

But that's the way I grew up and how I learned to improvise, how to play the hymns. And so, they've always been a part of me. And I've had many different groups along my journey.

I've played with the Canadian Tenors. I've had a pop opera group. I've had Roy and Rosemary, which is a crossover piano and violin. Had so many different groups. But I always tried to incorporate a hymn along the way. And that was always my favorite.

And so, in 2019, my husband Eli and I really felt a calling to start putting these hymns on YouTube. So, we started, and we were touring so much just the year before I'd had my first son. And we, I think, played 150 shows in 100 cities between the two of us, which was such a crazy year.

And I was pregnant that whole time. And, you know, so we were like, how do we find the time for this? So, we just started, we started slowly. And then a few months later is when COVID hit.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

And all of our gigs for the next foreseeable future were cancelled. And so, we thought now we finally have the time to invest in this project. And so, we said, you know what? People aren't even going to church now.

Let's do twice a week. Let's do a Sunday video. And then on Wednesday, let's do one with, that has beautiful lyrics with maybe an ocean scene or a beautiful scene from nature, so people can sing along. And that's how it started.

And so people just started coming there because they couldn't sing in church, things like that.

And it's grown from literally nothing. And we, you know, at the time we were living in Burnaby, and we had this one little white wall, and we thought let's film there. It's where we kept all our suitcases.

So, every time we would film, we'd have to move all the suitcases, and we'd put up our little iPhone. And Eli at the time was writing music for TV and film. And he didn't know how to record vocals at that time.

And so, his dad is an award-winning producer. So, his dad gave him a few lessons. And we literally started from nothing on this little white wall and now has grown into this like amazing channel that's touching millions worldwide.

So, it's honestly only a God thing because Eli and I both were never planning on going into Christian music actually. Eli started as a; he's one of the top jazz saxophonists in Canada. And I did classical.

I did pop. I did all sorts of different styles. And so, to now land here is only a God thing.

Lorna Dueck: It is a God thing. This is also a COVID thing. Like this started when you were both locked down.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

Okay. So, what happens? You go down in your sweatpants, and you just start figuring it out, right?

Rosemary Siemens: Yeah, totally. Like, it started, I was on my keyboard, and I would play hymns.

And then my piano had a button that I could record myself. So, my first videos I think are just me playing on that piano, recording myself and playing violin over it. And then I think a friend's dad or a friend's mom passed away and said, could you play this hymn, and could you sing it? So, I think that was one of our first hymns where I sang. And Eli said, if we're going to do this, we're going to do this properly. So, we recorded the piano properly. Then I added my strings and then I sang on top of it.

And that's really where it started. And yeah, crazy.

Lorna Dueck: 150 million views is a phenomenal push from the Holy Spirit.

Like that is just, so you've learned something about the hunger. I read a few of the comments that are coming in on your YouTube channel, which has such an enormous amount of subscribers. But what did you start to learn about what's the hunger that's out there?

Rosemary Siemens: It's, you know, this is honestly from my hunger. It started with my hunger and my parents' hunger, because I would go back to Plum Coulee in the summertime. I love spending time. My dad's 87. He still farms full time. My mom was a music teacher. She still substitute teaches.

Lorna Dueck: And they're 87 and they still sing with you. Also, they both have a job.

Rosemary Siemens: Yes, we do.

Lorna Dueck: They're both working and they sing with and travel with you.

Rosemary Siemens: Yes, they do. I can get into the more of that later, but they're incredible.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

They've been so, so, so supportive. But I would go to their church, and we all didn't know the songs. We weren't singing harmony. We weren't sharing a hymnal anymore. There was not that sense of congregational singing. It was more like the band is playing where there's a disconnect there.

And so, we don't know the hymns. And that's how we grew up worshipping. And so that's just lost. And it was so sad to me. And I thought, I got to do something about this. And that's where that hunger for that bring back the hymns came along.

And then I found that thousands, hundreds of thousands, millions of people feel the same way. You know, the music is very, I don't say there's anything wrong with the new music, but you could have a combination. And I think I've shared this with you before, but there's a very cool statistic on our YouTube analytics is that almost 50% of our listeners are between the ages of 13 and 46.

We love our older generation, but how cool that the younger generation is learning from us as well. And so, it's very, very cool and promising to see all of these generations coming together because there's not a lot of music that brings so many generations together. And like we do on stage, it's so cool.

And you know, the other thing I forgot to mention before you said, when we were recording at our home, you said, what was it like? Well, we prerecord everything and then do our video. But during that time, our son Theodore was a baby. So often he was screaming at my feet while I'm recording.

And so, there was so many dynamics that we had to deal with, but it's been such a blessing. And I love that we can do this on the road together, that I have my parents help with our two boys and that we can get on the stage together. There's something very, very special about that.

I think people love seeing the generations singing together because that's what a lot of people grew up with, but it doesn't exist so much anymore.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

Lorna Dueck: Okay. You just gave us a whole lot of things to unpack there in that paragraph.

Wow. First of all, we should let the audience know, you often are three generations on stage, right? How old are the boys, your sons?

Rosemary Siemens: Yes. Theodore is six years old, and Amadeus is four years old, and they play violin, and they sing with us. And it's very cool. So, from having a four-year-old to an 87-year-old on stage, how cool.

Lorna Dueck: Yeah. But most of the time it's you and Eli, at least in the concerts I've been at, it's most of the time it's you and Eli, right?

Rosemary Siemens: Me and Eli, and then the boys are almost always on stage. And then whenever possible, my parents join us.

Lorna Dueck: Well, tell me about the conversation.

First of all, what kind of magic have you and Eli got in your marriage that you can do this?

Rosemary Siemens: Oh man, I think not many couples spend every waking hour together.

Lorna Dueck: I agree.

Rosemary Siemens: Seriously, a lot of people say, how do you do that? But we actually love it.

We're best friends and how we met was I was recording my Roy and Rosemary album with his dad. His dad was my producer. And so, we were recording at Eli's house and he was still living at home at the time and he came down the stairs.

And I think we played a game of ping pong. I think I won. And I think had some food.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

And that's when we first met and we became really good friends. He ended up playing on our album. And then that's just where our friendship started. And then it's just only grown from there.

Lorna Dueck: And he proposed to you at a concert with the saxophone. It's just, search it out folks. It's a really lovely piece.

Rosemary Siemens: That was very, very special. We were at my home in, well, just outside of Gretna, Manitoba. And he was supposed to be at a different show with his funk group. And I was in the middle of my show. And all of a sudden, I see him in the back with a white suit and playing, *Can't Help Falling in Love*.

And he gets on stage, and he puts the wedding ring inside the saxophone bell and gets down on one knee and proposes. And I was absolutely speechless. And so, our story began in such a beautiful way.

And it's only developed. And in our shows, I love to share our story because I think people love stories and they love falling in love with stories and people. And I think that's a very important part of what we do.

Lorna Dueck: And there's so much beautiful video. You know, it's funny you say, just outside of Gretna, Manitoba, as if this large audience at Scripture Untangled actually knows where Gretna, Manitoba is. You have to be like you and I from, have spent time living in Manitoba to know it's a very tiny town.

Rosemary Siemens: And I met you in Winkler, Manitoba.

Lorna Dueck: I know. And our paths have crossed so many times on wonderful things, including I think I want to let the audience know I was playing your hymns for my mom when she was dying.

And that was in January. And I would put my phone on her chest, and I put your hymns on, and I thought I should just text Rosemary that I'm letting mom listen in this going home to heaven stage. And then you showed up in person.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

I know it was only 20 miles apart, but you showed up in person. And I've had so many comments about, about how much your music means in hospital hospice settings. What have you learned about the power of music to comfort?

Rosemary Siemens: Yeah, Eli's idea was to do hymns in a different way.

It was to do them peacefully because everyone has loud music a lot, and so we wanted to do something different. And he wanted to produce my voice in a way that was very angelic. And so, we've made these sleeping compilations so that people can have peace, they can go to bed.

And even we listen to them every night before bed, my boys ask for them. And we found so many people have said things like you, we listen to them as our loved ones are passing away or as they're dealing with this illness and they bring hope, they bring healing. And that's been such an encouraging thing to hear.

Like getting that text from you was so special. And I thought, well, if I could go there yet and play for her before she passes, I mean, there's no greater gift than something like that. And the fact that I can do that, I can't do that obviously for everyone, but I was happy to do that for you.

And I think I've heard so many times that people with dementia and things like that, they hear a hymn and somehow, they're able to recall it. And often when they don't know the person in front of them, but all of a sudden, they're singing the lyrics to like, *How Great Thou Art*. How is that possible? It's incredible.

It's miraculous. And so, there's a deep connection with these hymns and these people have been singing them for their whole lives. It's their spiritual connection to God.

There's so many aspects to it, but the fact that they can find those words again and the melodies is incredible. It's a gift from God.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

Lorna Dueck: Well, okay, there's that portion of it, but then you have comments like, this was my dad's favorite hymn and now it is mine.

Rosemary Siemens: That's very cool.

Lorna Dueck: So, tell us what you've learned about reintroducing hymns. And I would say the church; many parts of the church have had a pause on hymns as they explored the new praise and worship formats.

What have you learned about hymns in the church?

Rosemary Siemens: I find our church occasionally does hymns and I find whenever they do do hymns, all of a sudden the volume goes up. 100% people are singing in harmony. All of a sudden it's that familiarity and now it's this song one week, this song another week.

These songs have lasted hundreds of years and there's a thread. I don't know how to describe it, but there's something so powerful when people sing those hymns and my boys love the hymns. They love them.

They don't want the other music, but they have to be taught. And so, if there's this span now that people aren't learning the hymns, they're going to be gone. And that's why I'm so passionate about this because I feel like if this voice, if my voice can be heard about how these younger generations are yearning for the hymns, now they want that music.

You think about it, when someone's passing away, are they going to want to hear this top 40 hit? It's these songs like, *It Is Well With My Soul*, that bring peace, that bring comfort to a person. And they can do that at any age. I know when I pass away, that's the music that... It brings such assurance.

And so many of these hymns were written through such miraculous stories like, *It Is Well With My Soul*. The person that wrote it, Horatio Spatford, lost most of his family

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

on the water as they were on the ship. And to go into his room and write the words, "it is well with my soul," is so unbelievable.

It's only a gift from God. And so, these stories have stood the test of time, and I believe will continue to. And that's why we are on this mission.

Lorna Dueck: So, tell us what you've seen in church culture then, as you've traveled, as you've navigated this. Tell us what's going on with our hunger for worship between both the praise and worship genre, your genre, there's some that do classical. What have you observed about church culture in this journey?

Rosemary Siemens: I find right now that the churches are all towards smoke, light, dark. It's not, let's open the windows, let's let the brightness in, let's sing these hymns. And a lot of that has to do with the fact that the churches are filming as well. So, they need a dark space, but I think we've lost a lot in that.

But I feel that the pendulum always swings. We know that the pendulum always swings. And I think that there's, even in social media now, you feel that there's a hunger for authenticity.

And I believe those hymns are authentic. And I feel that we will go back there and it's starting to happen, but it will take time. And I don't know, there's something just so, so real about those songs.

And I always feel that when we do hymns in church, I mean, everyone says, it's like, there's a familiarity there and they're so rich in theology. That's the biggest thing about the hymns. It's like reading the Bible when you sing these hymns, but putting it to music, like what David did in the Bible.

And so, it's very profound, very powerful. There's an anointing on those songs. And now today, I just saw something about this, but how a lot of the modern songs, people aren't even aware about this, but these songs are owned by big record labels that aren't Christian.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

They're non-Christians writing a lot of these songs, which is crazy because these hymns should be anointed, I believe, and guided by the Holy Spirit when writing these hymns. And to think now, okay, five songwriters sit in a room and say, okay, what would Christians like to hear? Or asking ChatGPT, write us a hymn that Christians would like, you know, it's so far from what it should be.

The Bible Course: Pausing the conversation here with Rosemary and Lorna to tell you about The Bible Course, because whether you're a seasoned Bible reader or you're just starting on the journey, The Bible Course offers an amazing overview of the world's best-selling book.

This eight-session course will help you grow in your understanding of the Bible. Using a unique storyline, The Bible Course shows you how key events, books, and characters all fit together. It's great for in-person groups or for digital gatherings.

It really could be used anywhere you like. So, watch the first session for free and review the accompanying course guide. Go to BibleCourse.ca to learn more.

That's bible course . c a. And the link to this and all the other things we discuss will be down in the show notes.

Lorna Dueck: Wow. Well, let's talk a little bit about how you and the Bible got connected to hymns.

So, you mentioned since you were one year old, your mother was exposing you to this. How did the Bible start to shape your life?

Rosemary Siemens: My earliest memory was having my dad's Bible always on the kitchen table. I remember when we were a kid, we would even go on vacations and

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

my dad, in the first thing in the morning, he would always read his Bible and do his devotions.

And sometimes I was like, dad, everyone else is out doing stuff and why do we have to sit here? But what a testimony of that, just doing it every day. And that was the greatest example for me, both my mom and dad reading their Bible, doing their devotions every single day. And it's made it so important for me now with my boys.

Every night before bed, we read the Bible. My son, Theodore, both of them have such a hunger and passion for the Bible. But Theodore at age two was already reciting Psalm 91 and I was taking videos of him reciting long passages.

There's a wisdom there that is beyond me, honestly. And so, he always wanted to hear the Bible. So, from age one or two, we started reading the Bible every night and now with both the boys.

And so, we've gotten through the Bible. We just finished now two and a half times we've gone through the Bible with them.

Lorna Dueck: Come on, you have read your Bible cover to cover with your children who are less than eight years old.

Rosemary Siemens: Less than six, yeah, or six and under. Well, I do it on audio. And so, we listen every night to a couple chapters and now it's been over two and a half times.

And I'm telling you, when Theodore asks questions, he's right listening. He knows what's happening. He's like asking crazy questions.

It's unbelievable. So, we've done this. I never did that as a child.

I don't even know when the first time I went through the Bible. So, for me, it's like, I'm re-finding my relationship with God through this experience with my children because seeing it through their eyes, them asking questions, Amadeus is like funny.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

He's like, mommy, what are we going to wear when we get to heaven? How are we going to get to heaven? He has like the cutest questions. And then Theodore with his just, I can't even tell you the depth of his mind, but I'm pretty sure he's going to be a preacher one day, a musician, probably a preacher. And yesterday, Amadeus said he wants to be a preacher too.

So, who knows? But I just love their hunger for the Word because you don't see that in teenagers, adults. And like, it's incredible. And I feel very, very blessed that they both have that.

And so I thought, how can I get them to really know the Scripture? What I would do, because people say, how did you get him to recite Psalm 91, Psalm 23? All of these just from memory. And both of them, they all have the books of the Bible memorized. Amadeus at two years old had them memorized.

And so every single night, it's been that dedication, just like my dad every morning, but it was implanted from my dad. I read and then I would recite, I would read to them the same Scripture. I would read Psalm 91, Psalm 23.

And when I started, this was very interesting. When I started this, I think Theodore was one or two. And I said, we're going to do every letter of the alphabet.

We're going to do a verse four. So, it was A, ask and it will be given. Seek and you will find. B, be kind one to another. I started doing this. And at two, we were home in Manitoba, and he recited the whole thing.

And I thought, what is this? I was so shocked. And so I thought, the mind, I'm like, I need to be doing more of this. So then I started everything, and I would spend 15 minutes, just the same Scripture every night.

And he would just memorize them. I think people underestimate the power that kids can memorize and how they can get this into their heart at a young age. It's unbelievable.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

So now what I started doing, because sometimes you run out of time, you want to do more at nighttime, but there tired; and so, on the way to school, you have a long drive. And what I do, I write a new Bible song.

I call it, sing the Scripture. I've been posting a few of them lately, but I write a song for different Scriptures. And now we have maybe 20 or 30 of them and they don't know all of these, and they memorize them in one day.

And so, I'm hoping that I can post these so that other kids will learn them. And so it's just a very quick way that people memorize even more with music. And so it's a way that kids can get the Bible into their hearts and their minds.

And now I'm waking up and I'm singing Scripture. Like before I was never waking up and thinking of this Scripture, but now it's in my mind because I'm singing it. So, it's amazing.

It's an amazing new thing that we've started just in the last few months.

Lorna Dueck: You are a great feature for Scripture Untangled because you really are untangling the Scripture and putting it into the drive to school, the bedtime tuck-in. It's just part of your professional performance, part of your family, your mothering.

And it really began at just watching your parents read to you as a child.

Rosemary Siemens: Yeah. And my dad was never one. My mom or dad was never one. I would call him a silent witness. That's what I would call him.

He was never judging people. They were always very kind to everyone. And you always knew he was just like salt of the earth.

You know, the farmer, like just a good person, Christian man, great family. But it was that silent witness that I think has spoken to so many people. And I hope that I can continue that.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

Some people have the gift for preaching and stuff. That was not him, but it was an internal thing that you just felt in his actions and how he communicated with people. So, it's very special.

And so, I love that legacy that my parents have now put into me and now into my kids. And to see that thread through that all is pretty incredible.

Lorna Dueck: So, what is sustaining you in the very public life you guys have, and a very unique life? There are a lot of churches who go, "oh, you sing hymns. No, thanks. We don't do those anymore." And so, this is your living.

This is how you guys support your family. Although Eli's work, as you say, crosses right over into pop culture. He played at the Junos.

We see him all over the place, award winning in his own profession. But yeah, what sustains you through saying, no, this is the path I'm going to go?

Rosemary Siemens: Well, we've been very fortunate that now YouTube can basically sustain us financially, which is amazing. And so now we can kind of have the opportunities that we would like.

Like, for example, we got the opportunity last year to close the Inspirational Country Music Awards. That was at the Grand Ole Opry. And we got to share the stage with three generations, closing the show with a hymn sing.

The doors that God is opening is like unbelievable. And they actually asked me to do an altar call at the end of the show.

Lorna Dueck: I saw that. That was remarkable.

Rosemary Siemens: And they had asked me to do it. And then I was at a revival meeting by my, well, now a friend, Pastor Jonathan Shuttlesworth. And I had really felt in my heart that he should be doing that revival. And so, I asked him at the revival service in Langley.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

I said, would you want to do this? And I said, if I can get permission. And he says, I'll be there. So I texted him. I said, I got permission. And he showed up at the Opry. I was sitting in the Opry already watching the show.

And he texts me, he says, I'm backstage. Just so you know, he came in and preached for about seven minutes. I would say about 80% of that Grand Ole Opry stood up and either gave their lives to Jesus or rededicated their lives.

And it was unbelievable. And he left, he came for basically seven minutes and went back to Pittsburgh and just unbelievable. And to meet people like this along the way is pretty, pretty remarkable.

And to have these opportunities. We're now in works to, I haven't really announced it yet, but in the works to do a *Bring Back the Hymns* concert at Carnegie Hall.

Lorna Dueck: Yeah, I'm glad you are announcing it. You are announcing it now.

You can tell us about Carnegie Hall.

Rosemary Siemens: Yeah, we're just in the beginning stages, but we're hoping to do it May 26th, 2026. And we'll invite people to join the choir if they want.

They can come to New York. It would be like a five day, four-night experience with us where they'd be singing the hymns on stage with us at Carnegie Hall. We'd like to invite choirs to join as well, or you can just come in the audience.

We'll have some sing along times as well. And I think we'll start the show probably with just my family, and then the show will build with orchestra, with choir, and it will be an experience that has never been done before at Carnegie Hall. A *Bring Back the Hymns* live at Carnegie Hall with Rosemary Siemens.

I think it's going to be remarkable. So we hope that everything goes smoothly and that that happens. And, but we're very excited for the prospect of that.

Lorna Dueck: Wow. Wow. And we touched on this at the beginning.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

How are you going to, how do you anticipate, maybe this is too forward thinking, but how is this going to shape as the boys age? They're going to be independent minded, you know, within four or five years.

Rosemary Siemens: Yeah, I've thought of that. And that's why I really wanted this to be just always a part of what they do, that they love the hymns, that they love being on stage, I look to people like *The Collingsworth Family* where they're now touring with the parents, the kids, and now the grandkids.

And I pray that we can have this as a touring family that would continue as they have kids, that we can do the same thing in three generations, join on stage. That would be my hope and my dream. And maybe if they become a preacher, they can do a sermon in the middle and use whatever gifts that they're given to somehow incorporate this.

And, you know, I'm hoping that even when we're gone, that they can continue this channel in their own way. If it's preaching, if it's singing hymns, if it's, you know, I've thought about that. And I think it's a great legacy that I would hope if that is their passion and the path that God puts them on, that they could help continue it.

Lorna Dueck: You are very focused. You are very determined. But this is a calling, a calling that you have.

Rosemary Siemens: It is.

Lorna Dueck: What sustains you when it gets tough, Rosemary? What sustains you?

Rosemary Siemens: I think at the end of the day, it's amazing that Eli and I are best friends and that we can at the end of the day, laugh about things. And just that we can pray before everything we do.

Like even this, we pray before that. We pray before every filming opportunity. We pray that God would open doors that we couldn't imagine.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

We pray that would put people in the right path, that this would touch people. I mean, it's all about the people and drawing them closer to Him. And maybe you want to touch on this later, but we're doing something now, you know, we felt very passionate about the fact that we now have over 625,000 subscribers.

God has given us this incredible, incredible chance to witness to people. And we thought, you know, we're bringing hope. Some people have said they've gotten healed through these hymns, but how can we actually get people saved through our hymns and through our channel? And so, we decided to do a hymn, *Just as I Am*, which a lot of people were saved during the singing of this at Billy Graham Crusades.

And so, we decided let's record this with a 50-voice choir, Clearbrook Hymn Sing Choir in Abbotsford. And we did this in fall, and we haven't released it yet, but I had this idea, let's do an altar call in the middle of the hymn, which I don't think has ever been done before. But we thought this way, we know that we have officially shared the Gospel with everyone on our channel.

And I think this song ties generations together because it's the older generations that will know this song. Even before we prayed with the choir recording this, so many were in tears and just remembering being at those crusades. I was at one as well.

And just remembering that and the moment that people had and that experience that they had with God walking forward. Now hopefully the people that had that will share it with their children, with their grandchildren. And I pray that we will have more people enter the Kingdom of God because of that hymn.

Lorna Dueck: And that is also going to be part of the big Carnegie Hall, of making a larger presence in the U.S. as well. I'm sure.

Rosemary Siemens: Yeah, we're really trying to get into the U.S. Our biggest demographic is the U.S., about 27%, but we've reached every country in the world now.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

We actually ...

Lorna Dueck: I saw that.

Rosemary Siemens: Our top city now is New York City, which is crazy. And we've even been on the news in Kenya.

They were playing our Lent compilation of all things in Africa. They were playing..., we were like, we're on the news in Africa? This is crazy. And so, it's just really gone global.

But we would like to broaden our reach even more in the United States. And so that's what we're working on now as well. Because yeah, that hymn will really, I think, touch a lot of people in the USA because a lot of the work was done there with those crusades. So yeah, we will see what happens.

Lorna Dueck: I find it very interesting that you run, I'm going to say you've got two tracks running. You don't slow down for, even though you're our Canadian treasure, you don't slow down for the Canadian church to catch up to the hunger for hymns.

You just have pioneered this. And I do remember before YouTube was just barely launching, you having a conversation and saying, what do you think? Can we do this? Can we do that? And look what has happened. You have not waited for church culture to catch up in the privacy of people's homes on their own devices. They are turning by the millions to hymns.

Rosemary Siemens: Yeah. On average, we get about 200,000 views every 48 hours, if you can imagine.

Lorna Dueck: Let's just let our audience think about that. 200,000 views every 48 hours. There's not a church in this country that is anywhere close to that.

But that is the spiritual hunger for your traditional capturing of the hymns.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

Rosemary Siemens: That's right. It's pretty profound, hey? And I'll tell you at Christmas and Easter, we've reached 800,000, 900,000 every 48 hours. So, it's unbelievable.

Lorna Dueck: Christmas and Easter.

Rosemary Siemens: Yeah, those are the times, you know, the churches are more full during those times.

But that's when our channel grows even more because people are hungry during those times, probably because maybe they grew up going to church during those times. And so, they look for the hymns even more during that time.

Lorna Dueck: How do they find it, Rosemary? How do 800,000 people find a hymn?

Rosemary Siemens: People searching on Google, searching for Christian hymn, Christmas hymn..., something like that.

Lorna Dueck: Christmas hymn.

Rosemary Siemens: You know, we have a lot of these sleep compilations looking for peaceful hymns. And so ...

Lorna Dueck: Sleep music, yes.

Rosemary Siemens: I think that's been a big part. We have almost 10 million views on one of our sleep compilations. And people just, and it's like 12 hours long, people listen all night long. So that I do the same thing.

I mean, when my boys want to go to bed, they say, can we listen to the hymns? And I put on the sleep compilation and then they fall asleep and then, yeah. It's unbelievable, but I use it myself. And so, I know it works.

Yeah, so it's pretty amazing. But I'll tell you something very interesting this last week that happened. Because you never know who is listening.

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

And I got a message on Instagram from a lady named Cheryl Price. And she said, I'd like to give a donation to your ministry. How could I do so? So, I sent her a message back.

And then she sent me another message. She said, just so you realize this is my name. My mom is Betty. My dad is this. And then I was telling Eli's parents about this. And we were just talking about this and that they give us this amazing donation.

And then Eli's dad goes, that's not, is Betty's husband Frederick? And I said, yeah. So, this was Frederick Price, who was one of the greatest preachers from the US. Televangelist, he had the biggest church in the US, black preacher.

And his 91-year-old wife learned how to use YouTube during COVID to hear preaching. And she saw my hymns. She says, I don't like the music that's going on in the Christian circles anymore. This is what her daughter told me. And she said, I love that she's bringing back the hymns. And her daughter Cheryl said, I can hear your hymns playing in our house day and night.

And it has sustained my mom for the last four years. And my mom wanted to say thank you with a gift. And to reach one of the biggest preachers' wives in America.

And also, the fact that these hymns go across every ethnicity too. It's not just generations. A 91-year-old, a black person, I love how, there's no boundaries.

You know, I love this about the hymns. And so, I said, thank you so much. And she was sending messages from her mom back and forth to us.

And I said, I hope I can meet you one day. And she says, God has a way of making that happen. So pretty, pretty amazing.

Lorna Dueck: Okay, Rosemary, we've got to wrap it up, but there's somebody listening who has not yet discovered your channel and your hymns. Just give them a little nudge. What should they look for? What should they begin with?

Scripture Untangled

Season 10: Episode 10 | Rosemary Siemens | How Can Hymns Help You Learn Scripture?

Rosemary Siemens: Yes, just go to YouTube and search Rosemary Siemens, or you can go [youtube.com slash Rosemary Siemens](https://www.youtube.com/search?q=Rosemary+Siemens).

And you'll find all the hymns there. If you want to just search your favorite hymn with my name after it, you'll find it. Probably we've done hundreds of hymns or a sleep compilation with my name.

You'll find it. And it's very easy to find. Just go on YouTube and search.

And I have a website as well with shows, [rosemarysiemens.com](https://www.rosemarysiemens.com). And yeah, that's where they can go.

Lorna Dueck: Well, Rosemary, thank you for joining Scripture Untangled.

Rosemary Siemens: Thank you.

Lorna Dueck: Thank you for reminding us that our old hymns are full of Scripture. We really appreciate the gift of you being with us today.

Rosemary Siemens: Thank you so much for helping me bring back the hymns.