

BOOK CLUB REVIEW

Your Neighbours Are Real and Other Beautiful Things

“There are beautiful people living in your neighbourhood. Patience is a way of helping you to see them as they already are.” (page 79)

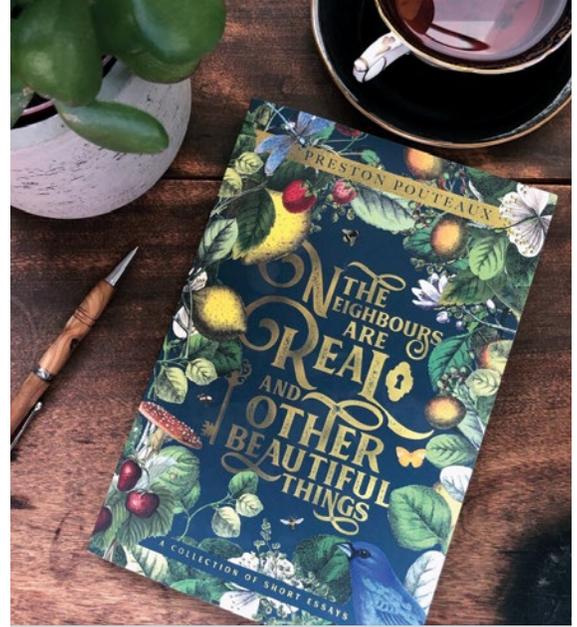
BY RENÉE JAMES

PLEASE RUN to READON BOOKSTORE and get your copy of *The Neighbours Are Real and Other Beautiful Things*, our book club read for September/October. This collection of short essays captivated me. Perhaps it was the whimsical charm of the cover art that drew me in. Perhaps it was author Preston Pouteaux himself. I'd never before encountered the words of an author who is both pastor and beekeeper.

Pouteaux cleverly groups his essays into sections named after the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. For weeks now I've lingered on the essays in patience. “The fruit of patience grows in the life-garden of those who have discovered that God is patient with them,” he writes in the essay titled “Expectant Patience.”

When I read this book, I have to do what Pouteaux suggests we all do when it comes to neighbourhoods: slow down. I slow down because he shares humble yet life-changing insights about how to really see my neighbourhood and the people who live and work there alongside me.

I slow down because his beautiful writing invites me to. He offers his insights with such thought and care, I feel like I'm standing beside



Mark the Date

Join Baptist Women staff this fall and let's imagine together. Preston Pouteaux joins us on **October 25 at 7 p.m. EST** to lead a workshop called: **The Neighbours Are Real: Re-Imagining How to Love Your Neighbours the Way Jesus Does**. Registration opens online at baptistwomen.com in mid-September. Registration cost: \$10

him, lingering in the warmth of a Chestermere, Alberta sun while he pulls honeycomb from one of his beehives to share some of its goodness with me.

Finally, I slow down because when I read these essays, I realize I'm in the company of love. Pouteaux pastors his bees and his people – his family, friends, neighbours – with such love I cannot help but linger. One page, one essay at a time. I slow down because I realize that Pouteaux, like any true pastor or author, also loves his readers.

Faced with his words, I sit and begin to imagine how to love my neighbours the way Jesus does. ❶

A HISTORY MOMENT

The Core of Discipleship

“UNLESS WE HAVE GOD'S LOVE, his peace, his salvation in our own lives, we cannot offer that wholeness and love to others. Unless we live in committed congregations and accept the cost that discipleship brings with it, we cannot teach others the meaning of true discipleship.” ❶

—Lois Crofoot, BCOQ president 1978–79 and member of the BWMA' outreach committee, in the May 1981 Link & Visitor

*The Link & Visitor, the previous name of this magazine.