

## Hymns 101 – Lord, Thy Church on Earth is Seeking

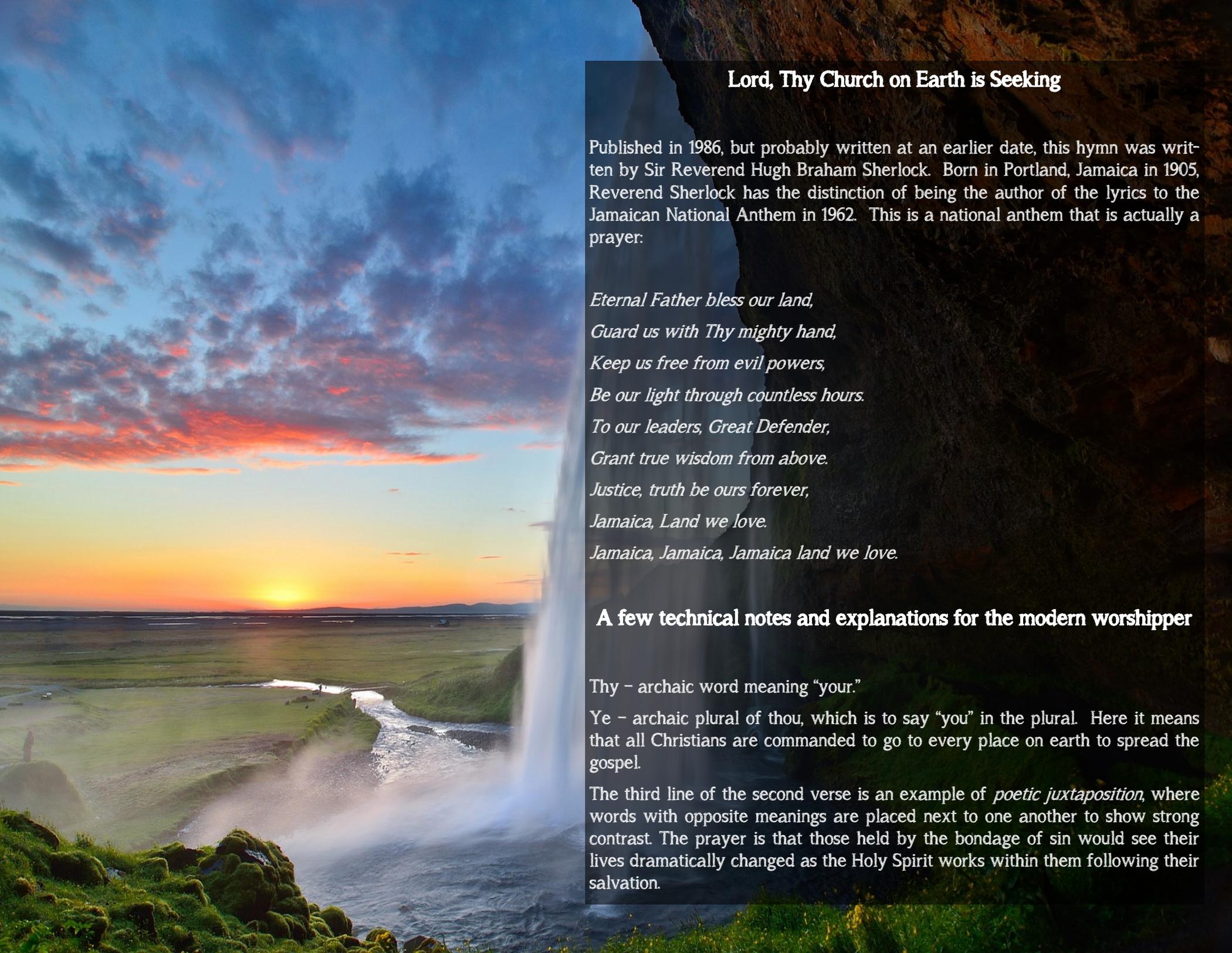
*Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."*

John 4:34-38 (ESV)

Lord, Thy Church on Earth is Seeking  
Thy renewal from above;  
Teach us all the art of speaking  
With the accent of Thy love.  
We would heed Thy great commission;  
"Go ye into every place;  
Preach, baptize, fulfill My mission,  
Serve with love and share My grace."

Freedom give to those in bondage,  
Lift the burdens caused by sin;  
Give new hope, new strength and courage,  
Grant release from fears within.  
Light for darkness, joy for sorrow;  
Love for hatred, peace for strife.  
These and countless blessings follow  
As the Spirit gives new life.

In the streets of every city  
Where the bruised and lonely dwell,  
We shall show the Savior's pity,  
We shall of His mercy tell.  
In all lands and with all races  
We shall serve and seek to bring  
All the world to render praises,  
Christ, to Thee, Redeemer, King.



## Lord, Thy Church on Earth is Seeking

Published in 1986, but probably written at an earlier date, this hymn was written by Sir Reverend Hugh Braham Sherlock. Born in Portland, Jamaica in 1905, Reverend Sherlock has the distinction of being the author of the lyrics to the Jamaican National Anthem in 1962. This is a national anthem that is actually a prayer:

*Eternal Father bless our land,  
Guard us with Thy mighty hand,  
Keep us free from evil powers,  
Be our light through countless hours.  
To our leaders, Great Defender,  
Grant true wisdom from above.  
Justice, truth be ours forever,  
Jamaica, Land we love.  
Jamaica, Jamaica, Jamaica land we love.*

### A few technical notes and explanations for the modern worshipper

Thy – archaic word meaning “your.”

Ye – archaic plural of thou, which is to say “you” in the plural. Here it means that all Christians are commanded to go to every place on earth to spread the gospel.

The third line of the second verse is an example of *poetic juxtaposition*, where words with opposite meanings are placed next to one another to show strong contrast. The prayer is that those held by the bondage of sin would see their lives dramatically changed as the Holy Spirit works within them following their salvation.