

THE Apostolic Faith

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

APRIL — JUNE 2018

S EEDS SOWN; SOULS SAVED

AGAPE: KNOW GOD'S LOVE
HELP FOR THE HURTING
FOUND BY THE ONE TRUE GOD
SHOW ME THY GLORY

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VIEWPOINT

BY DARREL LEE

Reading Mark Worthington's article *Help for the Hurting* (page 31), reminds me of what author Steven Estes once wrote, "God permits what He hates to achieve what He loves."¹ God has a purpose in our hurting.

To declare that we know why God allows and even orchestrates unpleasant or catastrophic events would be to elevate our thinking to the level of God's thinking. We cannot fathom the mind of God, nor do we completely understand His purpose for our hurting. However, we are confident that Romans 8:28 is true, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." That promise provides assurance that our pain does not escape the notice of the Lord. Furthermore, we can be certain that the suffering we endure contributes to the fulfillment of God's plan for our lives, if we face it according to His will.

Joseph is a Biblical example of one who benefitted by hurtful experiences. His jealous brothers sold him into servitude when he was just seventeen years of age. Joseph served faithfully while in the house of his master, Potiphar, and soon earned oversight of all that Potiphar had. However, he was eventually falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and imprisoned. Both of these events were painful experiences in

Joseph's life. However, during that thirteen-year period, we read that "God was with him" (Acts 7:9). Joseph learned to lean on the One who helped him cope during circumstances he could not understand.

We have the benefit of hindsight that Joseph lacked during that time. Not until years later could Joseph declare what he did not know when his brothers sold him, "God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance" (Genesis 45:7). Joseph realized that God's purpose was the preservation of a people He loved—the descendants of Abraham.

My parents faced some adversity, in both cases beginning early in their lives and continuing as they grew up during the Great Depression. Dad was born with a cleft palate—a condition that required surgery in an era when medical practice was less developed than it is today. Dad's mother died when he was still a child, and then his father abandoned him and his younger brother. Although older siblings lived in the same town and offered some oversight, the two younger boys mostly reared themselves. My mom's mother also died young, while Mom was still in her teens. Her father was an alcoholic, so she and her siblings had to learn how to get along during tough economic times with hurting hearts.

When Dad was in his late teens, he contracted rheumatic fever after enlisting in the Navy. He spent

over a year in a VA hospital, finally deciding that he needed to walk out of that hospital if he hoped to live, or resign himself to dying in it. Granted an honorable discharge, he walked out. Before he left, his doctors told him that not only would he not live long, he would not be able to have children.

A short time later, Mom and Dad met, and after a brief courtship they were married. They settled into farm life on the land where he grew up, on the banks of the North Umpqua River just outside Roseburg, Oregon.

God used painful events to shape my parents' character and mold them into individuals who would respond to the light of the Gospel.

This summer, still living on that same property, they will celebrate their seventy-first wedding anniversary. Mom just turned eighty-nine and Dad celebrates his ninety-second birthday in June, defying the predictions of his doctors. Children? Well, the doctors were wrong there as well. Seven children, twenty-one grandchildren, thirty-six great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren can amply testify to that.

God used painful events to shape my parents' character and mold them



(Top to bottom) Darwin and Maxine Lee in the early 1980s; The farmhouse he grew up in, which was also their first home together; A recent photo of the Lees.

into individuals who would respond to the light of the Gospel. The first day of 1975, Mom experienced salvation at the age of forty-five, and Dad followed suit a month later, at age forty-eight. They have served the Lord together for over half of their seventy years of marriage. Hurts? Trials? Yes, they have experienced a few, but we do not hear them speak of their challenges. They do not doubt that God has a plan, even if their understanding of that plan is limited.

May we have the spirit of Joseph when we endure the painful experiences sent by the enemy of our souls. Let us remember Joseph's words, "As for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive" (Genesis 50:20). We serve a God who has all power! We serve a God who loves us! And we serve a God who will not allow anything to come our way but that which will bring benefit. We pray that Brother Mark's article and this entire issue of *The Apostolic Faith* will encourage and inspire you.

¹ Joni E. Tada and Steve Estes, *When God Weeps*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997, page 84

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from the WORD

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

— 2 Timothy 2:15

AGAPE: KNOW GOD'S LOVE

Understanding the message of
1 Corinthians 13 and how God intends
us to treat others.



Rev. Darrel Lee is
Superintendent
General of the
Apostolic Faith
work and pastor of
the headquarters
church in Portland,
Oregon.

From a sermon by
DARREL LEE

In the English language, we use the word *love* in a variety of ways, at times employing it casually. We might say, “I love pizza,” declaring our enjoyment of a crispy crust and gooey cheese.

If we are pet owners, we may comment, “I love my dog”—after all, we are told that a dog is man’s best friend! Perhaps we tell our friends, “I love my job,” indicating that we find our work fulfilling or appreciate the paycheck. On a more significant level, we tell our spouses, “I love you” in an attempt to communicate the depth of our feelings. Whatever the importance or particular circumstances involved, we use this one word to describe feelings of affection, appreciation, or warm personal attachment.

In the original Greek of the New Testament, the writers used several words to specify different levels or types of love. In the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians, known by many as the “love chapter,” translators recognized that the Greek word *agape* used throughout the passage had a very deep and expressive meaning. Therefore, they did not translate *agape* as

love, but chose the word *charity* instead. While charity has a somewhat different meaning in the English language today, 1 Corinthians 13 is a beautiful passage when you understand the implications of the original word. *Agape* denotes the unconditional kind of love that God expressed toward us through Christ. It implies loving when there is nothing to evoke love, and nothing done to deserve it.

Other kinds of love are somewhat self-serving because a certain amount of gratification or reward results from the love we bestow. Pizza tastes good, our dog shows us affection, we receive a paycheck, or our spouses return our love. Charity—*agape* love—is not self-serving in the least. It seeks only the benefit of the one loved, even when there is no gratification in return. Charity is unconditional; it is unequivocal. It loves without regard to what it receives.

We see *agape* love personified on the Cross of Calvary. Why would Christ give His life for sinners who hated and rejected Him? Why would He turn to the thief next to Him and say, “Today shalt thou be with me in paradise”? He did so because He loves each individual unconditionally! Paul explained this in his epistle to the Romans, where we read, “God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ

died for us” (Romans 5:8). We were opposed to God. Some of us did not even acknowledge Him, let alone love Him. Still, He loved us though we certainly did not deserve it.

The church of Corinth, the recipient of Paul’s admonition about charity, possessed many spiritual gifts. Paul alluded to this in chapter 12, where he described the different gifts that exist in the body of Christ. God intends for the members of His body to work in harmony, just as the parts of the physical body work together. In 1 Corinthians 12:12 we read, “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.” Charity is the glue that holds the body of Christ together. Paul expressed this in Colossians 3:14, admonishing the believers at Colosse, “And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”

The Corinthians esteemed their spiritual gifts highly and apparently were quite proud of them. However, self-sacrificing love—the quality translated in 1 Corinthians 13 as “charity”—was lacking. The Lord distributed gifts as He would to each one in the church at Corinth, but how could the different members operate in unity without charity?

In 1 Corinthians 12:31, Paul admonished these believers, “Covet earnestly the best gifts: . . .” but then added, “. . . and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.” This “more excellent way” was to possess self-sacrificing love, or charity. Lacking it resulted in the divisions, contentions, jealousies, and competing self-centered factions that existed in this church. Paul wrote to correct those issues, recognizing that they were evidence of an underlying condition that needed to be rectified.

John the Beloved also expressed the supreme importance of love when he wrote in 1 John 4:20, “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his



Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not **charity**, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not **charity**, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not **charity**, it profiteth me nothing.

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; **charity** envieth not; **charity** vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

And now abideth faith, hope, **charity**, these three; but the greatest of these is **charity**.

1 CORINTHIANS 13

brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" The measure of our love for God correlates with the amount of love we have for the person we love least. We cannot love God more than that.

Paul begins chapter 13 by stating the fact that when charity is lacking, the words a person speaks become as meaningless as "sounding brass, or a tinkling [clanging] cymbal." While they may draw attention, they are just empty noise. The sound is futile; it conveys nothing.

He goes on to say that although a person has the gift of prophecy, great knowledge, or faith that can move mountains, these amount to nothing if the underlying quality of love is absent. Even if a person gave away all his possessions or suffered martyrdom, such gestures would have no profit without love.

The Apostle continues by giving a description of fifteen traits that are symptoms or evidence of the existence of charity. Like the believers at Corinth, we can measure our experience by these traits.

"CHARITY SUFFERETH LONG, AND IS KIND." Charity patiently bears with the misbehavior or injustice of others without animosity or a spirit of vengeance. If we possess charity, we are gracious toward those who are not behaving kindly toward us. It may also take into account that others may find us as difficult as we find them! Charity unfailingly demonstrates goodness and grace despite provocation.

"CHARITY ENVIETH NOT." It is not jealous or resentful when others are promoted or blessed; on the contrary, it rejoices in the successes of others and is always willing that others should be first.

"CHARITY VAUNTETH NOT ITSELF, IS NOT PUFFED UP." Those who possess charity are not self-promoting and do not seek to draw attention to themselves. Charity does not have an inflated opinion of self-worth. We live in a society where self-esteem is elevated, but Paul said that charity is not "puffed up." We do not look at others in a condescending manner. We simply are humbly determined to live for God.

CHARITY "DOETH NOT BEHAVE ITSELF UNSEEMLY." A walk of holiness is one of distinction—of being set apart for God. It will be marked by a holy and God-honoring lifestyle. Our behavior and values will not be guided by the behavior and values of the world. This will not win for us the applause of everyone in our classrooms or places of employment. In fact, our lives may condemn those who are living differently, even though there is no intention on our part to do so. A life of holiness certainly does not behave itself unseemly, but even more, it does not conduct itself in a manner where anyone could construe it to be on the fringes of unseemliness! Where there is charity, there will be circumspect behavior and good manners.

CHARITY "SEEKETH NOT HER OWN." We live in a narcissistic culture in which nearly everything is centered on self. However, charity "seeketh not her own." It does not have to be in the limelight or receiving attention in order to be satisfied. Paul wrote in Philippians 2:4, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." We want to be more concerned about others than we are about ourselves. Remember, Jesus made Himself of no reputation, taking on the form a servant, "and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:7-8).

CHARITY "IS NOT EASILY PROVOKED." The kind of love Paul is describing demonstrates patience rather than irritability toward those we deem to be showing impatience or irritability toward us. Notice that I said, "those we deem . . ." Others may not even realize that they are conveying an impression of impatience or irritability. Charity overlooks less than perfect behavior and refuses to give in to annoyance.

CHARITY "THINKETH NO EVIL." We assume that seemingly negative actions directed toward us are merely rooted in the frailties of human nature rather than any ill intent. We avoid ascribing a less-than-positive motive to anyone.

CHARITY "REJOICETH NOT IN INIQUITY." We refuse to participate in or be entertained by wickedness and evil, keeping in mind what is acceptable before God. If a form of entertainment glamorizes sin and elevates that which is unseemly, it is not something we will want to spend time on.

CHARITY “REJOICETH IN THE TRUTH.” Charity is happy and satisfied to focus on virtue—on things of integrity, honor, and that are pleasing to God. Sin and holiness cannot co-exist. In Romans 14:23 we read, “For whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” If we cannot pray, “God, bless and be with me as I go here . . .” or “as I think this . . .” or “as I engage in this . . .,” that is a good indicator to stay away from that thought or action.

CHARITY “BEARETH ALL THINGS.” There is a sense here of keeping silence when we observe a condition in someone else that seems not to be appropriate. We assume the best motives possible. Perhaps the action was an oversight, or the words were not meant the way they sounded. Charity puts a good construction on the actions of others, though not to the extent of compromise—there may come a point in time when we must declare our position. We cannot look the other way if doing so will compromise our integrity, because then what do we have to offer the world? The Gospel separates us from ungodliness, but it believes the best in others as long as the behavior in question is not immoral or sinful.

CHARITY “BELIEVETH ALL THINGS.” The verb translated “believeth” indicates having confidence in others. It does not imply naïve acceptance of anything and everything, but rather a mindset that is eager to assume the best about others.

CHARITY “HOPETH ALL THINGS.” Charity does not give up on others; it believes that there is always hope. It does not give up on oneself. We do not see missteps as a final failure, but look to the possibility of a turn-around. We have God on our side, so we hold fast to the thought that there is victory ahead. That is our hope.

CHARITY “ENDURETH ALL THINGS.” This is to have a quiet courage when under duress and experiencing trial. When challenges come, we are steadfast—not in our own strength but in the strength of our Lord.

“CHARITY NEVER FAILETH.” Paul concluded his description by asserting, “Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.” While the Corinthians had gifts that they admired and perhaps gloated over, those gifts were temporary and partial. They were not to be their highest aim.

Paul summed up his description by stating, “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” Charity is enduring and permanent. It will get us to the goal where we want to be—Heaven—and will last throughout eternity.

As we consider the admonition in this chapter, each of us must answer two questions. First, have you experienced God’s love in the plan of redemption that Jesus offers—a redemption obtained for you through His suffering on the Cross? No matter how sinful you are or how much of a failure you feel you have been, that love reaches out to you. God does not take your past into account when He offers

His unconditional love. He wants you, and each one of us, to come to Him in repentance and faith so that one day we can spend eternity with Him.

If you have experienced God’s love, the second question is, are you living a life of charity? Do you possess and demonstrate self-sacrificing love toward others? God bestows His love on us that we might in turn build up, strengthen, and encourage those around us. The gifts and privileges of this lifetime—the things which so absorbed the Corinthians—are temporary. Love is what unifies believers and makes our contributions of eternal value. ■



THE BOOK OF RUTH

A message of hope and redemption.

THIS ARTICLE is adapted from the *Daybreak/Discovery* curriculum series.

The Book of Ruth provides a historical picture of the plan of redemption. The events in the book transpired between 1375 and 1050 B.C., and the placement of the book in the Bible causes it to bridge the time between the period of the judges and when God granted the Children of Israel their request for a king. Although the author is unknown, a court historian probably wrote or completed it in Jerusalem during the reign of either David or Solomon.

This account is a romantic yet historic view of a Moabite woman who became an important part in the lineage of Christ. The events of the book began when an Israelite family moved to the land of Moab to escape a famine in Israel. After a period of time, the father died. The two sons married Moabite wives. Then the sons died, leaving the mother, Naomi, and the two daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah. Naomi longed to return to her roots, so she decided to go back to her homeland in Israel in spite of her love for Ruth and Orpah. She understood what it was like to live in a foreign land and discouraged them from returning with her. At Naomi's urging, Orpah stayed in Moab. Ruth, on the other hand, had bonded with Naomi and her God, and determined that she would accompany her mother-in-law back to Israel. This decision set the stage for a beautiful story of faithfulness, love, and marriage. Eventually, the Messiah would come from the line of Ruth the Moabitess and her Israelite second husband, Boaz.

The account of Ruth provides a marvelous illustration of redemption. The Old Testament Law made provision for women who, due to the death of their husbands, were left without heirs and faced the loss of their property. Both heirs (Deuteronomy 25:5-10) and property (Leviticus 25:25-28) were to be secured by a "close relative," or "kinsman redeemer." This law sanctioned the ancient custom of "brother-in-law" marriage, and the account of Ruth illustrates its proper application.

The kinsman redeemer had to meet three qualifications: he must be a blood relative, he must be willing to redeem, and he must be able to pay the redemption price. This illustration of the kinsman redeemer is a beautiful picture of Christ, who met all these qualifications to redeem us.

CHAPTER 1

Because of a famine in Israel, Elimelech, Naomi, and their two sons moved to Moab from Bethlehem. Moab was east of Israel, and its people (who were descendants of Lot) often troubled the Children of Israel. In Moab, the two sons married Gentile women, but in time, the father and both sons died. Widows were dependent upon their families to sustain them, and the situation for these three women looked bleak because opportunities for women to support themselves in that era and culture were almost non-existent.

The Bible does not say whether or not this family had made a poor decision in leaving Israel initially. However, Naomi's comments suggest that she felt her hardships were God's chastisement because they had gone to Moab. She said, "The hand of the LORD is gone out against me" (1:13) and "the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me" (1:20). ■

After being in Moab for about ten years, Naomi learned that God had graciously visited His people and had brought an end to the famine

in Israel, and she desired to return there. Her two daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, intended to go with her, but she urged them to return to their families in Moab. Orpah did so, but Ruth spoke the beautiful, well-known words: "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me" (Ruth 1:16-17).

The life that this family had lived had made an impact on Ruth, whether it was particularly the life of Naomi herself or of all of them. Ruth's heart had caught a glimpse of something special. She had come to the realization that their God was the true God, and she determined to accompany Naomi as she left Moab for Israel. ■ ■

■ **FOR CONSIDERATION** It is important for us to earnestly seek the Lord before making any life-altering decisions. The Lord's will and clear direction can be found by praying and reading the Bible, and by heeding godly counsel and the Holy Spirit's leading to our hearts. To obtain God's direction, it will be necessary to be fully submitted to Him and willing to do whatever He wants. Once we know God's will, even if circumstances are not completely ideal from our personal perspective, we will have peace and confidence when we pray.

■ **FOR CONSIDERATION** Many people have been born again because someone witnessed to them at school, on the job, in the home, or at a place of business. We want to evaluate our own lives. Does association with us enrich the lives of others? What are some character traits or virtues we could exemplify that would cause people to make life-changing decisions to serve God? We want to live so our lives draw others to the Savior.

CHAPTER 2

Back in Israel, Naomi and Ruth trusted in God for their well-being. By looking for a field in which she could glean, Ruth demonstrated willingness to do her part and work as hard as she could. Gleaning was picking up the loose stalks from the fields after the wheat and barley had been cut and tied in bundles. Israel's law provided for gleaning as a method of helping the poor (see Leviticus 19:9-10).

Ruth had to take a chance when she started gleaning because, as a stranger, she did not know who owned the various parcels of ground that made up the fields. Being an outsider as well as a woman, she was vulnerable. Only the poorest people gleaned, so she was working among the lowest class socially. ■

Ruth 2:3 says, ". . . and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz." The word *hap* means something that came about by chance. However, it is clear that God

was directing the events and taking care of Ruth and Naomi. Boaz took an immediate interest in this stranger, and promised her protection and provision if she would glean only in his fields. He instructed his servants regarding where she should glean and even told them to let some extra grain fall for her to pick up. She was allowed to eat and drink with his workers, where Boaz himself ate with her and handed her food. She "bowed herself to the ground" in response to his kindness. At the end of the day, she had collected an ephah of grain—approximately half a bushel, which was enough food for the two women for about five days.

Upon hearing Ruth's good news, Naomi took heart because of who Boaz was, and the kindness he had shown to Ruth. "Next kinsman" (verse 20) indicates that Boaz was one of Elimelech's closest relatives, and therefore, he was eligible to

■ **FOR CONSIDERATION** Ruth showed a desire to do God's will by leaving her extended family, her country, and her Moabite religious teachings to embrace Naomi, Israel, and the God of Israel. She was willing to glean in the fields for sustenance and to follow the instructions of Naomi concerning Boaz. While the consecrations we are called to make will be different from Ruth's, we also need a willing attitude in order to serve God effectively. What are some areas in our current circumstances where willingness is a necessity?

redeem Elimelech's inheritance. The order of next kinsmen was brothers, uncles, and then male cousins. The kinsman's responsibility was to be sure the property stayed in the family. Included in this responsibility was marrying the widow if a man died childless, and raising up children for his name. No wonder Naomi

was excited and thanked God! On her first day in the fields, Ruth had become acquainted with a man who could redeem both of them. Nothing was "chance" about these events; God's hand was in it all. ■■

■■ **FOR CONSIDERATION**
Nothing that happens to us takes God by surprise. Often He is working in our lives and we do not even realize it. This is where trust comes in. If we are purposed to follow God, He will lead us and work for us. Think back to a time when God arranged circumstances for you that He later used to His glory.

CHAPTER 3

Naomi began the process of notifying Boaz that he was in the legal position to perform the part of a kinsman on their behalf. Israelite parents arranged their children's marriages, so Naomi was acting as Ruth's mother. She told Ruth to wash and anoint herself, change her clothes, and go to the threshing floor. The instructions that Naomi gave Ruth were specific and appropriate according to the customs of that time. Ruth's actions would let Boaz know that as her kinsman redeemer, he should find someone to marry her or do so himself. Ruth may not have understood why Naomi gave these instructions, but she promised to do as she was told.

At the threshing floor, the kernels of grain were separated from the outside shell (chaff). To accomplish this, the harvested stalks were crushed by oxen or by beating on them, and then the grain was winnowed (thrown up so the chaff blew away and the grain fell to the ground). By threshing at night, the workers took advantage of the evening breezes and also were then free to harvest during the day. Owners spent the night on the threshing floor to ensure honesty and also to be there when their turns came to use the floor.

The uncovering of the feet of Boaz was a morally acceptable custom that alerted Ruth's kinsman to the fact that she sought his protection. The word "skirt" (Ruth 3:9) is the translation of the same Hebrew word that refers to the "wings" of God.

Boaz was the son of Rahab, the harlot from Jericho whose life

had been spared when Jericho fell because she had helped the Israelite spies escape from Jericho (see Joshua 6:17 and Matthew 1:5). He was from the tribe of Judah, a wealthy farmer and an honorable man. He was a man of his word, sensitive to those in need, and cared for his workers. He was also surprised to find a woman at his feet!

Verse 10 of chapter 3 indicates that Boaz was a number of years older than Ruth, and verse 11 shows that she had a reputation of being virtuous. Boaz's response could indicate that he had given some thought to the kinsman matter, because he already knew that there was someone with a closer relationship to Ruth than himself. He promised to take immediate action, and sent Ruth home with a large gift.

By diligently following Naomi's instructions and laying herself at Boaz' feet, Ruth presented herself as a humble petitioner. As a result, he acted as the kinsman redeemer, and she found rest and protection.

Boaz's redemption of Ruth is a picture of the redemption price Jesus paid for us, since we cannot pay it ourselves. The word *redeem* means "to buy back; to free from what distresses or harms: as to free from captivity by payment of ransom, to release from blame or debt, or to free from the consequences of sin." ■

■■ **FOR CONSIDERATION**
Similar to Ruth, we are to follow the instructions of the Holy Spirit. By faith, we should lay ourselves at the feet of Jesus Christ. The Spirit invites us to this position of protection and rest when He says, "Come." We, too, are to turn away from anything or anyone that would hinder us from fully following God. Through Jesus we find a new life and great reward, for He is the One who redeems us—saves us from the old path of sin. What are some of the benefits of the true rest that is found only at the feet of the Redeemer?

CHAPTER 4

As Naomi predicted, when Ruth returned from her visit to the threshing floor, Boaz lost no time in fulfilling his promise. He went to the city gate, which was the business center where merchants sold goods, and transacted official business. Since those entering or exiting the city came through the city gate, it was easy to find ten witnesses. On this particular day, the other kinsman himself came by, and Boaz called to him to discuss the redemption business before the elders, thus opening the way for his own offer of redemption to Ruth and Naomi.

The Hebrew word *ga'al* is translated as *kinsman* in most of the account. Some translators have used the phrase *kinsman redeemer* to show the fullness of the Hebrew meaning. Others have simply used the word *redeemer* in places. This act of redemption could take several forms: marrying a kinsman's widow, freeing family members from bondage, purchasing a mortgaged piece of family property, and/or avenging the loss of family. It is interesting to note in this chapter that the nearest kinsman is not named, while Boaz, Ruth, Naomi, and Obed are all named, thus honoring them for their faithfulness in following God's plan.

In chapter 4, verse 11, the elders' blessing equating Ruth with Rachel and Leah alludes to her inclusion in the lineage of Jacob/Israel. Their mention of the children of Tamar (who was also a Gentile) was a warning of the ridicule and curse which would follow the failure to raise children to maintain the inheritance of a family unit within Israel.

Redemption is the key theme of the Book of Ruth, specifically in the fourth chapter. The words "redeem," "buy," and "purchase" are used at least fifteen times. Boaz paid the price to redeem, publicly announcing his intention to remove any financial hindrances from the inheritance of Naomi and her offspring (Mahlon and Chilion) and to take Ruth as his own wife. He was obliged to raise children in the name of Ruth's

deceased husband, his near relative. This assured that the lineage would be continued and the inheritance would not be lost. ■

The last five verses of the Book of Ruth give the generations from Pharez (son of Judah, grandson of Jacob) to King David. Because of Ruth's choice to identify with Naomi's people and Naomi's God, she was rewarded not only with a godly husband and a son, but also with the privilege of being the great-grandmother of David, Israel's greatest king. Ultimately she was included in the lineage of the Savior of all humanity, Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION

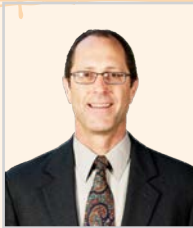
The Book of Ruth provides a beautiful parallel to how we come to faith in God. We begin as outsiders with no part in His Kingdom. Then, as we forsake our own plans and put our faith in Christ, God forgives us, saves us, rebuilds our lives, and gives us blessings that reach forward into eternity. ■

■ FOR CONSIDERATION

Jesus Christ came to be the Redeemer of all mankind. While salvation is offered freely, it was very costly from God's perspective. Heaven's brightest Jewel willingly offered His own life to satisfy the requirements for the redemption of humanity. No greater price could be offered.

THE LAW OF THE LORD

The Bible is our blueprint to prepare for eternity.



Rev. Andy Chasteen is a minister at the Apostolic Faith Church in Medford, Oregon.

From a sermon by
ANDY CHASTEEN

The Bible is one unit, and every word is inspired by God. In it are sixty-six books—thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament—1,189 chapters and 31,173 verses. The Bible was written over approximately fifteen hundred years by forty different authors living on three different continents. Some were shepherds, kings, scholars, and fishermen. The words of the Bible convey God’s message—the redemption of mankind.

In Psalm 19, God’s Word is described as the “law of the LORD.” Verses 7-11 say, “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the

LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”

Because God himself inspired His Word, He gives the Bible its authority. Many laws are made by people around the world, but God’s law is above them all. Man’s laws deal with the temporal behavior of men and women; God’s laws deal with their eternal souls.

The properties of God’s Word that the Psalmist mentioned are worth consideration.

THE LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT

God's law refers to His instructions, not just the commandments but all that He has revealed in His Word to guide us. The Bible needs no help; it is perfect. It does not need to be added to or updated. In fact, we are warned against such actions. Revelation 22:18-19 says, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

The words of God in the Bible were perfect when it was written, and they are still perfect today. It was relevant to the audiences of

the authors who penned it through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and it is relevant to us now. Some may say that it is outdated, but we know the Bible is far ahead of us. God's Word tells us of events that have not happened yet, and we know that they will come to pass, just as hundreds of other prophecies in this Book have been fulfilled.

A person needs to do nothing more than read the Bible to know how to live and what God expects. It is like a blueprint that will build a perfect spiritual house. I have built houses for a living, and there is nothing like having a good blueprint—one that gives every dimension and detail—to make the building process go much easier. In some blueprints, information is missing, and that makes the project very difficult. God's Word is complete; yet, as with physical construction, more than reading

the blueprint is necessary. Only reading Scripture will not save a person. It is necessary to be born again, which takes repentance and God's forgiveness. However, reading the Bible will lead a person to salvation. That is what it is designed to do.

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul." It does not convert the outward man by simply giving new ideas or a better way to live. People may "convert" regarding many matters such as a product brand or what type of foods they eat. Some will even convert to a different religion. However, the Bible describes true conversion, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). The law of God converts the soul and makes it ready for eternity.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE LORD IS SURE

"The testimony of the LORD is sure." It proves itself. The Bible is God's written testimony to us; it is His witness of what He has done and what He will do. We can be completely confident that the Bible will not lead us astray or deceive us. It is sure and will always be in agreement with God's will. When the Bible says, "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7), it means we must be born again. When the Bible says, "Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16) and "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification" (1 Thessalonians 4:3), it means we are to be holy, or be sanctified. When the Bible talks about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and Acts 2:39 says it is promised "to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call," it means that experience is available to everyone who answers God's call.

The Bible needs no outside source to confirm it; it is perfect in

itself. God inspired His Word, and it is sure and strong. We can build our homes on it, our marriages, our families, our businesses. We can build our lives on it because it is sure.

Verse 7 of Psalm 19 continues, "Making wise the simple." Anyone can understand God's instructions. Paul wrote to Timothy, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:14-15). God's law makes us wise unto salvation. A human being by nature is unlearned in righteousness and godliness, but the Holy Scriptures explain salvation and lead us to that experience. We had no wisdom in godly things before we

were saved, but we are made wise in righteousness—in the way God would have us live—by His Word.

We read in 1 Corinthians 1:27, "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." Issues that confuse the scholars, such as how life began or how human beings came to be in an environment in the universe that is just right to sustain life, are simple matters to God because He created it all! People debate such matters, and there are many theories. In the search for answers, they often overlook more important matters, such as what happens at the end of life? The Bible is clear that "ye must be born again" to make Heaven. ➤

THE STATUTES OF THE LORD ARE RIGHT

“The statutes of the LORD are right.” These statutes are precepts that are given to guide us. God’s rules are not meant to restrict, but to help us live right in everyday life. They support each other; they are straight and to the point. There is no discrepancy or variance in them. There is no wrong in them. The statutes were written by a perfect God, and they are perfectly right.

The laws of nature and science fit within God’s laws, because He created them. Men such as Newton and Einstein studied what God had made. Sometimes people declare that they do not believe the precepts of the Gospel. They may say, “I don’t believe that Christ rose from the dead,” or “I don’t believe in the Rapture of the Church.” Those are God’s statutes!

To declare disbelief in them is like saying, “I don’t believe in gravity.” If a person trips as he is walking, he finds out that it doesn’t matter if he believes in gravity or not; he is affected by it! The same is true for God’s statutes.

Nothing makes the heart more glad and satisfied than living according to God’s plan. Verse 8 says, “The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart.” Before I was saved, there was always condemnation and guilt. A couple of weeks after I was saved, my wife and I were invited to the home of some friends from the church. We played games, laughed, and reminisced about what the Lord was doing. On the way home, my wife and I said to each other, “Isn’t this wonderful? There is no guilt.” It is a joy to serve the Lord! It is

exciting—an adventure. It makes our hearts glad. Jeremiah 15:16 says, “Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.”

It relieves us to know God shows no favorites. We are all under the same rules when it comes to His statutes. He may call for different consecrations out of our hearts, but there are equal expectations for all of us. We are judged by our willingness and obedience to God’s Word. Some may feel God has not treated them fairly, but God is fair. It doesn’t matter where we come from or where we serve, God is faithful to each one of us.

THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD IS PURE

The second part of verse 8 says, “The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.” This word *commandment* means a “collective law”—the commands and guidelines of God within His Word from the beginning to the end. It tells what God expects, requires, and prohibits. God gave the Law to Moses so he would pass it on to the Children of Israel. Jesus came and perfected the Law. He said He had not come to destroy the Law but to fulfill it. He taught and lived it. He died and arose, thereby fulfilling the Law and ushering in the New Testament dispensation.

When Jesus comes into our hearts, He brings His law with Him. He changes our hearts from evil to good. Romans 8:2-3 says, “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.”

Do you want to know the will of God? Search His commandments. Are you saved? It is God’s will for you to be saved. Are you sanctified? It is God’s will for you to be sanctified. Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? It is God’s will that you be filled with the Holy Spirit. Start there! In general, you will find God’s will to be revealed to you one step at a time.

The statement that “The commandment of the LORD is pure” means there is no selfishness in it. These commandments are not given for God’s benefit; they are given for our benefit. An earthly ruler may call people before him and make them bow or show respect. However, we bow before

God out of honor and love for Him. What a privilege to come to a place of prayer and bow before the King of kings and Lord of lords, the God of Heaven!

God’s commandments enlighten the eyes. How is it that people, no matter what their background, somehow know they should not kill or steal? They have been enlightened, whether the knowledge has been passed on to them or God has revealed it. God can speak His commandments right to a heart. God’s Word brings people face to face with their sins before they are saved, and it shows the way of righteousness after they are saved. It is by these commandments that we know what to do in order to please God.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS CLEAN

“The fear of the LORD is clean.” This fear is not a matter of being afraid of God, but rather of having a moral reverence toward Him. We recognize how powerful and mighty God is. Yet in all of His power and might, He considers us and wants a relationship with us! When we have experienced His mercy, we owe Him the utmost respect.

The Bible sets the moral standard for living. It is not established by society, leaders, professors, or teachers, and not

even by ministers or pastors. If many say something is morally acceptable and God’s Word says it is not, then it is not. It does not matter what societal perspectives are. It is the Bible that we look to.

The fact that the fear of God is clean means there are no ulterior motives in it. Not only is it untainted and pure, but it will keep us clean. “The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times” (Psalm 12:6). If we will filter our lives through

God’s Word, it will make and keep us clean.

“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever.” This Word is forever settled in Heaven. It will not change. God will not adapt it to fit our lifestyles or our ideas. Rather, we must conform to it. Time will not change the importance of moral good. The Bible must be revered, feared, and respected as the authority on every subject.

THE JUDGMENTS OF THE LORD ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS

“The judgments of the LORD are true.” Because we have been given this truth to live by, we will be judged by it, and the judgments will also be true. We have been given the Book describing what God expects. He sees everything, and He will judge us. At the end, the judgments will be executed in righteousness because they

were written by a righteous God. Everyone will be judged equally; there will be no special cases or exceptions. The Bible was inspired by a holy God, and it cannot be anything other than true and righteous.

Verse 10 says that God’s judgments are “more to be desired . . . than gold.” Gold cannot buy

salvation. Gold will not make us clean, convert the soul, or make us wise. It will not endure forever, and it certainly will not make us righteous in God’s sight. But when a person chooses to follow God’s path, God gives salvation, and His instructions become “sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”

GREAT REWARD

“Moreover by them is thy servant warned.” The Bible warns of God’s requirements and the coming judgment to those who ignore or refuse to act on them. However, the rest of verse 11 says, “In keeping of them there is great reward.” Upholding and embracing what God says will bring a final reward.

Suppose for a moment that you had a rope which extended from where you are to the outside, across the street, down the block, miles across town, and then the rope shot up into the sky and

went past the moon and the sun, clear up into outer space. Of course, that would be impossible, but imagining it is an effort at picturing eternity. It goes on forever. Now suppose that the first two inches of the rope that you are holding is painted red. That little red section could represent our lives here on earth. So often people spend all of their energy and time on that little section, forgetting what comes after that little part is over.

The Bible says to lay up for ourselves treasures in Heaven. We

can live by God’s Word and there will be a final reward. We want to spend the time we have here on earth preparing for eternity. Time is so fleeting. The Bible says life is as a vapor, it will pass away soon. We have the opportunity now to prepare for eternity. The God of Heaven is on our side, helping us to know the statutes He has set forth in His Word, and helping us to live by them. Reach out to Him and He will give you His strength and grace. ■



STAND STILL, MARVEL AT HIS WONDROUS WORKS

From the beauty of the star-filled universe to the precious moment when a soul is redeemed, we stand in awe of all God does.



Rev. Erik Calhoun is the youth pastor at the headquarters Apostolic Faith church in Portland, Oregon, and serves on the editorial committee for *The Apostolic Faith* magazine.

From a sermon by
ERIK CALHOUN

The wondrous works of God are all around us. From the beauty of a sunrise to the starry splendor of the night sky, and from the miracle of new life to the solemnity of death, we see and feel the awesomeness of God's work everywhere. Yet, many people live in ignorance of the greatness of their Creator. They may believe God exists but fail to grasp the magnitude of His power, or perhaps they do not believe in God at all. It is vital that we not fall into one of those categories because when we misunderstand who God is, we will also fail to understand who we are and how we should live. This is why it is important to set aside time specifically to remind ourselves about the greatness of our God—His incomprehensible power and ability. It will be an encouragement not only to ourselves but also to our fellow believers, and can help unbelievers choose to put their faith in Christ as well. Remembering

and rehearsing the wondrous works of God is something we want to do on a regular basis.

The Book of Job is a remarkable account which says much about the greatness of Almighty God. It is well known as a source of spiritual insight for those who are suffering, but of particular interest to us is its message about the amazing works God has done and how we ought to remind ourselves of them.

The first two chapters relate that Job was an extremely wealthy man, but in a single day, all his livestock, servants, and children were taken from him. Then his health was attacked. For the next thirty-five chapters, Job and his friends pondered why this calamity occurred and what Job should do next. His friends misunderstood both the character of God and of Job, falsely assuming that the trials Job was enduring must be punishment for sin he had committed. In the end, God finally spoke and settled the matter, and Job's health, family, and wealth were restored to him. As we study the account more closely, we can glean valuable lessons that strengthen us spiritually.

Hearken, stand still and consider

In Job chapter 32, after a great deal of dialog between Job and his friends, a young man by the name of Elihu spoke up. Like Job's three other friends, his understanding of the situation and his advice were imperfect, yet some of his comments had merit.

In Job 37:14, Elihu said, "Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God." This statement contains three commands, the first of which is to "hearken." The word *hearken* means "to listen or pay close attention; cup your ear to hear more carefully; to heed." When we hear the Word of God, we need to have a listening ear. We do not want to become so accustomed to hearing Scripture that we think, Oh, I've heard this before and I already know what it means. No; the Word of God is supernatural and it

pierces the heart. We must respect it when we hear it, and take action by applying what we learn to our lives. Some have chosen to do their devotions after dinnertime because that is when they are most alert. Others may prefer the morning or nighttime. Whatever time we choose to set aside for the Lord, we want to make sure we hearken to His Word.

The second command in verse 14 is to "stand still." This means "to abide or to dwell; to endure or to tarry." A similar mandate was given in Exodus 14:13 when the Children of Israel were being pursued by the Egyptians. Moses told them, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD." God was about to give the Israelites victory, but first He commanded them to stand still—to take a break from their own actions and watch Him do the impossible.

God gave the Israelites victory, and we want His victory in our lives today. It is not always easy to "stand" and wait for victory to come, yet it is vital to do so. We need to "stand

still" on our knees in prayer, which may require us to tarry awhile and wait on the Lord. Our lives and schedules can be busy; we might need to purposefully set time aside to "stand still." As we pray, we want to remember to pause in our prayers and listen to God so we can hear Him speak to our hearts.

The third command is to "consider the wondrous works of God." The word *consider* has a very broad meaning: "to understand; to diligently discern; to perceive or to think on; to view or to look upon." Rehearsing and pondering what God has done is something we do whenever we gather as a group of believers. The testimony portion of our services is an opportunity for people to declare the wondrous works of God in their own lives; we have heard from many whom He has forgiven, restored, healed, and more. God is a miracle-working God and He has done wonders even among us!

A declaration of the works of God

After stating the need to hearken, stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God, Elihu began to recount some of the amazing things God had done. He said in verse 16 of chapter 37, "Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge?" This referred to part of God's handiwork in the skies. Today we know there are ten different types of clouds and their height can range from 6,500 to 60,000 feet off the ground. The way clouds form and water the earth is remarkable, and it is one of the wondrous works of God.

Elihu called God "him which is perfect in knowledge" because God knows all. He even

knows the thoughts and intents of our hearts. He knows if our prayer is genuine or if we are just going through the motions, and if it is the latter, He is faithful to remind us that we need to be genuine. Nothing escapes His notice.

In the next verse Elihu continued, asking Job if he knew "how thy garments are warm, when he quieteth the earth by the south wind?" We know from physics that warm winds are caused by differences in air pressure, and the effects of the gusts can range from pleasant to disastrous. This is another marvel designed by God.

In verse 18 Elihu asked, "Hast thou with him spread out the sky, which is strong, and as a molten looking glass?" The sky is beautiful. Have you ever wondered why it is blue? Scientists tell us it is blue

because it is being illuminated by the sun, which shines white light. White light is actually composed of the entire spectrum of visible colors combined, and when it hits the earth's atmosphere, the molecular interaction causes us to see blue. At sunrise and sunset, sunlight passes through more of the earth's atmosphere before it reaches our eyes so we see different colors. We all have witnessed a stunning sunset—God paints the sky in spectacular hues! That is a wondrous work of God.

God declares His own works

After a long silence, God finally spoke. Chapter 38 begins, “Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind.”

First of all, just to see and hear God speak from a whirlwind must have been astonishing. Then, beginning at verse 4, God himself told of His own wondrous works. He asked Job, “Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? . . . Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? Or who hath stretched the line upon it?” In construction, an architect prepares the drawings and a carpenter lays them out on gridlines. God was saying here that He is both the Architect and the Carpenter of the earth.

Verse 6 continues, “Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof?” A foundation will not hold if it rests on something unstable; it must be built on something secure. In some cases, a deep or pier foundation must be made in order to get down to solid rock. In verse 6, God was saying that He not only made the foundation, but also secured it in place. Moreover, the Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is the Rock and the Chief Corner Stone. Thus, God was the Architect and Carpenter, and He laid the foundation and secured it in place with His Word, Jesus.

In verses 8 and 11 we read, “Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth? . . . And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?” God also created the oceans. We know relatively little about this aspect of creation, but an interesting fact that I recently learned is that the longest waterfall in the world is actually located in the Atlantic Ocean, somewhere between Iceland and Greenland. The waterfall is created by a difference in water temperature which causes the colder water to plunge thousands of feet downward—three times farther than the tallest waterfall on land. That is part of God’s wondrous works!

God asked in Job 38:22, “Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?” God created every snowflake, another awesome piece of His handiwork. Many of us grew up hearing that no two snowflakes are exactly alike, but now we understand that their formation follows patterns. Snow has no color; it is translucent, but usually appears white in sunlight. Under the right circumstances snow can appear pink, or blue when it piles up. This is all by God’s design.

In Job 38:31 we read, “Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?” Pleiades is a star constellation. The

stars in Pleiades are gravitationally connected to each other, which means they are travelling at the same speed together. There is no way Job could have known that Pleiades was bound; this was simply God’s declaration of His own doings. The Orion constellation, on the other hand, is much different. The stars in Orion are not gravitationally bound—they are moving away from each other, as if somebody loosed them at some point. That too is part of God’s wondrous works.

Verse 33 says, “Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?” God was speaking about the physical heavens—the universe—but more exciting to us is the spiritual Heaven that God has prepared for those who love Him. God designed that too, and no doubt it will be marvelous. In verse 36 we read, “Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?” Wisdom and understanding come from God as well, and the greatest wisdom is to know the Lord and have a relationship with Him.

We declare the works of God

As fascinating and exciting as God’s creation is, He put even more care into us. God sees and knows each of us personally, and He wants to

work in our lives. In fact, we are surrounded by a multitude who can testify of God’s wondrous works. Here are just a few of the

testimonies we have heard in our Portland congregation:



JIM SNIDER was sinking into a river in a work vehicle; **God protected him and he came out without even a scratch.**

DUANE WILSON'S LIFE had been broken by sin, but **God "put the pieces back together."**

NEIL AND MARIA GREEN were grieving after the death of their ten-month-old baby, but **God has given them the hope of being reunited with Paige in Heaven.**

BONNIE DAVIS was diagnosed with terminal cancer; **God completely healed her and she has been cancer-free since 1970.**

SUSAN ANDERSON was backslidden for nearly thirty years; she was saved on a flight from Idaho to Oregon.

MARK ZETTER, who suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) after the Vietnam War, is now sharing the hope found in Jesus with other veterans.

VICKEE MARTIN was plagued with bitterness after being left by her husband of seventeen years, but was freed by forgiveness and has been enjoying peace ever since.

EARL PHILLIPS was addicted to cigarettes at the age of

twelve but was instantly delivered and has been tobacco-free since 1948.

VICTORIA WORTHINGTON was born dangerously premature at two pounds, eleven ounces; today she is healthy and without any side effects.

JEREMY COOK was abandoned in an orphanage overseas; he was adopted and today is surrounded by a loving family of his own.

Our God is truly a wonder-working God! These were major, life-changing events in individual lives, yet God cares about the little things as well. For example, a few weeks ago I was asked to cook a prime rib for a special birthday party. On the day of the celebration, I was not able to taste the meat before I left my house, so in the car, I asked my family if we could pray that God would make it turn out well. We all prayed, and when we arrived at the party and cut into the ribs, everyone said it tasted good. After a while, one of my sons came and whispered in my ear, "God answered our prayer!"

He was right. A birthday meal may not be a critical situation, but it was important to us and we were thankful God heard and answered our prayer. On a daily basis, in big and small ways, God is still doing wondrous works.

Psalm 105:2 says, "Sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works." May we never forget the importance of reminding ourselves and telling others about the mighty things God has done. The most wondrous work of all is when God forgives someone's sins, bringing new life to that soul. If you have not had that experience, pray and ask

God's forgiveness, and He will do a wondrous work for you personally. If you are bound by addictions, God is a chain-breaking God and He will loose your chains and deliver you from sin. He will make a powerful change in your life. If you are facing a personal challenge, whether big or small, God wants to do wonders in your life. Hearken to His voice, stand still, and consider His wondrous works, and He will meet your every need. ■

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WITNESS

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

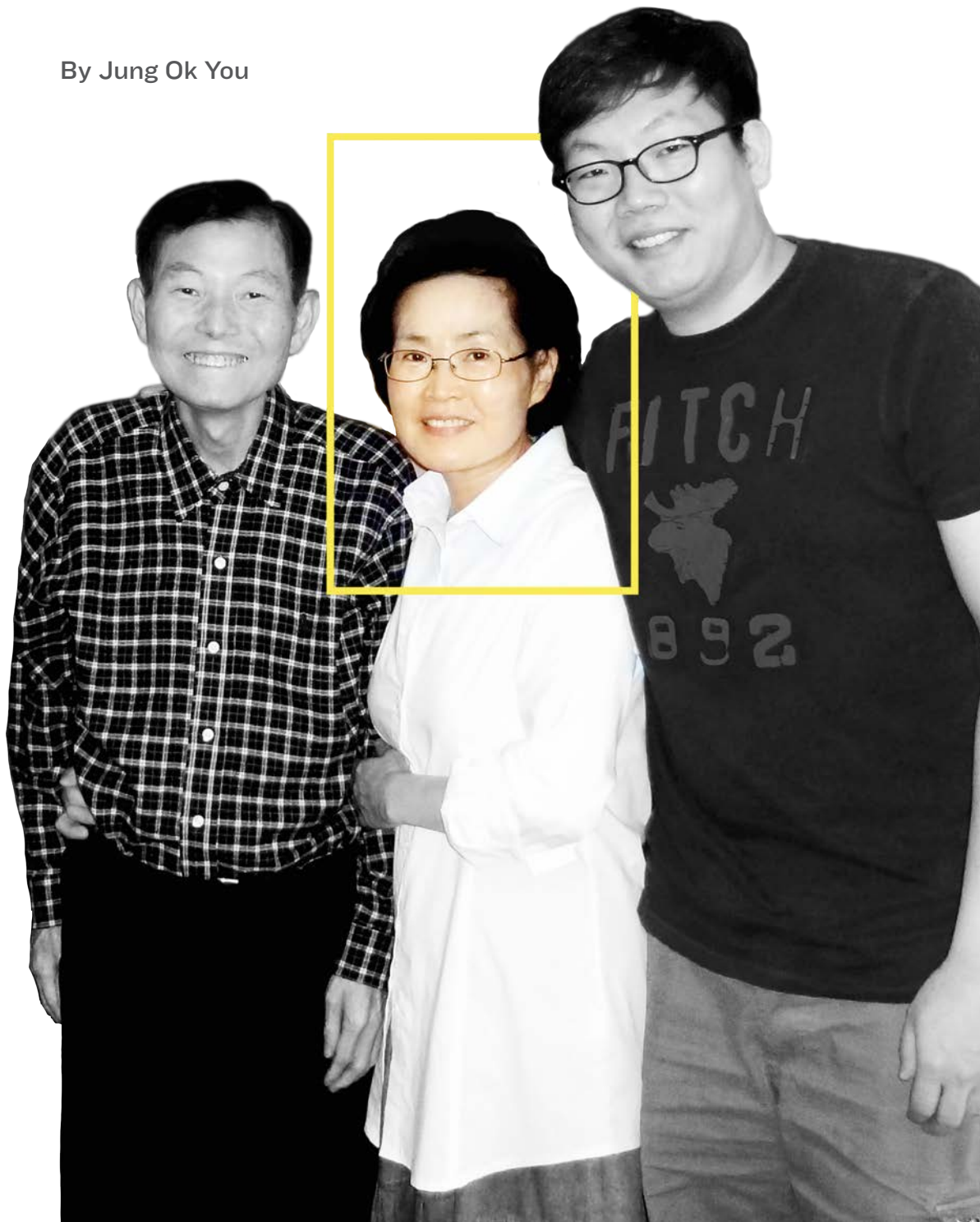
— Revelation 12:11



SEEDS SOWN; SOULS SAVED

Missionaries brought the Good News to Jung Ok in South Korea, and now her goal is to share it with others.

By Jung Ok You





(Top to bottom) Jung Ok with a friend in the early days of the work in Pusan; Singing hymns in the "Upper Room Church."

thank the Lord for what He has done for me. I was born in Pusan, Korea. Though my parents were not Christians, they were honest and tried to raise their children to be good people.

When my father was fifteen years old, he went to Japan to earn money because, at the time, Korea was a very poor country and oppressed under Japanese rule. There he received some education and became a seaman. During the rough life of a merchant mariner, he began to enjoy drinking. His alcohol habit became worse and worse, to the point he was even given a nickname in Japanese that means "Bring more! Bring more!"

After my father married my mother, he continued working as a seaman, including during my growing up years. Every time his ship pulled into the Portland harbor, Apostolic Faith Church members visited and invited the crewmen to church and to their homes. My father wrote letters home, telling us about the Portland church people—that they were wonderful and very kind to all the Koreans. That is how my family was introduced to the Gospel.

TAKING ENGLISH CLASSES FROM MISSIONARIES

In 1967, missionary "Papa" Harold Barrett and his wife, "Mama" Sally, moved to Korea to preach this true Gospel. They began holding church services in their house, in a second-floor room that was about ten by fifteen feet in size—it became a small sanctuary that was called the "Upper Room Church." When I was sixteen years old, my family went there because my father wanted us to go.

At the time, I didn't know about the Gospel or Jesus. I only wanted to learn English from Mama Barrett, who taught English to Korean seamen and students at that time. One day the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and I realized I was a sinner. Before that, I thought I had no sin because I was so diligent and encouraged other students in my middle school. However, I had sin in my heart: lying, hatred, jealousy, and many kinds of wrong things. That day I confessed and repented of all my sins, and God saved me. I was one of the first converts in the Apostolic Faith Church in Korea.

The morning after I met Jesus, I found that I was totally changed. My family and those around me could see the difference. I wanted to share this Gospel with my friends in school, and invited them to the little church there in Pusan. My longing was for souls to be saved, and the people around me recognized that.

After a time, my mother was saved. About one year after that, my father repented of his sins and he was saved too. God delivered him from the drinking habit, and then he prayed hard for the church and for our family. My younger brother and sister also were saved.

We did not have a car, and our house was so far from the church that we had to ride the bus. However, my mother would get severely carsick when she rode the bus, so sometimes she walked to church. It took about one-and-a-half hours to walk that distance, but she wanted to be in God's house, so she made the effort.

ESTABLISHED IN THE FAITH

In 1975, Papa and Mama Barrett left Korea to return to Portland, and most of the church members went to the airport to say goodbye. We were crying when they left, and we were so sad. We felt like children without a mother or father, so when they were gone, we went back to the church and prayed to the Lord. Then the Holy Spirit began to fall on the people. Day by day, the revival continued. One by one, many people prayed through. During that time, I received my sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The revival went on for some weeks, and around fifty people received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. That really established the church in Pusan and gave it a strong foundation.

In time, American church members helped our little group and we were able to build a new church in Pusan. The people were spiritually hungry and our Sunday school was filled with more than one hundred children.

After I graduated from high school, my whole family moved to Seoul, the capital city of South Korea. At that time there was no Apostolic Faith Church there. However, Mama and Papa Barrett had returned to Korea, and sometimes they visited the city. There were people in the area who wished for an Apostolic Faith Church there, so the Barretts



I THOUGHT I HAD NO SIN because I was so diligent and encouraged other students in my middle school. However, I had sin in my heart: lying, hatred, jealousy, and many kinds of wrong things.

moved to Seoul and began holding services in their basement apartment. Then, as the group grew larger, we rented various places to hold services.

My father began to pray to the Lord, "Please send Brother Carver (the Superintendent General at that time) from the States, and please give us a church building." He always prayed that way. God heard his prayer and in time, Brother Carver did visit, and later the Lord gave us a new church building in Seoul. My father was so faithful to pray and serve God until the Lord called him to the Kingdom of Heaven.

It was there in the Seoul church in 1980 that God gave me a Christian husband, Hak Kyung Kim, who



(Top to bottom) "Papa" Harold Barrett and Jung Ok's father; Translating the testimony of an American visitor during a church service.

WITNESS



NOW I KNOW GOD ALWAYS HAS A PLAN. Sometimes I don't understand His plan and His will, but He knows what is best for me.

TRUSTING GOD WITH MY FAMILY

was invited to our church by his brother. Hak Kyung had attended a Presbyterian church from the time he was in middle school, but he was saved in the Apostolic Faith Church. He had never smoked, but he drank alcohol, and when he received salvation, God delivered him from that. Later, my husband was sanctified and baptized with the Holy Ghost, and he became an elder in the Seoul church when he was in his early thirties.

In 1985, Hak Kyung had heart surgery to replace two valves in his heart. Back then, that was a very dangerous surgery in Korea, but God helped. Just before his surgery, he shared the Gospel message with other patients in the hospital and told them about Jesus. We had a young son by that time—Simon had been born in 1983—and I was scared as a young wife and mother, but God helped me. As I prayed at the time

of Hak Kyung's surgery, it seemed I could see the angels supporting him around his surgery bed.

Hak Kyung was in the hospital for four months. The surgery was very expensive, and we did not have much money. However, his colleagues gathered funds and donated money for the surgery, so that problem was solved. We knew that was God's blessing. After Hak Kyung's recovery, he went back to his job, and he was so diligent and upright that he was promoted to a high position.

Every night we read the Bible and prayed together by the bedside with our son. In every trial and trouble, God always guided and helped us. We never fought. Many people cannot believe that, but we prayed together every night, and we found that all differences of opinion could be smoothed out with God's help. We had a very happy home throughout our

thirty-two years of married life.

When Simon was in middle school, he attended youth meetings at our church and was saved. However, Korean students are very busy, with a tight schedule during high school, and he backslid during that time. He went on to college and then joined the army for the military service that is mandatory in Korea. After his discharge from the army, during youth meetings in Seoul, he was saved again. He told me with tears, "Mom, I'm so sorry. Please forgive me." Now he is faithfully serving the Lord. He married last year, and he and his wife attend our Seoul church.

Fifteen years after Hak Kyung's first surgery, he had a second heart surgery. He was able to go back to work until 2002, and after that he retired because of his health, though for a while he still worked part time in the same company.



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I am so thankful for answered prayer. In December 2016, I was privileged to be able to go with a mission team to Jamaica to fellowship with the saints there. It did my heart so much good. During the altar services, I really felt the presence of the Lord, and He drew consecrations from me.

A few weeks before the trip, though, I slipped on ice and broke my arm. I was in a lot of pain each day, so I started worrying about singing in the Christmas concert and about going on the trip to Jamaica. I became discouraged and thought about cancelling the trip, but decided to go on faith. Friends and family prayed for me, and I want to report victory. The Lord really answered prayer. He gave me the strength needed for every task during the trip, and He made every day such a blessing to my soul. I am thankful that He is always with me. ■

Deborah Brenner
Portland, Oregon

EVIDENCE



Then his health condition became worse and worse. One heart valve began leaking blood so he had a third surgery.

Even though Hak Kyung's physical body was weak, he was always smiling and happy, no matter what situation or trouble he faced. Sometimes people asked me, "Is he a pastor?" In 2012, he had to be hospitalized for six months, and Simon stayed with him every night on a small bed in his room. People were surprised at Simon's dedication to his father. In fact, someone once asked, "Can I help you by staying with your father?" but he said no, he wanted to help his dad. They loved each other so much.

In 2012, I was diagnosed with breast cancer, during the time my husband was so ill. I had surgery in April, and had radiation about thirty times. Hak Kyung was burdened by my condition, but God helped and I recovered quickly. Now I am cancer free, and I thank God for helping me through that situation.

LOOKING TOWARD THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

I remember that after Papa and Mama Barrett moved back to the United States, he would often write to me because I could speak and write English. He always said,

"If we don't meet again on this earth, we will meet again in the Kingdom of Heaven at the Eastern Gate." He would quote the verse, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). Hak Kyung quoted the same words just before he passed away on December 9, 2012, after he finished his work for God.

That was a very hard time for me. Sometimes I asked God, "Why? We need him! Our church needs him!" But now I know God always has a plan. Sometimes I don't understand His plan and His will, but He knows what is best for me. I still miss my husband so much, but I have a hope of meeting him again in the Kingdom of Heaven someday soon. So for now, I try to do my best to help spread this Gospel to others.

My father and mother both passed away in the peace of God. My mother was sanctified in Portland when she attended camp meeting. She was a very shy and quiet person, but she gave her testimony at the camp meeting. Now, most of my family is attending the Seoul church. Last year at the Christmas concert in our Seoul church, thirteen members of our family participated.

I thank God for His blessings to me and my family. I want to serve Him until He calls me Home. ■

◆ Jung Ok You is a member of the Apostolic Faith Church in Seoul, South Korea. She is grateful for the faithfulness of the Gospel workers in Portland, Oregon, and the missionaries from this organization who brought the message of salvation that made such an impact on her family.

In 2016, I had the privilege to attend the South Korea camp meeting. I went as the interpreter. For several months before that, I prayed for God's presence to be in the services as I interpreted. After I arrived, I spent most of my time studying the Bible and continuing to pray for God's presence to be in the meetings. God was there, and He helped me to know which words to use.


The highlight of the camp meeting was a Saturday night. I saw that some people had come from other towns. They had taken trains and traveled several hours to be in the service. I prayed, "God, they came from far away. They traveled many, many hours. They may have given up their vacations. I want this to be a special service for them." When the minister preached, I was standing next to him interpreting, and he and I were as one. As he spoke, God helped me know what to say. I was speaking, but God was using my mouth; the words were coming from Him. I could see the saints, and some of them were crying; their hearts were being stirred. As soon as the service was over, they all came to the altar. We had a great altar service. Afterward, I could not leave, because the presence of God was there. People were swimming in the ocean of God's blessing. They were praying for one another and making deeper consecrations. I was so thankful to be there and feel God's presence. ■

Ben Yune
Portland, Oregon

FOUND BY THE ONE TRUE GOD

God led Solomon from a childhood of polygamy and idol worship to the joy of salvation.

By Solomon Akinduro



My heart is grateful to God for His mercy toward me when I was a wretched sinner. I was born in Ondo, Ondo State, Nigeria, into a polygamous and idolatrous family; my father had six wives and more than twenty children. Life was very tough during my growing up years because of the strife and jealousy in our home among the wives.

My father was the head of the idol worshipers in our village and was very well-respected and powerful. While growing up, I saw him worship idols on a daily basis. These man-made gods had mouths, ears, and eyes, but they could not function at all. Animal blood was sacrificed to them regularly with the hope that they would help us in difficult times. Unfortunately, the idol worship created more trouble in our home than we could handle.

When I was a young boy, I wanted to be powerful and respected like my father. One day I told him I wanted to be an idol worshiper when I grew up. He said, "Any person who becomes an idol worshiper at a young age will end up in poverty and ragged clothing." With this answer coming from a man I respected very much, the idea was thwarted.

When I was in elementary school, my uncle promised to send me to high school, but before I was old enough to go, he died unexpectedly, and my hope was shattered. As a result, my perspective on life was completely changed. I wondered, if our idols were so powerful, why did they allow my uncle to die, and why couldn't they help my parents? From that point on, I realized that idols could not answer prayers.

In my heart, I always knew there was a God somewhere, but I thought the earth was just too big for Him to see what everyone was doing, so I continued in my sinful way of life for many years. Sometimes I listened to Gospel songs on the radio, and as I did, I would cry without knowing why. Later, after I learned about salvation, I realized that the Spirit of the one true God had been calling after my heart.

As I grew older, the desire to go to high school became paramount; I did not want to be a farmer or idol worshiper like my father. I heard that an education was available for free by joining the Nigerian Army, so I purposed to do so. One day, when I was working as a shoe salesman, a young officer came to the store to buy a pair of shoes. I used the opportunity to inquire about how to join the Army. He gave me the information, and the following day I went to the Army



As I entered that church on that first night, **I FELT THE PRESENCE OF GOD'S SPIRIT** and I saw the peace of God on the faces of the people.

headquarters to register. Today, I know that the Lord was with me and helped me through that process. Around June of 1970, immediately following a civil war, I enlisted and was dispatched to a military hospital in Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria, where I worked for the next four years.

After the first year, I had the privilege of starting my education with the goal of becoming a career military officer. However, as I was finishing the program that would enable me to go to the Nigerian Defense Academy, I got into trouble with the military authority and ran away to hide in a village.

While I was hiding, God cornered me, and His Spirit began speaking to my heart. I became miserable. I was burdened with a load of sin, and had no peace. Fear took hold of my life because

everywhere I turned, I expected to be apprehended. The fear and guilt that gripped my heart were so heavy that I grew tired of living. There seemed to be no hope in sight. By that time I had married and had a child, and now I did not have any way of taking care of my wife and son. As a result, I purposed to commit suicide by hanging myself. Thankfully, God, through His mercy, averted it.

In time, things worked out for me to begin attending a technical school, and I met a friend there who invited me to church. After my many excuses, he told me to just come and see for myself. He said if I liked it, I could stay, and if not, I could leave. With this statement from him, I had no further excuse and decided to honor his request. In June of 1975, I went with him to the Apostolic

Faith Church in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. Revival meetings were being held during the week that I attended. As I entered the church on that first night, I felt the presence of God's Spirit and I saw the peace of God on the faces of the people. I was amazed by this. Then I heard something I had never heard before: the Gospel message of salvation from sin.

In my heart I said, "Lord, I want what these people have." At the end of the service, I rushed to the altar, confessed my sins, and asked God to forgive me. God is faithful; He came down and saved my soul that night. The load of sin that I had been carrying all those years went away instantly into a sea of forgetfulness. Oh the peace and joy that flooded my soul! It was so wonderful, I wept for joy. I was a new person and no



Edna Musgrave
Portland, Oregon

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The Lord has given me many opportunities in this Gospel, and I am grateful. This morning, I had the privilege of being a greeter at church and met two visitors. After the service I went out to the greeter's desk to say good-bye to people, and one of those visitors said to me, "I have never been to such a wonderful church." We talked about the service and she said she was thrilled with it and plans to come back. Later, the other visitor, a young man, told me almost the same thing. I asked if he had been taken to church as a child and he said yes, but he had never been in a service like this and wants to return. I enjoyed the service as much as they did, and I was born and raised in this Gospel.

My blessings started the day I was born, because my parents brought me to this church, but all of the sermons I heard did not make a Christian out of me. For a lot of years, I turned the Lord aside and went out into the world. God brought me back in 1983 and saved me, and He put me on a road that I never expected. The privileges have been so many.

This last month, I was able to go to Romania, which is something I never thought I would experience. In some ways Romania felt like home—the area that we traveled through was very much like the Pacific Northwest. In other ways it did not feel like home—I couldn't understand anything that was being said around me. One constant, though, was that the meetings and people were wonderful, and in every service, I felt the same sweet Spirit of God that is present here. I thank the Lord for the privileges He has given me. ■

EVIDENCE



Over the last year it seems like I have had one long lesson from God in learning to trust Him more. Then, this week, I misplaced some money, and it was very stressful. I agonized in prayer over it, and I didn't see that God could answer without a miracle. I told my children about the problem, because it was something that affected them, but I didn't ask them to pray. Then I refigured one more time, and the problem was gone. Everything added up with no problem whatsoever. It was a miracle! When I told my children what happened, every single one of them said God had answered their prayer. Each one had prayed about the situation on their own. As a mom, the best part of this answer to prayer was that my children prayed, but I think I have learned my lesson now that I can trust God for anything. ■

Ann McCarville
Portland, Oregon

longer wanted to do all the wrong things I had done in the past. What a miracle!

After I was saved, my life's ambitions and desires were different. I did not care as much about education; my only longing was to please God. The Lord gave me hope, love, and a desire to follow Him. From that point on, I had a concern for lost souls, and I told my wife, my family, and fellow students about this wonderful experience of salvation.

My temperament was also different. The Lord gave me a spirit of forgiveness and forbearance. I had been keeping a journal in which I recorded the names of anyone who had wronged me, so I could take revenge someday. When the Lord saved me, He gave me a heart to forgive those people and pray for them. What a change!

Two months after I was saved, my wife and I were able to attend a three-week Apostolic Faith camp meeting in Lagos. We did not have the funds to go, but the Lord provided. People we did not know rallied around us giving food and a place to stay on the campground. The love and support that was extended to us helped convince us to stay with the Gospel.

During the camp meeting, I heard about sanctification, the second definite work of grace through the Blood of Jesus Christ. I sought and prayed for it, and the Lord sanctified my heart. The divine love of God flooded my soul, and my sinful nature was completely gone.

A few days later, I heard that God had more for me. I asked what more there could be beyond the experiences of salvation and sanctification that I had already received. Those around me said to seek for the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. I prayed and the Lord filled me with the Holy Ghost, evidenced by speaking in another language as the Spirit gave utterance.

My wife also prayed through to salvation at the camp meeting, and received the experiences of sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost as well.

Prior to my receiving the baptism, the Lord had been talking to me about making restitution to the Nigerian Army for stealing their property and then running away. God helped me to see what needed to be done. Satan did everything to stop me, but the Lord clearly told me that if I failed to make the restitution, I would not have any part with Him in Heaven. I determined to do it, and He helped me every step of the way. As a result, I was pardoned!

In 1984, I came to the United States of America with only \$120. I had little education, but the Lord granted my admission to a university and worked it out for all my expenses to be paid. God also provided a business for me. I started it with \$200, but the Lord multiplied that amount many times. He also blessed my efforts so that eventually I had businesses in several cities in the United States, as well as Africa.

Since I gave my life to Jesus, He has kept me and my family under His Blood. Many times, my wife and I prayed when our children were sick and the Lord healed them. One of those times, my son was diagnosed with a brain tumor. We prayed, handing him over to the Lord, and when we went to see the doctor again, he could not find any trace of the tumor. Many tests were performed, but nothing was found. The Lord healed him completely. What a mighty God we serve!

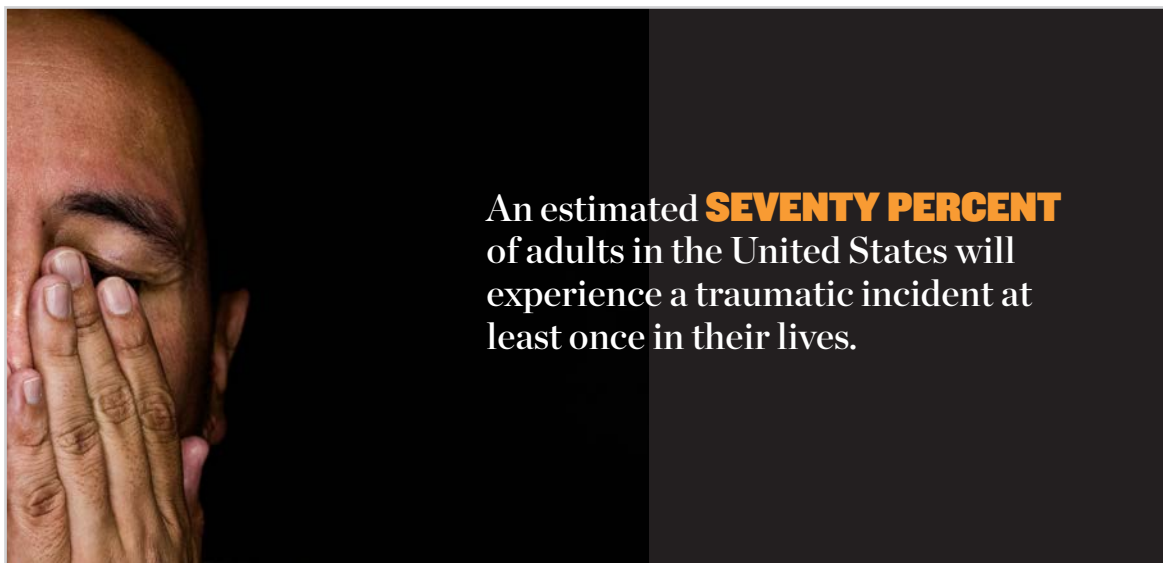
In my spiritual journey, there have been mountain tops of success, and valleys with trials and afflictions, but the Lord has given victory in every situation. It is my desire to share the wonderful news of what Jesus has done in my life until I see Him face to face. ■

◆ Solomon Akinduro is the leader of the Apostolic Faith group in Memphis, Tennessee.

HELP FOR THE HURTING

What to do and say when it matters most.

By Mark Worthington



An estimated **SEVENTY PERCENT** of adults in the United States will experience a traumatic incident at least once in their lives.

Just two months after my wife and I were married, we were traveling over the Blue Mountains in Oregon one night shortly after midnight. We had noticed snow on the side of the road, but the freeway looked clear and vehicles were moving along at the posted speed. Suddenly our Volkswagen hit a patch of ice. We spun out of control, flew off into the median, flipped over, and bounced three times before coming to a stop. A truck driver coming in our direction at the time said our car went up and down like a rubber ball. He was certain no one could have survived such a crash.

Miraculously, we did. However, my wife was covered with blood from facial and head injuries. I was unconscious for a short time, and when I came to, I was not able to move my hands. Later we learned that I had flown up and hit the metal sunroof, bending it back and crushing two vertebrae in my neck.

We were twenty-five miles from the nearest hospital, and once we had been loaded into the ambulance that came to the scene, we had to travel slowly because of the ice. It was a long twenty-five miles! The pain and trauma made it impossible for us to think rationally, and I kept asking over and over why this had happened. After all, just hours before, we had held hands in a circle of our friends and prayed for safe travel.

Thankfully, the medic in the ambulance was a Christian. I do not remember all he said and did to calm us, but I will never forget his comforting presence. And he was just the first of many individuals who ministered to us over the next few months as we slowly recuperated. The words of encouragement and acts of love we received were a tremendous help during our recovery.

Our firsthand experience of Christian support in a time of crisis has had a spiritual impact on me. Slowly, the answer to the question “why?” that had



As we reach out with solace and support, we offer those in crisis
A GLIMPSE OF THE GOODNESS OF GOD.

repeatedly gone through my mind during our ambulance ride began to emerge. Who can offer comfort and support better than one who has experienced a need for comfort and support? God wants us to reach out to those who are in distress. He wants us to be His hands and feet, both to a lost and dying world, and to those in our Christian family. Along with that understanding came a desire to prepare myself to help others in their times of need.

An estimated seventy percent of adults in the United States will experience a traumatic incident at least once in their lives. That fact means that even if we are never personally involved in such an occurrence, most of us will have someone in our circle of acquaintances who has been. Scripture indicates that all people, including Christians, will face adversity. When people encounter times of crisis, they need comfort and the reassurance that God is mindful of their needs. And for that reason, such times offer us a unique opportunity to reach out with care and compassion.

Jesus commended those who minister to others in trying circumstances saying, "I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." When His hearers asked when they had done those deeds, He explained, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:35-36, 40).

In Luke 10:29-37, after Jesus stated that we should love our neighbor as ourselves, He told the parable of the Good Samaritan, describing a traveler who was ambushed by robbers and left by the roadside. Although other travelers passed by the injured man, the Good Samaritan stepped in and did what a Christian should do in such a situation: He provided assistance and comfort to the wounded man. Jesus concluded His parable by giving the command, "Go, and do thou likewise."

The Apostle Paul included caring for those in distress in his list of responsibilities Christians have toward one another, telling believers at Thessalonica to "comfort the

feble-minded, [and] support the weak" (1 Thessalonians 5:14), and charging the elders at Ephesus, "I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak" (Acts 20:35).

The first century church faced crisis after crisis, yet they risked their lives to meet as a group of believers to pray, break bread, and sing praises to God together. We know from Scripture that they also comforted and supported one another, and assisted those who had lost husbands, fathers, wives, and mothers through martyrdom or imprisonment, encouraging them to continue in the faith. The result was that in spite of strenuous efforts to stamp out Christianity and the martyrdom of thousands of believers, the message of Jesus Christ has lived on through the ages.

As Christians in our day, we too have both a responsibility and a great privilege to support, comfort, and encourage those who are suffering. However, at times we may be unsure about how to help. As a minister and pastor, I have dealt with a variety of crises over the years. I understand the feelings of uncertainty that can arise, and the fear that we lack the ability or training to respond effectively. In such times, it is easy to hesitate out of concern that we might say something wrong or inadvertently add to the individual's distress.

Following are some suggestions that can help all of us when someone we know experiences a crisis.

PRAY.

The most important help we can offer those in trying circumstances is prayer. Though our schedules may be busy and our abilities limited in terms of direct assistance, we should never be too busy to pray for those who are suffering.

MAKE CONTACT.

Call, email, send a note, or offer to visit. People in crisis often feel isolated and unsure if others care. John 13:35 tells us, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another," and making the effort to reach out is one way we can show love.

LISTEN.

For some, describing the crisis situation can be a first step toward coping

with it. We can show concern and understanding by repeating the sequence of events and asking for clarification when needed.

COMMUNICATE WITH SENSITIVITY.

Ask God for help in correctly assessing the physical and emotional state of the individual, and in adapting the tone and substance of conversation to verbal and nonverbal cues. King Solomon observed, "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones" (Proverbs 16:24). We should be cautious about verbalizing our personal perspective about the situation, and keep in mind that statements such as, "I know how you feel," may not be helpful. When people are reeling from their own feelings, they think that others can't possibly understand their experience unless they actually have been there. It is also best to avoid offering overly optimistic comments or minimizing the individual's problems.

BE PREPARED FOR EMOTIONAL FRAGILITY.

Unexpected trauma can cause unusual responses. Illness, pain, and medications, as well as stress and uncertainty, can impact a person's emotions. Normal coping mechanisms may have shut down, and your friend may feel numb, intensely emotional, or anywhere in between. Tears may be close to the surface. Be empathetic, and do not be afraid to show your own emotion. Remember, the Apostle Paul told us to "weep with them that weep" (Romans 12:15).

RESPECT CONFIDENTIALITY.

Be cautious about sharing specifics related to the situation without permission from the people involved. For the most part, it is their right and responsibility to share information as they deem best. Quoting Solomon again, "He that refraineth his lips is wise" (Proverbs 10:19).

ASK HOW YOU CAN HELP.

Let the person know you would be happy to help in any way feasible. Suggest tasks you might take on such as making calls or doing errands. Take care of practical details as you are able, especially if the individual and close family members are having difficulty coping or knowing what to do next. This may mean a sacrifice of personal time or resources, "but to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (Hebrews 13:16).

QUIETLY ASSESS UNSPOKEN NEEDS.

If the individual in need is elderly, has small children, or other circumstances exist that limit their ability to function, consider ways the extended church family might be able to offer assistance. (We see in Acts 6 that the Early Church set the example in this.) Perhaps you could arrange for a group of fellow Christians to step in and help make meals, provide childcare, take the person to appointments, etc.

RECOGNIZE LIMITATIONS.

Some people will need help we cannot provide, such as ongoing financial support, social services, or counseling. Though we can and

should do our best to point them to appropriate resources, we must not feel guilty or pressured if we are unable to go beyond that.

BE PATIENT.

The life and emotional landscape of one who has undergone a crisis event may have changed drastically. We may wish that he or she would "move on," but everyone's recovery process is unique. Our role is simply to do our best to support, comfort, and encourage them as they adjust, knowing that "weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:5).

The truth is that what hurting individuals need most is the understanding that God is there with them in their time of need, and that He will see them through. As we reach out with solace and support, we offer those in crisis a glimpse of the goodness of God. We become tangible reminders of His love for them, His care for every aspect of their lives, and His unchanging character.

It is a privilege to make ourselves available when crisis comes, and the encouragement we offer by pointing hurting individuals to the One who has already "borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows" (Isaiah 53:4) will not only be a blessing to those needing support, but also a blessing to us! ■

◆ Mark Worthington is a retired pastor in the Apostolic Faith organization. He and his wife Rosemary currently live and assist in the church work in Sacramento, California.



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I am thankful that I am saved, that Jesus is in my heart. I had the privilege to be raised in a home where I knew what it took to be saved. I was taught the Gospel my whole life, and what was preached at church was lived at home. It was easy when I was very young to get saved. I am thankful for that. That was a great starting point for the rest of my life, and as I got older, I continued with it, saying, "Yes, I want to stick with this."

Just a couple weeks ago on a Friday night, our eldest son came downstairs and said his younger brother wanted to get saved. He wanted all of us to come to his bedside. What a thrill it is to see the Gospel continuing to the next generation. I am so glad Jesus is in my heart. ■

Barry Morgan
Portland, Oregon

EVIDENCE



Lee Voreis
Portland,
Oregon

A long time ago, a man named Clarence Frost went to Klamath Falls and preached. My grandma heard the Gospel there and raised her children in it, including my mom. My mother was not saved as I was growing up, but we came to Portland a few times for camp meeting, and I heard about Hell. That message always registered with me. I didn't want to go there.

One camp meeting when I was sixteen years old, I was so tired of sin. I was tired of the cursing, lying, and cheating. I went down to the altar and prayed, and the Lord came down and wonderfully saved my soul. He made a change in my heart.

Back at home, I went out to the barn and knelt by a bale of hay and prayed. Joy came down out of Heaven and the Lord sanctified me. Then, in 1965, I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit during camp meeting. That was in July, and by October 6 I was in California going through basic training before going to Vietnam. That was a real wake-up call for a nineteen-year-old kid. I am thankful I had the Spirit of God down in my heart. The Lord kept me through three years in the Army. I didn't drink or swear or smoke like some of the others. I couldn't go to church during that time, but the Lord kept me. It has been wonderful to serve Him. ■



Mylo Ivany
Portland, Oregon



A little over four years ago at camp meeting, God saved me, and I'm so thankful for that. I came to that camp meeting with no intentions of getting saved, but one night after church, a friend came back and sat with me. He talked to me

about the Gospel, and there was no getting away from it. It seemed that for every negative thing I had to say, the Lord gave my friend an answer and the right words. I went to the altar, and my life began to look up from there. Before I was saved, I spent a lot of my money on drinking. Since I got saved, the Lord has blessed me so much. I have a wonderful wife and two beautiful daughters. I want to raise our girls the right way. God has been good, and when He comes, I want to see Him. ■



Chet King
Portland, Oregon



When I first started coming to this church, I heard someone testify about having a know-so salvation, and I thought, That is exactly what I need. I need a know-so, not a hope-so salvation. Today I can say I'm thankful to be a Christian and know it.

I was raised in another church and knew about salvation, and had always hoped I was saved and would make Heaven my home. I remember being at one service where we were asked to raise our hands if we wanted prayer. I had my hand down in my pocket and I raised my thumb. I wanted to know so desperately that I was ready. God saw that. I joined the Navy and went to Vietnam with a group of men who were not saved. It took a long time, but I came to the place where I could admit to myself, "You are not saved, you are not ready for Heaven, you are bound for Hell." I didn't like the thought of that, but God had a plan.

After I was discharged from the Navy, I took a job in town, and after a while, a fellow that went to this church started working there. He invited me to church and I heard young people testify to knowing they were saved and ready for Heaven. About a month later, I prayed and the Lord saved me. He gave me that know-so salvation.

Then I came to camp meeting and found out about sanctification, but more than just that, I received it! The next night, after praying awhile, I went outside and a friend met me and asked, "Why don't you go back in and get your baptism?" I didn't have an answer so I went back in and prayed and God baptized me around midnight or so. What a thrill it is to know I am ready for Heaven. ■



Rosemaria Chinyere Obaro
Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

Alone in that classroom, I started praying to God. I said, **“IF IT IS POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO FORGIVE MY SINS AND KEEP ME FROM SINNING AGAIN, I WANT TO EXPERIENCE THAT.”**

EVIDENCE

“The songwriter said, “Count your blessings and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.” When I sit down to count my blessings, I am always amazed because God has been so wonderful to me.

From childhood I was raised in a religious home, though we were not taught about salvation. That training put such a love of God in my heart that I chose to go to a convent school where I would be trained to become a Reverend Sister. However, God made a way for me to leave that school and go to another on an island far away from my home in River State of Nigeria. There, during devotions, I would cry because there was much conviction in my heart. I needed God and wanted to serve Him.

One Sunday, people from the Apostolic Faith Church came to our school and preached about salvation. They simply told us that we should confess our sins to God and He would forgive us. I was used to going to a priest to confess my sins, and then committing them again. When they said that we should confess our sins and God would give us grace to live a life without sin, this was so interesting to me. They completed the sermon that

day and left, and I went back to my classroom.

Alone in that classroom, I started praying to God. I said, “If it is possible for You to forgive my sins and keep me from sinning again, I want to experience that.” Right there, as I was confessing my sins, Jesus saved my soul. How did I know He saved me? I had joy like never before in my life. It felt as if I could fly! I did not even know that what I had received was called salvation or being born again, but I knew something drastic had happened to me that day.

Immediately Jesus started teaching me about restitution, right in that school, although I had never been to a church where restitution was preached. Once I got home, I made restitution to my father and told him I was leaving the convent. He was not happy; He could not see why I would leave the convent and go to another church entirely, and he began to persecute me.

Meanwhile, the same people came back to the school and invited us to a retreat, and there the Lord sanctified me. When I came home, my father was so angry that he woke me in the middle of the night and told me he was not going to raise me anymore. He disowned me as his child and asked what I would do. I said, “Jesus will take care of me.”

This Jesus who said He would take care of me has been faithful to do just that.

Later, I was told about the baptism of the Holy Ghost. When I prayed, God filled me with His power. This power enabled me to face all that came my way. My father would not see me and did not want to hear anything about me from that moment. However, Jesus saw me through. When it was time to get married, the Lord provided a wonderful husband for me, and He gave us children.

Some years ago, I was so sick that everyone around me thought it was the end. But I held on to God and told Him, “You say You will heal me when I’m sick.” He came to my rescue. To the surprise and amazement of everybody, Jesus healed me instantly.

God has been there for us even in time of accidents and problems. Once we were going from River State to Lagos for a camp meeting. My husband was driving and all our children were with us in the car. Suddenly, it looked as if we were going to have a terrible accident and be crushed. We all called out to Jesus, and He stopped it. How He delivered us I still cannot explain, but He did it.

My heart’s desire is to see Jesus at the end of my life where I will be at His feet and worship and praise Him for all the wonderful things He has done for me. ■

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WORLD REPORT

As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

— Proverbs 25:25



A JOYFUL START TO 2018



Seven individuals from our churches in Portland and Grants Pass, Oregon, visited India from December 27 to January 22. Their first ten days were spent in the western province of Maharashtra, which is a new area of our work in India.

On December 30 they attended our Maharashtra minister's meeting, where several topics were discussed, including the importance of having the three foundational experiences of salvation, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Afterward Deanna Moen, who was one of the visitors, reported, "The ministers are a wonderful group, and full of enthusiasm for the Gospel."

On New Year's Eve the American guests attended four watchnight services. At the close of the first, sixteen people responded to an invitation to pray and receive salvation, and in the following meetings more indicated a desire to be saved. The next day, a water baptismal service was held with ten candidates being baptized in a nearby canal. This was followed by a banquet lunch, during which saris were presented to the widows. It was a wonderful way to start the new year.

Later in the week, one of the guests was invited by the principal of a Hindu boarding school to visit and tell the students about America. The school is for boys in the first through tenth grades. Clark Wolfe accepted the invitation and was accompanied by several of our local pastors. He reported that as they entered the small school, "there were about fifty students, and all were very surprised to see us." The students had many questions about America, including, "Who is your God?" Reverend Wolfe said he happily gave a short explanation of the Creation, God, Jesus, and redemption. At the close of the visit, a teacher asked if he could have a Bible, and one of our pastors said he would bring one later. Before leaving, everyone gathered outside for photos, and the students presented a coconut as a sign of respect and appreciation for the visit.

On January 7, an ordinance service was held with ninety in attendance, which is a large number considering this was during the rice-planting season. Reverend Moen said that when the preacher admonished everyone to examine their hearts, tears flowed, and as they took the emblems they felt a powerful sense of unity.



(Top to bottom) Students at a Hindu boarding school gather to hear from the visiting American; A member of a local Indian congregation welcomes a guest from the United States; A family enjoys a fellowship meal.



Reverend Surya Gajbahiv baptizes a recent convert.

The rest of the trip was spent visiting several of our congregations in the southeastern province of Andhra Pradesh, which is where our India headquarters church is located. In the church services they enjoyed many testimonies of miraculous help from God, wonderful prayer meetings, and warm fellowship with the saints. It was reported that the congregation in Pedapudi is outgrowing their church building, and they are praying to be able to purchase a nearby property where they can construct a larger one.

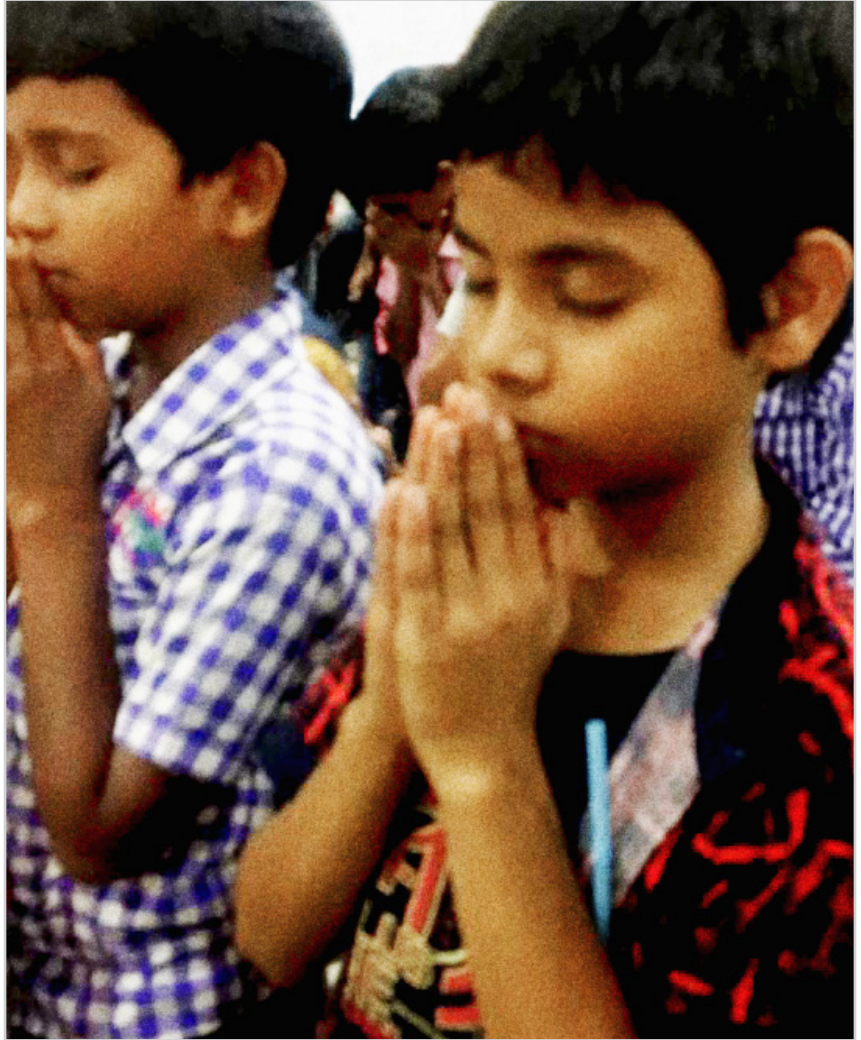
During a meeting for ministers and their spouses, those in attendance were encouraged to spend time in the prayer room before church services, and at the altar afterward. The spouses also received special instruction in how to be supportive in their roles. The meeting was followed by a luncheon and joyful fellowship.

One of the last meetings the visitors attended was at our newly established church in Sarpavaram, Andhra Pradesh. About forty attend there regularly, and at the close of the service, one young man prayed through to salvation.

The final portion of this trip was dedicated to Vacation Bible School (VBS) at seven of the Andhra Pradesh locations, with about five hundred children attending overall. The first session was held on January 19, and Sister Moen said the children were so excited for the activities to start that nearly all of them arrived an hour early!

This year's VBS theme was based on Matthew 4:19, "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." During the activities, the children learned how they could ask Jesus into their hearts and become "fishers of men." At the close, every one of the children knelt and prayed. At the Pedapudi VBS, so many adults accompanied the children that the church could not contain them. Many stood outside listening at the windows to hear how they, too, could follow Jesus and then gain others for Him.

The visitors returned safely in late January and are thanking God for a wonderful trip. ■



(Top to bottom) Vacation Bible School students pray;
A new friendship forms between a young
local Indian girl and one of the American visitors.



SHORT TAKES

NEWFOUNDLAND SENIOR HOUSING COMPLEX

Our headquarters church in Roddickton, Newfoundland, has nearly finished construction of a senior housing complex, which will create an opportunity to minister to the seniors in their congregation, as well as the local community. Many of their elderly church members who are no longer able to maintain their own homes have had to relocate to places where there is no Apostolic Faith Church. This situation saddened everyone, and the new housing complex is a solution to that problem.

At a groundbreaking ceremony held on September 27 of last year, Canadian District Superintendent Christopher Hewlett expressed the congregation's happiness about the new project and graciously thanked everyone who had contributed to making the achievement possible. The actual groundbreaking was performed by Wilson Bushey, one of the longest serving members of the Roddickton church Board of Directors, and retired pastor Reverend Grant Cassell, who has been the foreman of the project. Also in attendance was

Roddickton Mayor Sheila Fitzgerald, who spoke briefly as well, expressing the excitement felt from the community to witness the construction of such a worthwhile venture.

The complex will consist of three two-bedroom units and two one-bedroom units. By February 2018, the outside work was almost entirely complete and builders were finishing work on the interior. They expect the building to be ready for occupancy in May of 2018, with a dedication service scheduled for May 31. The property where the housing complex is located has additional space available, leaving the potential for more building in the future. ■



SHORT TAKES

CHRISTMAS ON THE CAMPGROUND

Christmas on the Campground was held at the Apostolic Faith world headquarters in Portland, Oregon, on December 8-10, 2017, and over five thousand people came out during the weekend to enjoy the festivities. It was very cold and windy, but thankfully also dry each night. The campground was beautifully illuminated and a pleasure to see.

Preparations went on for weeks leading up to the event, and many in the community were invited to attend through various advertising efforts. In addition to the usual invitation methods, a new publicity opportunity presented itself this year: a radio interview. A local Christian radio station heard about the event and invited three representatives of the organization to appear on an hour-long program the week prior. In addition to discussing various aspects of Christmas on the Campground, Reverend John Musgrave, Trent Paulsen, and Catey Hinkle also

shared their personal testimonies, discussed our work in Romania, and promoted the church website, mobile app, and literature! It was a great opportunity to share the Latter Rain Gospel and an encouragement to those working so hard to prepare for the following weekend.

Perhaps the most exciting part of Christmas on the Campground is the Nativity Pageant, which requires more than 250 Sunday school students and staff in order to hold nine performances in three days. That makes for a lot of excited kids! Each night, the backstage area was a flurry of hustling people as the cast arrived to get into costume and then awaited their first performance. There was a big crowd ready to watch each time, and they all heard the true Christmas story of how Jesus was sent to save lost souls. Our prayer is that the message was received and embraced by everyone who heard it.

Other highlights of the weekend were seeing Curly the Camel and getting up close and personal with furry friends in the petting zoo where there were goats, a sheep, a donkey, a pig, and bunnies. When the guests needed a break from the cold, they could walk over to the Fellowship Lodge and warm up with cookies, cocoa, and coffee. There was also hot food available for purchase at a barbeque food cart. It was not possible to run the hayride this year due to ongoing construction projects on the campground, but it is expected to be back next year, and by then the campground will look even more beautiful with the new headquarters office complete.

This was the ninth Christmas on the Campground, and each year seems just as great as the last. It is a tradition that is planned to be shared with the community for years to come if Jesus carries! ■

SHOW ME THY
GLORY, 43
By Jim Williams

IN TIME FOR GOD'S
ROLL CALL, 45
By Allen Crabtree



OUR CLASSICS

Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise.

— Proverbs 22:17

SHOW ME THY GLORY

It hasn't entered into the heart of man all that God has prepared for them that love Him, but God has revealed them unto us by His Spirit.

By Jim Williams

This article was originally published in the Sep-Oct 1974 edition of this publication.

The Bible records many unusual and poignant petitions that were sent up to the Lord. There was Joshua, standing with his arms stretched toward the sun and crying out, "Sun, stand thou still." The Bible says the sun stood still "and hasted not to go down about a whole day" (Joshua 10:12-13). We read of Elijah commanding it to rain after there had been no rain for three years and six months, and the heavens gave forth their rain. (See 1 Kings 18:41-45.) There was also Jacob, wrestling before God with an angel until he overcame. The angel changed Jacob's name, and said, "For as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed" (Genesis 32:28).

Yet, of all the petitions that were ever sent up to God, one of the greatest must be that of Moses: "I beseech thee, shew me thy glory" (Exodus 33:18). Can you think of a mortal, terrestrial man saying to the great eternal God, "I beseech thee, shew me thy glory"? It must have caused Moses himself to tremble when he heard his voice speaking such words to God.

This was not just an offhand request Moses made. The full account is given in Exodus 32-33.

Moses had been in the counsel chambers of the Triune God on Mount Sinai for forty days receiving the Law. After the Law was given, the Lord had revealed to Moses that the Children of Israel had sinned and that He was going to destroy them. He refused to lead such a rebellious people.

God said to Moses, "Let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation." Yet Moses interceded before God. He besought God for the Children of Israel. In effect he was asking, "What will happen to Your great name? You gave Your covenant to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob that You would lead this people out. You cannot destroy them now."

At the intercession of Moses, God relented and said, "Go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee." But Moses wasn't content with the Angel to lead them. He sought God again until He said, "My presence shall go with thee." Moses still wanted more, however, and he said, "Shew me thy glory." God said, "I will make all my goodness pass before thee." All my goodness! Just think of what a glory that would be!

The account continues, "And he

said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: and it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: and I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen" (Exodus 33:20-23). In other words, "I will let you see just as much of My glory as it is possible for you to see and yet live." Mortal man was never designed to look on the face of the great, eternal God. Never was a man so favored as Moses was—to be able to see the glory of God as he did.

When we get a vision of the Lord, it will thrill our souls. When we see even a small part of His glory, it will set us on fire for God. In the words of the familiar hymn, "the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace." When our goal is, "I beseech thee, shew me Thy glory," and we ask God to open His Word and His will to us, and are willing to obey Him, we are truly blessed.

We cannot hold back from yielding to God and expect to receive His blessing. You might deceive your minister, your friends,

Moses still wanted more, however, and he said, **“SHEW ME THY GLORY.”** God said, **“I WILL MAKE ALL MY GOODNESS PASS BEFORE THEE.”**

or your wife. You might put up a front and make them believe you are a real Christian. But “be not deceived; God is not mocked” (Galatians 6:7). You will never deceive Him. You are going to have to deliver the real goods. You will have to lay hold on God and dedicate and consecrate your life to Him in order to enjoy His favor.

The Bible says, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you” (James 4:7-8). People sometimes say, “It seems that the devil is on my trail all the time.” There is an antidote for this problem: “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Lay hold upon God and His promises. Lay everything of this world aside. How God’s blessing will fill your soul!

When we pray and seek God, He is pleased with our asking. Some people say, “Don’t be a beggar.” Well, it isn’t a case of begging. It is a matter of conforming our lives to God’s will. When we do that, He will pour out His blessings upon us, and the joy of God will fill our hearts and lives.

When we see the real glory of God, we will not be able to hold our peace. We will shout it out. We will pray

ferently. We will have so much for which to thank God!

The place where we can see the glory of God in a greater measure than ever before is in the cleft of the Rock—the Rock Christ Jesus. There, the things of this world fade into insignificance, and we see the wonder of God’s salvation. When we envision the Christ who paid the fearful price on Calvary’s Cross for us, that will take precedence over anything in this world.

The greatest glory, however, will be when we step over onto Heaven’s shores and see the unveiled glory of God; “Now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face” (1 Corinthians 13:12). All through eternity we will be able to see the glory of God—the glory of which Moses was privileged to see only a little! Over there, we are going to be amazed at the greatness of our God. His glory will be transcendent! Even the most glorious times we have ever had around the altars of prayer or in the presence of God are going to pale into insignificance compared with His glory when it is revealed to us in all its fullness. It will be wonderful!

“I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.” Is that your desire and purpose? ■



◆ Reverend Jim Williams was a minister in the Apostolic Faith Church until he went to be with the Lord on May 27, 1992. He began preaching in September of 1950. He pastored four branch churches through the years: St. Louis, Missouri; Yakima, Washington; Port Angeles, Washington; and Honolulu, Hawaii.

IN TIME FOR GOD'S ROLL CALL

Even though I put off answering the call of God, in mercy, He continued to call after me until the day I welcomed Him into my life.

By Allen Crabtree

This article was originally published in the September 1974 edition of this publication, and was also printed and distributed thousands of times as a Gospel tract.

Years ago, while I was a soldier at Fort Worden, Washington, God called me to repentance. I had a ruined character, blasted hopes, and an appetite for alcohol. My heart demanded sin.

Early in life God had spoken to me and caused me to pray. My father was a Christian, but my mother was not. During my childhood, there was much discord in our home because of this. One day it seemed that our home was about to be broken up. There were eight of us children, and I wondered what was going to happen to us. That morning I went to the barn, and knelt in the straw. I told God that if He would keep us together, I would give Him my heart when I became twenty-one years of age. God heard my prayer and spared our home from that awful tragedy.

TROUBLED YOUTH

I never got away from the promise I made God, though my life became one of debauchery. My name was not good in the hills of Ohio where we lived. My father took me out of school because of the trouble I caused there. I knew how it felt to have steel handcuffs around my wrists, and to be escorted by the police because of what I had done. But under my rough exterior was a hunger for God, and a fear of going out into eternity unprepared to meet Him. Outwardly I could laugh with the boys, but inside I trembled at the thought of facing an angry God.

While in the army, I reached the age of twenty-one. I knew it was time for me to keep the vow I had made to God. One Sunday I went into a mission hall in Port Townsend, Washington. There I picked up a Bible. As I opened it, something spoke to my soul, "Go out by yourself and pray." So I went into the woods, looking for a place to be alone with God.

I stepped off the trail, and knelt beside an old stump. That stump was my altar, and God was there! I meant business as I prayed that day. I turned my back on sin, and made some deep consecrations. I told God, "I will not leave these woods until I get the witness in my heart that I am saved." The thought came: What if I am not back at the army post in time to stand retreat? But the Lord whispered, "I will take care of that." Then I thought: What if I have to pray all night in the woods before I know I am saved? But I knew that would be better than spending eternity in Hell.

VICTORY WAS MINE!

Within minutes, I prayed through to victory. Across the threshold of my life stepped Jesus. He made a change in my heart I can never forget. A sweet, holy peace came over my entire being. I stood up and looked around. Everything seemed to have gone to rest. The fir trees didn't even stir. A holy calmness had settled over my soul because I had made my peace with God. The desire for sin vanished from my life. No preacher, priest, or rabbi was there to tell me what had happened, and I didn't need anyone. In a moment God had made me a new creature—and I was back at the army post in time for evening roll call.

When I sent the news of my salvation back home, Dad began to rejoice and Mother began to cry. Later, when I came home, we went to the little church my father attended. After I tried to preach a simple sermon, I saw my grey-haired mother, bent in form, coming down the aisle. After all those years, she was coming Home! She looked at me and cried, "Al, pray for me!" What a night that was!

My father and mother worshiped the Lord together from that day on. The best years of their lives were their last ones. Shortly before my father died, he left word for me that he was ready to step over any time

OUR CLASSICS

A holy calmness had settled over my soul because I had made my peace with God. **THE DESIRE FOR SIN VANISHED FROM MY LIFE.**

the Lord called him. Not long afterward, he walked in from the porch, sat down, and his soul went out to meet his God. Just before Mother left this world, she said to those gathered around, "Tell Al that I'll tell Dad he's coming."

BROTHERLY LOVE EXTENDED

I had worked for my brother on his farm in Iowa when I was a boy of sixteen. He had a temper, and so did I. One day we got into trouble. I told him I wouldn't work for him any longer, and he said he wouldn't pay me what he owed me. I left. Later we did get on speaking terms, but there was always a strain between us. The day when I prayed in the woods, the first thing that came before me was the trouble with my brother. The Lord asked, "What are you going to do about it?" I answered, "I will ask him to forgive me."

I sent a letter to my brother, but he never answered. Weeks went by, and it bothered me so much that I wrote again. I said, "Won't you please forgive me?" I still did not receive an answer, but I felt clear before the Lord. After that, I wrote to him as one brother writes to another. Later, he was killed instantly by a train. As I stood by his grave, deep in my heart I knew I had done what I could to make things right.

I experienced the joy of God at different places of employment through the years. For a time I worked in

a factory in front of hot furnaces. I thank God for the strength He gave me. Amid the rattle of machinery and the roar of blowers, tears of joy streamed down my face. Thanksgiving rose from my heart for salvation that saves from sin, sets a man free, and makes him happy.

One day I was suddenly stricken in body. As I lay on my bed, sick and unable to walk, I prayed. And God answered! I heard something down inside say, "Get up. You can walk now!" If I had not obeyed, I believe I would still be afflicted. But I threw back the covers, stepped out on the promises of God, and He restored me to health.

I thank God for the health and strength He has given me in my last years, and for the joy unspeakable I have in my soul. And best of all, I know I am ready for God's roll call over Yonder! ■



◆ Reverend Allen Crabtree was a much-loved veteran minister of the Apostolic Faith work. He made many evangelistic trips throughout the country, as well as pastoring a church in Seattle, Washington, for many years. On October 25, 1977 he answered God's roll call for Heaven.

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

ACKNOWLEDGE—"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13).

CONFESS—"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

REPENT—"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). "Repent ye therefore, and

be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).

FORSAKE—"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him . . . for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).

BELIEVE—"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not

perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

If you are a new Christian, write us and request the tract entitled, "Starting Out."

A Statement of Bible Doctrine

WE BELIEVE IN THE DIVINE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE, AND ENDORSE ALL THE TEACHINGS CONTAINED IN IT. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF OUR BASIC DOCTRINES.

The Divine Trinity consists of three Persons: God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Ghost, perfectly united as one. Matthew 3:16,17; 1 John 5:7.

Repentance is a godly sorrow for and a renouncing of all sin. Isaiah 55:7; Matthew 4:17.

Justification (or salvation) is the act of God's grace through which we receive forgiveness for sins and stand before God as though we had never sinned. Romans 5:1; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Entire Sanctification, the act of God's grace whereby we are made holy, is the second definite work and is subsequent to justification. John 17:15-21; Hebrews 13:12.

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is the endowment of power upon the sanctified life, and is evidenced by speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. John 14:16-17,26; Acts 1:5-8; 2:1-4.

Divine Healing of sickness is provided through the atonement. James 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:24.

The Second Coming of Jesus will be as literal and visible as His going away (Acts 1:9-11) and will consist of two appearances. First, He comes to catch away His waiting Bride. Matthew 24:40-44; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17. Second, He comes to execute judgment upon the ungodly. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Jude 14,15.

The Tribulation will occur between Christ's coming for His Bride and His return in judgment. Isaiah 26:20-21; Revelation 9 and 16.

Christ's Millennial Reign is the 1000 years of peaceful reign by Jesus on earth. Isaiah 11 and 35; Revelation 20:1-6.

The Great White Throne Judgment is the final judgment when all the wicked dead will stand before God. Revelation 20:11-15.

The New Heaven and The New Earth will replace the present heaven and earth, which will be destroyed after the Great White Throne Judgment. 2 Peter 3:12-13; Revelation 21:1-3.

Eternal Heaven and Eternal Hell are literal places of final and eternal destiny. Matthew 25:41-46; Luke 16:22-28.

Marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman that is binding before God for life. Neither person has a right to marry again while the first companion lives. Mark 10:6-12; Romans 7:1-3.

Restitution is necessary, wherein wrongs against others are righted. Ezekiel 33:15; Matthew 5:23-24.

Water Baptism is by one immersion "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 3:16; 28:19.

The Lord's Supper is an institution ordained by Jesus so that we might remember His death until He returns. Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23,26.

Foot Washing is practiced according to the example and commandment Jesus gave. John 13:14-15.

You may obtain additional information about these doctrines and learn about our other publications in both English and foreign languages by writing to the Apostolic Faith Church at 5414 SE Duke Street, Portland, Oregon 97206, U.S.A. or visiting our website at www.apostolicfaith.org.

Before these magazines are sent out, they are always prayed over for the healing of the sick and the salvation of souls.

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