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VIEWPOINT

We all carry a brand, and thereby brand whatever or whomever we represent.

the dedication of he new headquarters office on July 4, the eyes of visitors entering the building were quickly drawn to a water fountain that featured our logo. Our logo is part of our brandpart of the distinguishing traits that communicate who we are to others. The logo contains a phrase that has been with the Apostolic Faith since its inception: "Jesus the Light of the World." From the beginning of our work, a determination existed to point souls to Jesus. Our logo continues to elevate and magnify His name. Our hope is that the Apostolic Faith brand-not just our logo but also our literature, church services. and the lives of church members-will be one that encourages souls to come to know the light of Jesus.

When I was a high school student and member of the Roseburg, Oregon, chapter of *Future Farmers of America*, I helped tag sheep. Tagging is a form of animal branding, without the red-hot iron. The color of the tag affixed to the ear of a sheep identifies it as being owned by a

specific farmer. It is noteworthy that if someone purchases an animal and it turns out to be of poor quality, he will not blame the animal, but the farmer. In that sense, the farmer is also branded—by the quality of his product.

Though not tagged or the recipients of a hot-iron marking, we all carry a brand, and thereby brand whatever or whomever we represent. Our brand is who we are, and it is communicated through our character and actions. Some individuals are known as irresponsible, unreliable, or careless. Others are honest, diligent, and conscientious. When we claim to be Christians. we are taking the name of Christ; it is as though we are applying His tag to our lives. Consequently, our lives brand Christianity, either favorably or unfavorably. While a sheep is not responsible for the quality of its meat or wool, we are responsible for our manner of living, and God's name is marked by our decisions.

The Bible declares that believers are ambassadors for Christ; we are epistles, known and read of all men (see 2 Corinthians

5:20 and 3:2). There is a reason the disciples at Antioch were labeled as "Christians"—their manner of living, and even dying, served as reminders of the way Christ lived and died. We want our lives to do the same.

From Bible times until now. some have worn the brand of Christ favorably and others unfavorably. At the Apostolic Faith, we want to be known by the world as a excellent brand. because we are not just representing a church, but Christ himself. May the content of this magazine, which is a by-product of our church services, challenge us to walk worthy of the Name of Jesus. If we do, those who hunger for the spiritual victory and inner peace offered by the Light of the Gospel will more likely find it.

OLee

DARREL LEE, Superintendent General

THIS LIFE

From a sermon by DARREL LEE

ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, we held the funeral for my wife's father, a man our children and grandchildren knew as Grandpa Brown. Our grandson Moses, who was not yet three at the time, had captured the idea that his great-grandfather had gone to Heaven. When it came time to open the casket at the close of the service, he turned to his dad and said with some astonishment, "He's here?" When children are told someone is in Heaven, it is difficult for them to comprehend that the body remains, although the soul of that individual is in eternity.

Live spiritually so you can live eternally after you've lived physically.

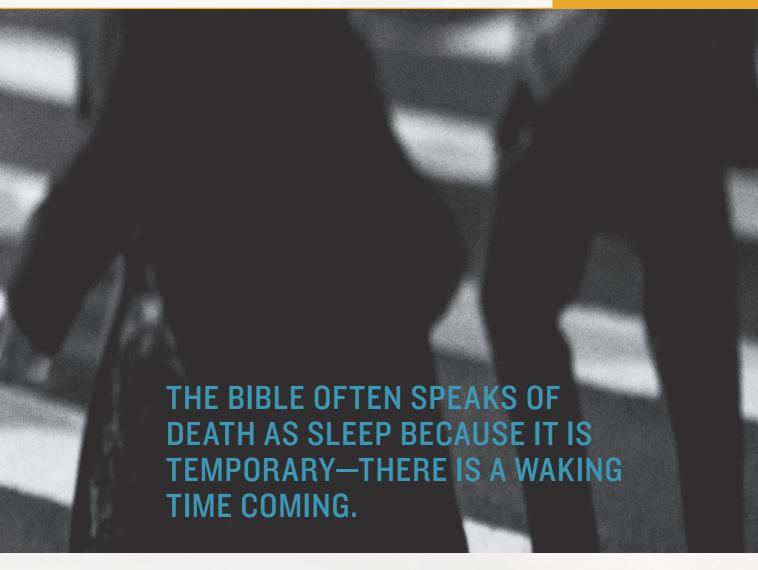
In Luke 23:39-43, we find an account that illustrates the difference between the final destiny of the body and soul. There we read of the deaths of the two criminals who were crucified on either side of Jesus. "And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Both of these men had lived a life of crime. In some places in the Gospels they are called thieves; in this passage they are identified as malefactors. They were more than makers of mischief; they were criminals, perhaps even murderers. Both of these men lived and died and were buried. However, before their bodies were buried, their souls had gone into eternity. One had prayed, and the Lord's response was, "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." He went to paradise, though his body remained on earth.

Another illustration of the soul existing after death is found in Luke chapter 16, where we read of the deaths of the rich man, who is unnamed, and the beggar whose name was Lazarus. There had been a contrast between their earthly lives. The rich man "was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day." Lazarus laid at the rich man's gate and desired to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. However, they had one thing in common: they both died. Scripture records that one was comforted in eternity and the other was tormented ... but both of them were in eternity, though their bodies remained to be buried.

A COMMON END FOR THE PHYSICAL BODY

Throughout the Bible we find accounts of individuals who lived, died, and were buried. Abraham lived 175 years. Then we read that Abraham "gave up the ghost" (Genesis 25:8). In today's wording, it might read that he "took his last breath." The next verse tells us, "And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah." They had a funeral service, but Abraham was already gone.



Abraham's son Isaac lived for 180 years. Genesis 35:29 records, "And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him."

In the Acts of the Apostles, we read of Ananias and Sapphira, who lied to the Holy Ghost, and this was revealed to Peter and others in the Early Church. Acts 5:5 says, "And Ananias . . . fell down, and gave up the ghost." He breathed his last. Continuing in verse 6 we read, "And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him." However, his soul was already gone when the burial took place. The same thing happened to his wife.

As the martyr Stephen was being stoned, he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God" (Acts 7:56). In verse 60, we read, "And when he had said this, he fell asleep." The Bible often speaks of death as sleep because it

is temporary—there is a waking time coming. In Acts 8:2 we read that devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and "made great lamentation over him." Though his body was buried, Stephen was with the Lord!

We may not be wealthy like the rich man, or a beggar like Lazarus. We will not live 175 or 180 years like Abraham and Isaac—in fact, we may not live another day! However, we have something in common with all of these men: we are living, and we will die. Our bodies will soon be disposed of in some manner, but our souls immediately will be ushered into eternity.

MORTALITY AND IMMORTALITY

The separation of body and soul at death becomes more understandable if we look back to Genesis 2:7, where we see that the body and the spirit were distinctively and separately created. The Lord God formed man (the physical body) of the dust of the ground. Immediately



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thereafter, He breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. Unlike the rest of creation, man was given a spirit; man's soul was created spiritually alive.

In Ecclesiastes 12:7 we read what occurs when life ends: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." This speaks of the mortality of our bodies and the immortality of our souls. A separation takes place at death! Every physical body is mortal, and will eventually return to dust. Every soul is immortal—either saved and spiritually alive, or unsaved and spiritually dead—and will continue to exist forever.

Our spiritual nature is what defines us as moral creatures. God has given each of us a conscience. We see that even in little ones. When toddlers create mischief or challenge the authority of their parent, they look over their shoulders to see what the reaction is from the one they disobeyed. It is true that a conscience can be seared over time, but God has given us an ability to perceive right and wrong, and that is part of what makes us moral creatures. God also gave a free will; we exercise that freedom when we choose to serve Him or not to serve Him. We are accountable for our choices, and they will have consequences-they will determine our eternal destiny when we die.

THE ORIGIN OF DEATH

Death originated in the Garden of Eden when the devil put doubts into the mind of Eve, asking her, "Hath God said?" God had commanded, "Ye shall not eat of it [the tree of the knowledge of good and evil], neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (Genesis 3:3). However, Adam and Eve took of that forbidden fruit. They made a choice, and although they did not die physically at that moment, they did experience spiritual death.

There are three kinds of life, and correspondingly, three kinds of death. First, there is physical life and death. When we are alive physically, we are breathing, there is brain function, and our hearts are beating. Physical death occurs when we stop breathing, brain activity ceases, and our hearts stop beating. At that moment, our soul separates from our body.

There is spiritual life and spiritual death. Spiritual life is a state of being alive physically and living in fellowship with God. Spiritual death is to be alive physically, but separated from fellowship with God. Spiritual life was the state of Adam and Eve before they sinned in the Garden, and spiritual death was their state after they sinned.

Finally, there is eternal life and eternal death. Eternal life is to be forever in fellowship with God; eternal death is to be separated forever and irrevocably from God.

Moses was referring to spiritual life when he admonished the Children of Israel, "Choose life" (Deuteronomy 30:19). That is also what Jesus says today. When He was on this earth as a man, He declared that His purpose in coming to this world was "that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). We do not have to go through life as dead men walking. We can go through life spiritually alive!

THE DEAD WILL LIVE AGAIN

Although our physical bodies are corruptible—they will deteriorate and return to dust—we will live again. Job asked the question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). In Job 19:25-26 he gave the answer, "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. Whom I shall see for myself, and mine

eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me." Job had a hope of living again!

Isaiah had the same assurance. In Isaiah 26:19 we read, "Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust." It will happen! The bodies of those loved ones who have ceased to live on this earth will one day awake and sing.

Jesus also spoke of the dead rising again, saying, "The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29).

SOME WILL RISE AT THE RAPTURE

There is one group of people who will not die physically—the followers of Christ who are alive when Jesus returns at the Rapture of the Church. The term *rapture* comes from a Latin word meaning "a carrying off, a transport, or a snatching away." Although that word does not appear in the Bible, the concept of the "carrying off" or the transporting away of the Church is clearly taught in Scripture.

Paul wrote of this in 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." These mortal bodies of ours are not built to be carried away. Our physical bodies must be changed in order to be taken to Heaven.

We have hope that the Rapture will occur while we are alive. We think of it and pray for it. When the trials of life come, we are more likely to say, "Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus," but we want it to be on our minds continually.

Although the Rapture will be sudden, it is not unexpected. We know it will take place! In Luke 17:24 we read, "For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day." It will take place in a moment—in a twinkling of an eye.

Paul used the expression "caught up" when he referred to this event in his letter

to the saints in Thessalonica. We read, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first" (1 Thessalonians 4:16). The graves will be opened. Some have wondered if that means there will be holes in the ground in the cemeteries after the Rapture takes place. However, when Jesus arose from the dead, it was not necessary for the stone to be moved so He could get out. It may be that the cemetery will look the same as it did, but the dead in Christ will not be there anymore. They will have risen! While we do not understand every detail, we know there will be a physical resurrection. Continuing in verse 17, we read, "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." This is our hope if we have been saved and have made it a priority to serve God throughout our lives.

PREPARING FOR ETERNITY

Maintaining our relationship with God is going to take determination. In Acts 14:22 we are told that "we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." We are going to be tested and tried. Even so, this is not a hard way! There are countless people in our congregation today who were saved at a young age and have stayed saved from then until now, though there have been many learning experiences along the way.

Where do you intend to spend eternity? We have in common that we are alive; we have in common that, unless Jesus comes first, we will die. However, a day of separation is coming when some will be carried away. We want to make our preparations—to be ready when that moment comes.

Do you have the assurance that you are saved—that you have passed from death unto life? If not, what an opportunity you have today! Pray a simple prayer and ask forgiveness for your sins. Tell the Lord that by His help, never again will you sin. The Lord will empower you to walk with Him for the rest of your life, and be ready to spend eternity with Him when it is your time to die or the Lord returns for those who are ready.

■ Darrel Lee is Superintendent General of the Apostolic Faith Church.

End Time SIGNS

An excerpt from the recently updated booklet A Glimpse into the Future.



Fulfillment of Biblical prophecy indicates that Jesus' second coming will be very soon. WE LIVE IN EXCITING TIMES where at any moment, Jesus could return to catch away His Bride-those who have repented of their sins and committed their lives to Godin the Rapture of the Church. We are witnessing Bible prophecy being fulfilled, and these signs indicate that the culmination of God's dealings with the people of this earth will soon occur. The Rapture is the next great event to take place in God's plan for the ages. After that, God will pour out His wrath in judgment on those who have rejected Him and are left behind. This period, known in the Bible as the Great Tribulation, will be a time of terror and torment unparalleled in the world's history.

What are the signs prophesied in the Scriptures which indicate the Rapture and the Great Tribulation are just ahead?

THE SIGNS THAT JESUS GAVE

When Jesus' disciples asked Him what signs would precede His return and the end of the world, He responded with a comprehensive list. (See chapter 24 of Matthew.) He said there would be:

WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS.

Warfare has long been part of human existence, but the sheer annihilative potential of current weaponry and the possibility of conflict on a global scale has made our day a unique and dangerous time unprecedented in history. Today, nine countries possess nuclear weapons, and military engagements are constant. Since the end of World War II, there have been 280 armed conflicts involving one or more governments.

- FAMINES. In 2016, an estimated 815 million people worldwide were suffering from hunger and malnourishment.³ In addition to drought, other contributing factors of worldwide hunger include economic collapse, the displacement of people as a result of warfare, an increasing world population, and diminishing natural resources. In 2017, the chief economist for the U.N. World Food Programme said that twenty million people were in danger of dying from starvation in the next six months due to four different famines. ⁴
- PESTILENCES. As of 2012, there were 219 virus species known to affect humans, and every year new strains of viruses are being discovered. The past few decades have witnessed the emergence of "new" infectious diseases such as Ebola, HIV/AIDS, SARS, and the Zika virus. In addition, there is the growing problem of antimicrobial-resistant strains of "old" diseases

- 1 Hans Kristensen and Robert Norris, "Worldwide deployments of nuclear weapons, 2017," Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists 73:5 (August 31, 2017): 289-297, https://doi.org/10. 1080/00963402.2017.1 363995.
- ² Kendra Dupuy, Scott Gates, Havard Mokleiv Nygard, Ida Rudolfsen, Siri Aas Rustad, Havard Strand, and Henrik Urdal, "Trends in Armed Conflict, 1946-2016," Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO): Conflict Trends Project (February 2017), https://www. prio.org/Publications/ Publication/?x=10599. 3 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). United Nations International Children's **Emergency Fund** (UNICEF), World Food Program (WFP), and World Health Organization (WHO), The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017: Building resilience for peace and food security, (Rome: FAO, September 5, 2017), http://www.fao. org/3/a-I7695e.pdf. 4 Tom Miles, "Four famines mean 20 million may starve in the next six months," Reuters (February 16. 2017), https://www. reuters.com/article/ us-un-famine/fourfamines-mean-20million-may-starve-inthe-next-six-monthsidUSKBN15V0ZO 5 Mark Woolhouse, Fiona Scott, Zoe Hudson, Richard Howey, and Margo Chase-Topping, "Human viruses: discovery and emergence," Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B 367:1604 (September 10, 2012), https:// doi.org/10.1098/ rstb.2011.0354. 6 World Health Organization (WHO), "Antimicrobial Resistance," News: Fact Sheets
- such as influenza, malaria, and tuberculosis. According to the World Health Organization, about 490,000 people contracted a drug-resistant strain of tuberculosis in 2016.6
- **EARTHQUAKES.** About 500,000 earthquakes are detected in the world each year, though only around 100,000 are felt because many occur in remote areas or have small magnitudes.7 In 2017 there were 13,095 earthquakes worldwide measuring 4.0 or greater.8 In recent years, new technologies, such as processes related to oil and gas extraction, have increased the risk of earthquakes occurring in parts of the world where they were never before experienced.9
- PERSECUTION AND KILLING OF FOLLOWERS OF JESUS. Open Doors USA, which tracks persecuted Christians worldwide, stated that around the globe, oppression against Christians has increased with 215 million Christians experiencing high to extreme persecution in 2017.10 A resolution passed by the United States House of Representatives condemning human rights abuses against Christians listed recent persecutions from around the globe, stating: "The Christian population in the Middle East has significantly decreased over the past few decades as a result of persecution, displacement, and genocide . . . such persecution ranges from social harassment and discrimination to physical violence, imprisonment, torture, enslavement, rape, and death."11
- FALSE **PROPHETS DECEIVING** MANY. Since the time of Christ, numerous individuals have amassed followers by falsely claiming to be God's messenger, including Mohammad in the seventh century, Nostradamus in the sixteenth, and more recently, Joseph Smith, Sun Myung Moon, and David Koresh to name a few.
- **WIDESPREAD INIQUITY.** This past century has seen an increasing tolerance for sins relating to the devaluing of human life and sexual immorality. In 2013, 61 percent of the world's population was living in a country where abortion was legal on demand or for social and economic reasons,12 and from 2010 to 2014, an estimated 56 million abortions were performed annually, constituting

- 25 percent of pregnancies worldwide.13 Euthanasia and doctor-assisted suicide are also gaining acceptance; one or the other is now legal in nine countries.14 There is a growing movement to embrace "alternative lifestyles" as natural and healthy, and same-sex marriages are now recognized in twenty-six countries.15
- **DECLINING LOVE FOR TRUTH. As** of 2017, over 11 percent of the world's population did not claim any allegiance to a religion, and 45 percent adhered to Buddhism, Hinduism, or Islam.¹⁶ Even many churches which at one time preached the fundamentals of Christianity—the new birth and a life without sin-have changed their doctrines, "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (2 Timothy 3:5).
- THE GOSPEL PREACHED WORLD-**WIDE.** Several interdenominational groups are currently working toward the goal of reaching every part of the world with the Gospel message. By 2001, the film entitled JESUS had been shown in every country of the world in over 1,000 languages.17 Today, in addition to audio and video recordings and printed materials, the internet is taking the Gospel to places where it has never before been heard. One website, Bible.is, has posted the Bible online in 1,293 languages.18 The Wycliffe Global Alliance reports that one or both of the Old and New Testaments are now available in 2,200 different languages, and organizations are currently working on 2,584 translations. They estimate translations are still needed in 1,636 languages.¹⁹

THE SIGNS OF MODERN SOCIETY

In addition to the end-time events detailed by Jesus, numerous other prophecies in the Word of God deal with the last days.

PERILOUS TIMES. Paul wrote that perilous times would come in the last days and evil men would become worse and worse (2 Timothy 3:1,13). We live in a day of inexplicable outbreaks of violence-riots, mass murder, and random shootings. In 2016, there were 469 suicide bombings in twenty-eight countries,20 and in 2017 there were eight mass shootings in the United States alone, resulting in 117 deaths.21

- (last updated February 15, 2018), http://www. who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs194/en. 7 U.S. Geological Survey, Earthquake Facts, http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/facts.php (accessed July 3, 2018). 8 U.S. Geological Survey, "Search Earthquake Catalog," Search Parameters: Magnitude = 4.0-10; Data & Time = 2017-01.
- 8 U.S. Geological Survey,
 "Search Earthquake Catalog," Search Parameters: Magnitude = 4.0-10;
 Date & Time = 2017-0101 00:00:01 to 2017-12-31
 23:59:59; Geographic
 Region = World, https://
 earthquake.usgs.gov/
 earthquakes/search
 (accessed February 13,
 2018).
 9 Justin L. Rubinstein
- and Alireza Babie Mahani, "Myths and Facts on Wastewater Injection, Hydraulic Fracturing. Enhanced Oil Recovery, and Induced Seismicity." Seismological Research Letters 86:4 (July/August 2015), https://profile. usgs.gov/myscience/ upload_folder/ci2015Jun1012005755600Induced_EQs_Review.pdf. **10** Lindy Lowry, "2015 Million Believers Face Persecution for Their Faith in Christ," Open Doors USA (January 10, 2018), https://www. opendoorsusa.org/ christian-persecution/ stories/215-million-believers-persecution-fortheir-faith-in-christ. 11 Condemning the Persecution of Christians around the World, H.R. Res. 407, 115th Cong (2017), https://www. govtrack.us/congress/ bills/115/hres407. 12 Vinod Mishra, Victor Gaigbe-Togbe, and Julia Ferre, Abortion Policies and Reproductive Health around the World, United Nations: Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division (2014):3, http://www.un.org/en/ development/desa/population/publications/ pdf/policy/AbortionPoliciesReproductiveHealth.pdf. 13 Guttmacher Institute,
- AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC. Nahum, the minor prophet, prophesied that in the end time, "chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall justle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings" (Nahum 2:4). Automobiles throng our six- and eightlane freeways; it is estimated that more than 1.2 billion are traveling the world's roads today.²² Each year motor vehicle crashes result in nearly 1.3 million fatalities and up to 50 million injuries globally, and are the leading cause of death among young people ages 15 to 29.²³
- **WIDESPREAD TRAVEL.** Daniel prophesied that "many shall run to and fro" in the time of the end (Daniel 12:4). Air travel continues to increase worldwide, with about 4.1 billion people traveling by air in 2017.²⁴
- also foretold that knowledge would be increased in the last days (Daniel 12:4). Modern computers have capabilities that would have been unfathomable a few decades ago, and technology is continually advancing. The Internet allows instant access to vast quantities of information, and engineering feats are performed that stagger the imagination.

THE SIGNS OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL

Perhaps the greatest sign that we are living in the last days is found in recent happenings concerning the nation of Israel. Jesus said, "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it [the coming of Christ] is near, even at the doors" (Matthew 24:32-33). Scripture teaches that this fig tree represents the Jewish nation (see Jeremiah 24:5-10; Hosea 9:10; Luke 13:6-9). God said that because of their disobedience, the Jewish people would be scattered among all nations. During the more than thirty centuries of their perilous existence, the Jews have been on the verge of annihilation many times, yet they have always regained their footing. They have been miraculously preserved for a special purpose in connection with the future fulfillment of God's plan.

JERUSALEM INHABITED BY JEWS.

In 1948, Israel was declared a nation for the first time since the beginning of the Babylonian captivity in 597 B.C. The new nation was named Israel. Today emigrants from every country in the world are moving to Israel just as the Bible foretold (Jeremiah 16:14-15). Luke 21:24 indicates that Jerusalem would be controlled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles were fulfilled. In 1967, Israel once again assumed control of Jerusalem, and on December 7, 2017, the United States was the first nation to recognize it as Israel's capital.²⁵

- Jews were scattered after the crucifixion of Jesus, the region became desolate, unproductive, and barren. For nearly 2000 years, rainfall was minimal. The Prophet Joel indicated that the rains would return when the Day of the Lord was at hand (Joel 2:1,23). At the turn of the twentieth century, rain began to fall in Palestine (modern-day Israel) and vegetation began to grow. From 1961 to 1990, the annual rainfall increased by roughly 30 percent.²⁶
- RESTORATION OF A PURE LANGUAGE. The prophet Zephaniah foretold that the nation of Israel would have a pure language during the end times (Zephaniah 3:8-9). In 1982, Hebrew was declared the official and national language of Israel—a language which had been considered dead.
- PREPARATION TO REBUILD THE TEMPLE. Daniel 9:26-27 indicates that during the Tribulation period, the Temple sanctuary will be in use. Currently, in Jerusalem, several organizations are preparing to rebuild this sacred structure. The Temple Institute has recreated seventy artifacts needed to furnish the Temple and perform the sacred rites, including the golden menorah, the jeweled breastplate of the high priest, and the musical instruments to be used by the Levitical choir. In addition, the Nezer HaKodesh Institute for Kohanic Studies was established in 2016 to train men from the tribe of Levi in performing the priestly duties of the Temple.²⁷

AVAILABILITY OF A RED HEIFER.

Numbers 19:1-10 indicates that a red heifer is necessary for the ceremonial purification

"Fact Sheet: Induced

Abortion Worldwide," (March 2018), https://

www.guttmacher.org/

fact-sheet/induced-abortionworldwide.

14 ProCon.org, "Euthanasia & Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS) around the World," (last modified July 20, 2016), https://euthanasia. procon.org/view.resource. php?resourceID=000136. 15 David Masci, Elizabeth Sciupac, and Michael Lipka, "Gay Marriage around the World," Pew Research Center, (August 8, 2017), http://www.pewforum. org/2017/08/08/gay-marriagearound-the-world-2013 (accessed July 2, 2018).

16 Todd Johnson, Gina Zurlo. Albert Hickman, and Peter Crossing, "Christianity 2017: Five Hundred Years of Protestant Christianity," International Bulletin of Mission Research 41, no. 1 (2017), http://www. gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/research/documents/IBMR2017.

17 Jesus Film Project, "The History of Jesus Film Project," https://www.jesusfilm.org/ about/history.html (accessed July 2, 2018).

18 Bible.is, http://www.Bible.is (accessed July 2, 2018). 19 Wycliffe Global Alliance, "2017 Bible Translation Statistics FAQ: Going Deeper," (November 2017), http://resources.wycliffe.net/statistics/ Wycliffe%20Global%20Alliance%20Statistics%202017%20

FAQs_EN.pdf. 20 Yoram Schweitzer, Aviad Mendelboim, and Yotam Rosner, "Suicide Attacks in 2016: The Highest Number of Fatalities," The Institute for National Security Studies, No. 887 (January 5, 2017), http:// www.inss.org.il/publication/ suicide-attacks-2016-highestnumber-fatalities.

21 Bonnie Berkowitz, Denise Lu, and Chris Alcantara, "The Terrible Numbers that Grow with Each Mass Shooting," The Washington Post (last updated June 29, 2018), https:// www.washingtonpost.com/ graphics/2018/national/massshootings-in-america.

22 International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (OICA), "World Vehicles in Use by Country and Type, 2005-2015, All Vehicles," http://www. oica.net/wp-content/uploads// Total_in-use-All-Vehicles.pdf (accessed July 2, 2018). 23 World Health Organization (WHO) "Global Status Report

on Road Safety 2015," (2015),

of the Temple and the priests who serve in it. For over 2000 years, there has been no acceptable red heifer,

> though a handful have been located and then disqualified. Since 2015, rabbis of the Temple Institute have been coordinating an effort to breed a red heifer in Israel using the imported embryos of red Angus cattle.28

RESTORATION OF THE SHEKEL.

According to Ezekiel 45:12-13, 16, the shekel will be used as the offering to the Messiah at the Temple during the Millennium. In 1980, the shekel was restored as the official currency of Israel.

MILITARY VICTORIES. The overwhelming victories of Israel over the vastly superior armies of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan in 1948, 1967, and 1973 amazed the world. According to Zechariah 12:6, these victories are a prelude to the Revelation of Christ at the end of the Great Tribulation.

JEWISH UNBELIEF. In spite of the powerful evidence to Jews today that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah, according to Romans 11:25, their continued unbelief is a sign of the nearness of the Lord's Second Coming.

We are seeing a foreshadow of what is yet to take place in this nation which will be at the center of end-time events. The fig tree of Biblical prophecy is budding and putting forth leaves. The Jewish people, however, are not yet turning to God, nor crying for their Messiah as Zechariah prophesied they will do (Zechariah 12:10).

THE SIGN OF THE LATTER RAIN

Another indication that we are living in the last days is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Latter Rain foretold in Joel 2:23 and James 5:7. In the early 1900s, God gave a sign to an unbelieving world by pouring out the baptism

of the Holy Ghost on a group of sanctified believers, just as it was given in the "early rain" on the Day of Pentecost. Since then, a widespread preaching of the Gospel by those endued with power from on High has resulted in the salvation of many souls, the sanctification of believers, the empowering of witnesses, and the healing of many from incurable diseases. Clearly, the Holy Spirit is in the world and is preparing a Bride for Jesus.

Without a doubt, the stage has been set. We are seeing the fulfillment of the prophesied events which are to herald the Rapture of the Church and the terrible events that will occur on earth when the Bride has been taken away. Jesus could come back for His followers at any moment! Will you heed the signs and be ready when He comes?

For more on the topic of Bible prophecies about the end times, see our booklet "A Glimpse into the Future."

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The Importance of IMPORTUNITY

From a sermon by DAVE LAMBERT

IMPORTUNITY IS A UNIQUE WORD in Scripture. In Luke 11:8 we read, "I say unto you, though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth." That is the only occurrence of this word in the Bible, although we see many examples of it throughout Scripture.

The definition of "importunity" may make it seem like a negative quality—it is defined as "an element of impudent insistence rising to the point of shamelessness." Based on that, one might suppose that in many cultures, importunity would be considered forward or even rude. However, the Lord thinks of this quality differently. To Him, it is an important and positive attribute.

The parable in Luke 11 that includes this verse reveals the importance of praying with boldness and persistence. In that account, Jesus told of a man who went to a friend's house in the night and requested the loan of three loaves of bread in order to have something to serve his guests. Jesus stated that although the request was made by a friend, friendship was not the reason the householder arose from his bed and gave what was needed. It was because of the man's persistent asking.

Just before Jesus related this parable, the disciples had asked Him to teach them to pray. In response, He had given them the model prayer we know as "The Lord's Prayer," and then He told the parable about the importance of importuning in prayer. He concluded his instruction by making a parallel. In verse 13, we read, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit

to them that ask him?" In other words, if a favor can be obtained through persistence from one who is unwilling and ungracious, how much more readily will God answer the earnest prayers of His children?

THREE CONTEXTS WHEN IMPORTUNITY DOES NOT WORK

Although Jesus taught the necessity of importunity in prayer, Scripture tells us there are certain times when persisting in prayer about a matter will not bring results. First, if we are asking for the wrong things or with the wrong motive, importuning will do no good. In James 4:3 we read, "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." So, when we come to the Lord, we must make sure our motives are pure. If we are coming with any kind of self-seeking or self-serving objective, we are asking for the wrong reason. God wants the glory! If we are asking for something that we know

At times
it is
necessary
to keep
asking,
keep
seeking,
and keep
knocking.



ASK, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU; SEEK, AND YE SHALL FIND; KNOCK, AND IT SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU: FOR EVERY ONE THAT **ASKETH RECEIVETH; AND HE THAT** SEEKETH FINDETH; AND TO HIM THAT KNOCKETH IT SHALL BE OPENED.

is outside of the Lord's will, we are asking amiss. These are times when all the praying in the world will do no good.

Another scenario in which importunity will not avail is when sin is present. In Psalm 66:18 we read, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Sinners pray all kinds of prayers. Sometimes the Lord in His mercy may answer a prayer offered up in desperation, but if we regard iniquity in our hearts-if there is any sin or disobedience, or we are clinging to something in our lives we know is displeasing to the Lord—we are not in a position to expect the Lord to answer. There is one prayer that a sinner can pray that the Lord will always answer, and that is a prayer of genuine, heartfelt repentance. God will never turn away from a prayer like that.

Finally, the third reason the Lord does not grant our prayers is when the answer is no. This response can seem discouraging, but we need to understand that God knows what is best for us. In 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, we read the Apostle Paul's account of having been given a "thorn in the flesh" which troubled him. He recounted, "For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me." He was importuning, "Lord, take this affliction from me," but God did not remove the affliction. Instead, He told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." And Paul accepted that answer, responding, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

God revealed to Paul why He had allowed that thorn in the flesh in the first place. In verse 7 we read, "Lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure." God had shown Paul

Sometimes it takes desperation to motivate us to continue in earnest prayer until the answer comes.

revelations that no one else had seen, but he was given this infirmity to remind him to stay humble—to not be exalted because of what he had seen. Paul understood that God had said no for a reason. We do not see anywhere in Scripture that Paul ever again sought the Lord to take that affliction from him. When God says no we can stop importuning, trusting that the Lord's perfect will is being worked out.

GOD ENCOURAGES ASKING

Other than those reasons for not granting our requests, God encourages us to bring our petitions to Him. As a matter of fact, He not only encourages us to ask, but He commands it! In Matthew 7:7-8, we read, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." In essence He was saying, "Importune! Persevere in prayer!" Importunity pleases the Lord. Persistence pays off.

In Luke 18:1-8, we find another parable of Jesus that illustrates the results of continuing in prayer. "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: and there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily." Again, the Lord was illustrating that if persistence pays off in dealing with a corrupt human who has limited power, then so much more it will avail with a just God who has infinite power.

Jesus summed up this parable with the words, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). Importuning in prayer is not evidence of a lack of faith; it is a demonstration of faith! Some may suggest, "If you had faith you would only ask once." That is not what Jesus said. His instruction was for us to

come in faith and keep asking and seeking. By doing so, we show the Lord that we are still holding on in faith that He will answer. When Jesus comes back, we are told He will be looking for those who have faith, so we see how important it is to importune in our prayers.

IMPORTUNING FOR OTHERS

At times, the Lord calls on us to importune for others—to pray earnestly and persistently for someone else. People may be in circumstances where they cannot pray for themselves so the Lord calls upon us to step in and pray for them. The Bible tells us that no one can be saved unless the Spirit draws him; sometimes we need to pray for Holy Ghost conviction to come on an individual so that person will see his or her spiritual need.

Importuning for others is illustrated in God's Word also. In Matthew 15:22 we read about a woman of Canaan who came to Jesus saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil." However, Scripture tells us, "He answered her not a word." It is easy for us to imagine how that woman felt when there was no response from the Lord. How do we feel when God is silent? Maybe you have brought a burden before Him and it seemed He was not answering. What do you do then? Do you give up? The Lord heard every word this woman said; He was testing her faith. And He hears us as well.

Continuing on, we read, "And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us." She could not get the Lord's attention so she went to His disciples, but they wanted to send her away. What do we do when others try to discourage us from praying? We must keep praying; we must keep knocking; we must keep asking. What do we do when we feel like that person we are praying for is seemingly unmoved? There may be a tendency to become discouraged; perhaps all of us have felt that. However, we must do as this woman did: she kept right on asking.

In verse 24 we read Jesus' initial response, "But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." It almost seems as if He was saying there was no hope for her—that He only came for the people of Israel. Again, He was testing her faith. What did she do? We read,

"Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me." She just kept on crying out to the Lord.

In verse 26 there was what could seem like another rebuff. Jesus told her. "It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs." I love her response. She said, "Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." What an example of humility! She was willing to take the place of a dog—an outsider. She was not there to defend herself; she was not interested in pleading her own cause; she was there on behalf of her daughter! Just one crumb was all she needed, and she hung on in faith. In verse 28 we read the outcome of her persistence: "Jesus answered and said unto her. O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour." He let her know she could ask anything she wanted and it would be hers. In fact, God was so pleased that He used her as an example to His disciples and to us.

PRAYERS FOR ME

If you are praying for someone and are beginning to think there is no hope, hang on in faith! I am thankful that there were those who importuned for me. A few months after God saved me as a young boy, I was walking across the campground and saw Sister Pauline Martin hurrying toward me. She was an older lady, but she was running! My previous encounters with Sister Pauline had not been pleasant, and that was not her fault. I was rebellious and belligerent, and probably was antagonistic toward her. When I saw her heading toward me, my first thought was, What does she think I did now? Something was different that day, though. She stopped in front of me and reached out and grabbed me by the hand. Looking me right in the eye, she said, "I can't tell you how thrilled I am that you are saved! You used to give me so many headaches! I spent hours on my knees praying for you. Thank God, He answered my prayer and now I do not have to worry about you anymore."

Do you know what that did to my faith? I thought, Wow. I knew people had been praying for me—I had grandparents and parents who were Christians—but I would never have thought of Sister Pauline. Recalling that incident reminds me that I can importune for others; you can importune for others. Do not let go! Hang on in faith. God will hear that prayer and He will answer. We are not inconveniencing the Lord when we importune. He loves it, and encourages us to do so.

IMPORTUNING FOR OURSELVES

Sometimes we need to importune for ourselves. How can we encourage others when we have not obtained needed victories for ourselves? At times it may feel easier to believe for someone else than for ourselves. However, we need to get hold of promises for ourselves; we need to learn to importune until we get an answer from the Lord.

In Genesis 32 we read of Jacob persevering in prayer until he received an answer from Heaven. Jacob had been running for a long time from his brother. Esau, and now Esau was out to seek revenge for the inheritance that Jacob had stolen from him. However, Jacob had received some promises from God. Even when he was fleeing toward his Uncle Laban's house many years earlier, God had met him in a dream and promised that He would be with Jacob, would bless him, and would bring him back home in peace. But now Jacob found himself in trouble. It seemed God's promise to him was not being fulfilled.

Knowing God's promises and holding onto God's promises are two different things. God's Word is full of promises—promises that often go unfulfilled in people's lives. They are not unfulfilled because of a lack on God's side; we need to get hold of them!

Jacob prayed a prayer asking for deliverance. In verse 11 we read, "Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children." Jacob realized he was in trouble. He already had begun to humble himself and acknowledge that all the blessings he had were from God. He could see the mess he had created and realized that he needed to get some things settled in his heart. Even though he had promises, he did not have peace; he needed a definite assurance from God.

Continuing in verse 24 we read, "And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day." Sometimes we have to get alone with God, setting aside all distractions. Jacob was there until "the breaking of the day." This was more than a five-minute prayer! This was more than merely tossing a prayer heavenward while dashing out of the house with a cup of coffee in hand! This was a prayer born out of desperation. Jacob realized he was at the end of his own resources, and needed something more. How many of us have taken hold of God and prayed until the breaking of the day? Jacob was desperate, and

It is when
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and prevail.

sometimes it takes desperation to motivate us to continue in earnest prayer until the answer comes.

There is some speculation regarding who it was that Jacob wrestled with, but whoever he was, he represented God's power and blessing. In verse 25 we read, "And when he [the divine representative] saw that he prevailed not against him [Jacob], he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him." I love Jacob's response in verse 26, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." He was saying, "God, I need you! I am desperate! If You do not step in, there is no hope." He would not let go until he had an assurance from God.

When we take hold of God and cling to Him, saying, "I am not going to leave until You bless me," that pleases the Lord. The Lord is not trying to get away. He wanted Jacob to realize how desperately he needed Him, and Jacob pressed through. In verse 28 we read the words of that divine representative, "For as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." How awesome it is to think that an insignificant, weak human being can have power with God! That power does not come through our cunning or our intellect or resources, but only through importunity. It is when we get a hold of God that we have power and prevail.

THE CHALLENGE FOR US

The Lord will bless us if we are willing to hold on in prayer. We show the Lord our willingness to importune not just through our words but also through our actions. We can say that we are hungry for the Lord, but how much time are we spending in prayer? Do we make it a point to be in God's house? Do we make the effort to be in prayer after the services and in our own homes? These are actions we can take to prove to the Lord that we mean business.

The Lord does not always fulfill His promises the first time we express our needs. Sometimes we may have to take a step of obedience more than once. Sometimes we may have to pray more than once. Namaan the leper was told to dip in the muddy Jordan River seven times. He had a promise, but he had to follow through; he could not quit until he dipped

seven times. Elijah prayed earnestly that it would rain; God had given a promise, but the prophet had to send out his servant seven times to see if the answer was coming. On the seventh time, the servant reported there was a cloud like a man's hand. That was enough for Elijah! He knew the answer to his prayer was on the way. All of these individuals had to persevere. God blessed them as a result, and He will bless us if we are willing to hold on—to keep seeking, keep asking, keep knocking.

If you are not saved, it does not matter how many times you have prayed and asked the Lord to save you. If you are willing to get truly honest with the Lord—to humble yourself and open your heart in complete surrender—He will save you today. If you need to be sanctified, God says to hold on; He has that blessing for you. If you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, that is a gift God has promised to pour out upon all flesh.

The blessings you need from God are available. If you keep knocking on Heaven's door, the Lord will answer. He will not be upset or impatient or put out or frustrated by your persistence. He will be thrilled! He sees someone who means business. He sees someone who wants Him more than anything else, and He will reward that kind of faith. As we pour out our hearts to Him and persevere in prayer, we can be certain that He will respond.

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BIBLE TEXT FOR "A BREATH OF REVIVAL"

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

THE HAND OF THE LORD WAS UPON ME, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, 2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. ³ And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest. 4 Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord, 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. 8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. 11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. 12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. 13 And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, 14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it. saith the Lord."

BREATH OF REVIVAL

From a sermon by TONY BOYCE

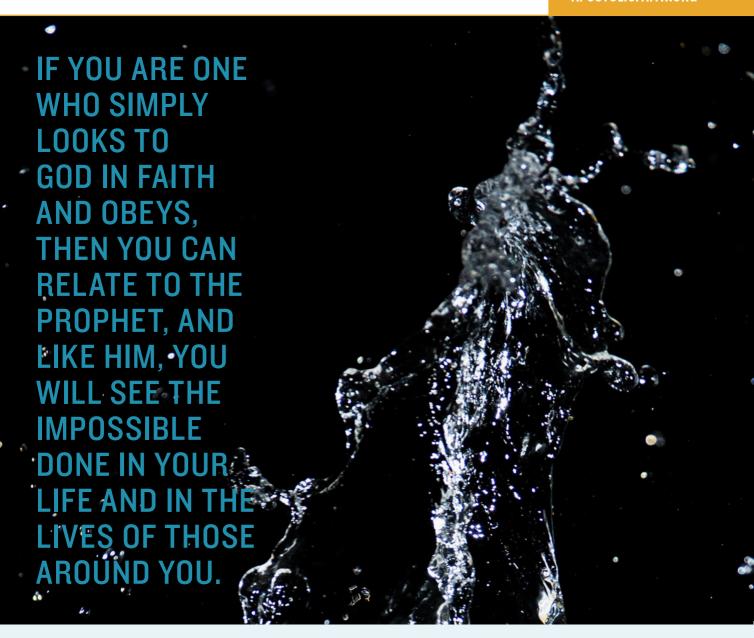
God revived the nation of Israel, and He can revive you too. IN JANUARY 2010, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, addressed a group of people during a memorial service held at Auschwitz, a concentration camp where thousands of Jews were killed during World War II. In the speech, he referred to Ezekiel 37:11-12, "Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel." Netanyahu said this prophecy had been fulfilled in the nation of Israel; the Jewish people had risen from destruction, were returned to their land, and could hope again.¹

The verses mentioned are part of a longer passage of Scripture found in Ezekiel 37:1-14 (see the full text on page 19), which foretells both the physical and spiritual restoration of the Jewish nation. Though the fulfillment will not be complete until after the Lord returns, we have indeed witnessed the restoration of the Jewish people to their land and their preservation as a nation.

A look back at the history of the Jewish people reveals this preservation was only possible through divine intervention. The Jews have survived tremendous hardships through the ages. During World War II, for example, nearly six million people of Jewish descent were killed in the genocide known as the Holocaust. It is estimated that this number was equal to one third of the Jewish

population. To put that in perspective, visualize being part of a family of six. If you had gone into the Holocaust together as a family, two of you would not have come out alive.

After World War II, there was a great outcry over what had been done to the Jewish people, and many wanted them to have their own state. The Zionist movement had already begun with the purpose of establishing a homeland for the Jews, and was drawing many of them to the territory God had promised their forefather, Abraham. One portion of the land, originally called Canaan, eventually became known as Palestine. In 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to divide Palestine between the Arabs and Jews living there to provide a homeland for the Jewish people. The British, who had



possession of the territory at the time, prepared to withdraw their peacekeeping troops, and many thought the Jewish people were being given over to another holocaust. The Arab nations surrounding the area (Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq) were poised to march into the void left by the British and take the full territory by force. As the British exited, a war did ensue, and though the odds seemed to be greatly against the Jewish people, they prevailed.

The nation of Israel was established on May 14, 1948, and since then has continued to suffer attacks from various aggressors. In 1967 and 1973, they successfully defended their borders from neighboring states. Even recently, there have been reports of rockets fired into Israel. One Israeli commander operating the iron

dome that deflects these rockets said there was a time when two interceptors were fired and missed. Then an east wind came and blew the missile into the sea. He said, "I witnessed this miracle with my own eyes. It was not told or reported to me. I saw the hand of God send that missile into the sea."2 There is no earthly reason why the nation of Israel should continue to exist, but it does, and it has for seventy years. Today, it stands as a testament to the power of God to restore and preserve, and offers proof that He keeps His promises.

Though the prophecy given in Ezekiel was directed to the nation of Israel, it has universal application. If we were to look at it as an allegory, each of us would be able to find ourselves somewhere in the narrative. Several key roles are brought out in the account that we might



No situation is impossible if we put it in God's hands and trust Him.

identify with, including the prophet Ezekiel, the wind, and the dry bones.

THE PROPHET

In verse 3, Ezekiel was asked the question, "Son of man, can these bones live?" Now if you or I were in that situation, we might look down at the bones and say there was absolutely no way they could live. I have never been in a position to see dry bones come to life, and you have not either, so that would be a normal response. Ezekiel, however, gave a better answer—the correct answer. He said, "O Lord God, thou knowest." All too often, we make up our own minds about how a difficulty in our lives will turn out, and we don't even give God the opportunity to help. We don't want to be in that place where we say, "This situation is so hopeless, there is nothing God can do about it."

Realistically, though, we do feel that way sometimes. A young man testified recently that he sought for the experience of sanctification for twelve years before receiving it. He said it took so long, because it just seemed too complicated. I can remember thinking the same thing while seeking for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. If you have been seeking for an experience from God for

a long time and have not received it, you also might think it is complicated. You might think it is impossible to receive, but no situation is impossible if we put it in God's hands and trust Him. That is what the prophet did in this account. He said, "Thou knowest." Those who stay focused on what God can do and not on the circumstances, identify with the prophet in this account.

In the next verse, God told Ezekiel, "Prophesy upon these bones." That seemed a futile command. Have you ever given your testimony to someone and then thought doing so may have been a waste of timethat of all people, this particular individual would never come into the Gospel? A minister in our church once said of a man. "I thought for sure he would never get saved, but God knew better." That man did get saved, and eventually became a minister also. Sometimes we look at people and think they are so far from the Gospel that they don't have a chance. However, God can see the heart, and He knows how to deal with people. He is able to bring forth life where there seems to be no hope.

Ezekiel didn't question the command, but obeyed and prophesied to the dry bones, and something miraculous happened. We read in verses 7-8, "There was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone

The Lord is the commander of the wind. Ezekiel was to say to the wind, "Thus saith the Lord Gop."

to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above." The bones went from being dry bones on the ground to being bodies. If you are one who simply looks to God in faith and obeys, then you can relate to the prophet, and like him, you will see the impossible done in your life and in the lives of those around you.

THE WIND

Though the bones became bodies, the conclusion of verse 8 informs us that "there was no breath in them." God again commanded Ezekiel, telling him this time to "prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live" (verse 9).

At times in the Scriptures, wind is used to symbolize the Spirit of God. One such example is found in Acts 2:2 where "there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind." If the Lord is working in your life, and if the Spirit flows through you to others, then you might relate to the wind in this account. Those who are filled with the Holy Spirit are empowered to carry the Gospel out into the world, taking it into their schools, their workplaces, and the neighborhoods where they live. Just by living godly lives, they are testifying and bringing the Light of the Gospel to the lost around them.

The Lord is the commander of the wind. Ezekiel was to say to the wind, "Thus saith the Lord God ... "When we are filled with God's Spirit, we are to be witnesses wherever we go. Sometimes, we may think we are not qualified to answer the Lord's call to carry the Gospel message to others, but He knows what we are capable of with His help. Do not trust in your own strength, but lean on Him, and He will provide the means. If you are filled with the Spirit, you can identify with the wind and witness to those around you.

THE DRY BONES

Jesus once said to the scribes and Pharisees, "Ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's

bones, and of all uncleanness" (Matthew 23:27). Outwardly, those men appeared to be godly because they followed the letter of the Law, but inwardly they did not have the Spirit of God in their hearts and were dead. If you have not received salvation, you are spiritually dead. But there is hope! God is able to bring dead bones to life, and He is able to give you new life. Repent and surrender your heart and life to Jesus.

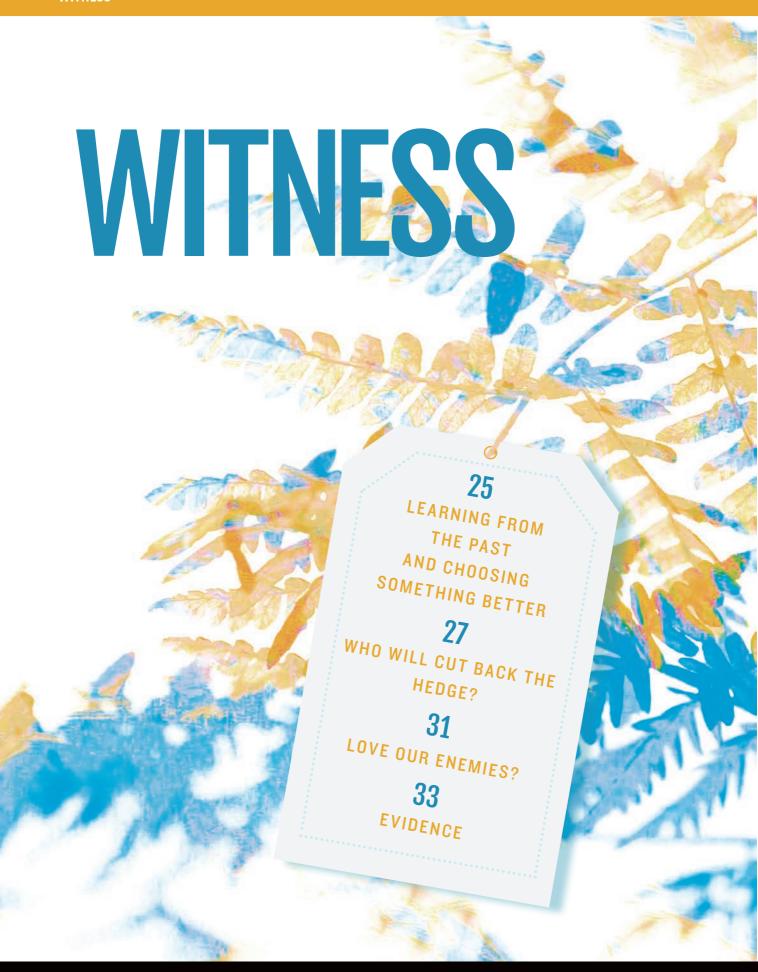
Maybe you are saved, but your relationship with God is lagging, and you are feeling spiritually dry. Perhaps you have been going through a trial or have been seeking an experience for a while without receiving it. If this is the case, let God breathe new life into your spirit.

How do we know God is able to revive our spirits? We have witnessed the Jewish people returning to their land after 1900 years. Israel has become a nation again. It stands as a testament to the power of God, and offers proof that He keeps His promises. This prophecy in Ezekiel is not something we read and wonder about; it is something we are witnessing. The fulfillment is taking place in our lifetimes. If you lack faith, let the nation of Israel be a reminder that God can breathe new life into dry bones. If you are spiritually dry, then like the dry bones in this account, you are in need of revival. Humble yourself, fully surrender your all to God, and receive new life. He will revive you as He did the nation of Israel.

WHERE DO WE FIT IN?

May we be like the prophet, looking to God in faith and obedience as He does the impossible in our lives and in the lives of others around us. May we seek to be filled with His Spirit that His love will flow through us to others, so they can see that He offers life.

- Tony Boyce is a minister of the Apostolic Faith Church in Dallas, Oregon.
- ¹ Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Address by PM Netanyahu at Auschwitz concentration camp," Press Release, (January 27, 2010), http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/pressroom/2010/ pages/address_pm_netanyahu_at_auschwitz_27-jan-2010.aspx.
- ² Israel Today, "Iron Dome Operator: God Moved Missile We Couldn't Hit," (August 3, 2014), http:// www.israeltoday.co.il/NewsItem/tabid/178/ nid/24811/Default.aspx.



SOMETHING BETTER

Peter realized he was holding out on God and he decided to make a change.

By Peter Idowu

AS A BOY, I was brought up in a family that professed to be Christian. Our parents would take my four siblings and me to church every Sunday, but the story of salvation was never told there. However, an uncle of mine came into contact with the Apostolic Faith Church in Ibadan, Nigeria. In the early 1950s, he invited our entire family to the services, which were then held in a milling house. The owner operated the mill during the day, and in the evenings, it was used for revival meetings. There my father prayed his way through to salvation.

My father was a goldsmith by profession. After he was saved, the Lord spoke to his heart about changing his job, but sadly, he did not because he was anxious about his material needs. Before long he left the church to continue with his goldsmithing. From that point, the family plunged into an ocean of problems and difficulties. In time, my older sister and brothers were sent to live with other members of the extended family, while the youngest child



"One day in 1961. while roaming the streets. I met a group of people holding a street meeting and telling of what Jesus can do."

and I stayed with our parents. Because the sorrow and suffering persisted, my parents could not cope, and our upbringing suffered.

FLEEING HARDSHIP, YET GOING **NOWHERE**

Our grandparents lived in our hometown, and I wanted to live with them in order to move away from the troubles. One day, I informed my father about this intention, and he did not hesitate to approve it. So I left my parents to live with my grandparents during my primary school days. By the time I completed primary school, my oldest brother had finished a teacher's training program, and was teaching in a secondary school in Ikorodu. I hoped he would sponsor my secondary school program, but after a few years, he moved to Lagos to take another teaching appointment. Six months later, I joined him in Lagos, but there was no plan to further my education.

It was necessary for me to find something to do for my upkeep. One day in 1961, while roaming the streets, I met a group of people holding a street meeting and telling of what Jesus can do. I followed them to their church

and began to attend their services. They taught me how to sing songs, memorize verses of the Bible, fast. and do penance, but I was not told how to be free from sin. Despite observing all these instructions, I still committed sins and had bad dreams. There was a vacuum within me that desired the true worship of God. One time I went into a building that was under construction and prayed that God would show me the true way of worship. However, at the time, I was engaged in a business which was not in conformity with the way of the Lord.

A CHOICE THAT BROUGHT JOY

In front of my workplace one day in 1964, I met my uncle who had come from Ibadan to the annual camp meeting convention of the Apostolic Faith, and he invited me to join him. I did, and once there, I remembered it was the same church that my parents had left ten years before. What I heard and observed was quite different from my former place of worship.

After the service, I began to pray, and the Lord revealed the sins which I had committed from the age of five, including how I had lied to my parents and cheated the government. This prompted me to start making restitutions, even though I had not yet experienced salvation. God's Spirit let me know that I needed to change my job, and also I was confused about some of the doctrines and teachings of the church. I did not allow God to have His way with me, to plan my life and lead me into salvation, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and so the camp meeting ended without my receiving what God had for me.

For almost two years I shuttled between my former church and the Apostolic Faith. Meanwhile, my work was not progressing, and everything in my life was turning upside down. Then God helped me to understand that during my childhood, my father had gone away from serving God because he would not surrender his all, and I knew how our family had suffered because of that decision. I purposed that during the next Apostolic Faith camp meeting, I would surrender my all to God.

That year Reverend Loyce C. Carver, the worldwide leader from Portland, Oregon, visited Nigeria for the first time. On August 26, 1966, he taught about the three basic spiritual experiences and how they can be procured step by step. That teaching swept away my erroneous beliefs, and I was saved, sanctified, and baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire. That day I went home with joy!

By that time I had an espoused wife from my former church. She began attending the Apostolic Faith with me, and one day at my workplace, she prayed through to salvation. Later we were married, and God blessed us with children. Now we have grandchildren who are being raised in the Gospel.

VICTORY IN PERSECUTION

In 1991, the traditional ruler and inhabitants of the area where I was living attacked another minister and me. We were mistreated and roughly handled. I was mercilessly beaten and dragged on the floor like a criminal. Later we were taken before the police and put in a cell, but thank God, we were delivered and released.

On the third day after the incident, I returned home and went blind. Our church leader sent a message to all our branch churches and to the Portland headquarters to pray for me. Truly, "the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up." I have since regained my sight, and I thank God for healing me miraculously.

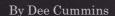
After my recovery, I was sent back to the same location to continue the work of the ministry, and God showed that we had not suffered in vain. The traditional ruler later asked our church workers to preach the Gospel right inside his palace to

himself and his subjects. The seeds sown that year germinated and have brought much fruit. Now there is a branch of our church in that ruler's domain.

I am happy to tell the world that the God of yesterday is the God of today, and He will be our God for ever and ever.

■ Peter Idowu is pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Oto-Awori, Lagos, Nigeria.

When Dee stepped out of a marriage that was not Biblical, God fulfilled His promise to help with every challenge.



ONE OF MY EAR-LIEST memories is my mother gathering my sisters and me around her and reading the Bible and our Sunday school lessons, and then praying with us. I am so thankful for my godly heritage and the privilege of being raised in a Christian home.

Growing up, I always wanted to be a Christian, as it was apparent to me that God blessed the lives of those who served Him. However, in my teenage years, the worldly lifestyle looked glamorous and appealing, and I made up my mind that I wanted to wait awhile before giving my life to the Lord. What an unwise decision that was! Those wasted years filled with sinful choices brought consequences.

The Lord was faithful to continue to call me. I married at a young age, and while I was expecting my first child, I often spent time at my parents' home. My mother would ask me to read the Bible to her, and it seemed like each time, it would fall open to Proverbs 14. The first verse of that chapter says, "Every wise

woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands." One day I asked my mother if all Bibles naturally opened to that spot, or if it was just the Bibles at her home. She responded that she thought the Lord was speaking to me through that Scripture. He was, but I did not yield to His prompting. For more than two decades, I resisted God's call.

Years later, when my mother passed away, I was grief stricken. She had been the rock in my life and I thought it would be impossible to quit grieving for her. I would listen to the recording of her funeral over and over; somehow the songs and the words of the minister spoke comforted me. During that time of grief, I made a promise to the Lord to meet my mother in Heaven, and God never let me forget that promise.

HOLY GHOST CONVICTION

In 1991, the Lord really started convicting my heart. War was going on in the Middle East, and I knew the Bible said one of the signs of the end times would be "wars and rumors of wars." There was tremendous fear in my heart that the Lord would come and I wouldn't be ready to meet Him. One part of me wanted to surrender to God right then, but by that time I was married in adultery. My first husband was still living, and I knew I couldn't be in a wrong marriage and be ready for Heaven. Also, my husband, Christopher, came from a wealthy family that did not believe in God. I knew he would not understand, nor would his family be happy with anything that adversely affected our relationship.

God's conviction continued to rest heavily upon me. Though I had turned aside from Him, I often prayed when I was alone. Many times I told God that I didn't know how I could get along without my husband, but if He would help me out of my marriage, I would give Him my life. Each time the Lord would speak to my heart and assure me that He would take care of me if I would serve Him.

During that period of time, my sister, who was a Christian, was sending me a check each month from our parents' estate. She always included a sweet note and a Scripture. At times I didn't even want to open those envelopes because her notes convicted me so! However, I knew if I didn't cash the check, she would call and offer to replace it.

The note that finally got to me was one I had carried around in the unopened envelope for some time. My husband and I had gone to the beach for a short vacation, and one day I decided I simply had to open it. That time her note included the Scripture, "No man can serve two masters" (Matthew 6:24). God opened my eyes and I had a real visual image of whom I was serving. That would not leave my mind.

A NEW DETERMINATION

Shortly after we returned home, I was driving alone in my car and praying that same prayer, "Lord,

help me out of my marriage and I'll give You my life." The Lord spoke so clearly to me and let me know that He could come even while I was praying, and I was not ready to meet Him. I was so afraid! I knew it was God's Voice and I felt like it was my last chance. While I was still driving, I determined to surrender my life to the Lord no matter what the consequences. Thoughts about what my husband might say or do paled in comparison to the thought of standing before God to give an account of my life.

My husband was still at work when I knelt beside my bed and poured out my heart to God, confessing my sins and asking His forgiveness. I told Him I didn't care what happened to me if only He would save me. In a moment of time, He answered that prayer and forgave me. I *knew* I was saved! God's peace filled my heart and I felt such relief that the battle was won. Deep in my heart was such joy!

GOD DID THE IMPOSSIBLE

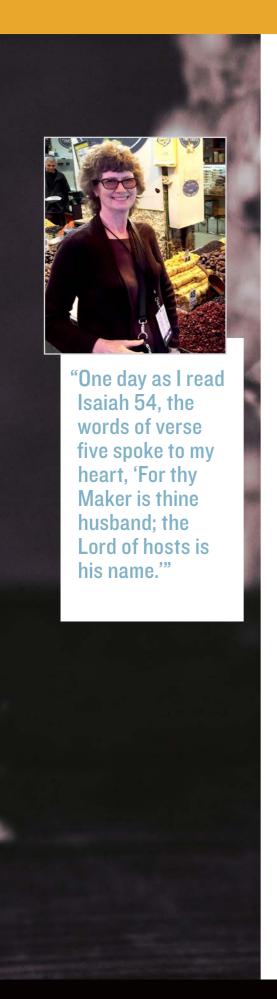
I really didn't know what to do next, but I knew that God had changed my life and given me an assurance that He would help me explain to my husband what had happened. Amazingly, almost immediately after I was saved-I can't recall if it was that same night or the next morning-my husband said he was so sorry, but he couldn't come near me: he felt like there was a barrier around me. I know now that was the power of God working out the situation because of the purpose in my heart to honor Him and do what I knew was right.

I remember marking some places in my Bible that explain what adultery is, and the Lord was there as I shared those Scriptures with my husband and told him that God had saved me. God helped both of us through

those next few months. We moved into separate bedrooms in the house and Christopher did not hinder me from going to church. In fact, he even showed much respect as I did my devotions at home. Eventually he found a nice house to buy and that year, while I was at camp meeting, he moved out.

Of course, his move meant that I became responsible for tasks he had always taken care of, including yardwork. I could take care of most of the yard, but the hedge along the front of the property presented a problem. It was over seventy feet in length and towered above my head. In times past, whenever it needed to be trimmed, Christopher would spend one day cutting and shaping the hedge, and the next day cleaning up the debris. It was a huge task! And even when he spent a couple of days on the project, there were always clippings left underneath because there were so many small branches at the base for leaves to be trapped in.

That hedge became a big concern to me. Our neighborhood homeowner's association required that properties be maintained or the association could hire out the needed work and send the bill to the homeowner. I could not cut back the hedge myself, but because I was on a limited budget, it was out of the question for me to hire someone to take care of it. God used that situation to teach me how valuable His promises are. One day as I read Isaiah 54, the words of verse five spoke to my heart, "For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name." I felt like I had found a treasure! I asked the Lord, "Does that mean You'll be my husband? Will You help me with things like my hedge?" While I knew His promises were true, the more that hedge grew, the more



concerned I became and the more earnestly I prayed about it.

On Christmas morning that year, as I looked out my dining room window, I saw to my amazement that my hedge had been trimmed and shaped perfectly. In addition, the ground underneath the hedge was absolutely clear of any debris. I knew it was a miracle. I did ask Christopher and the people close to me if they had come over and cut back the hedge, but no one knew anything about it. I wondered if a bill would arrive, but none came. God had kept His promise to me and taken care of that task just as a husband would have done.

As time went on, I continued to seek the Lord. I lived quite a distance from church-about forty minutes or more of travel time. Many nights as I prayed at the altar, the enemy would try to distract me by reminding me of my long drive home. I knew I needed to spend time seeking the Lord, but I also had to get up early and go to work. Finally, I made the decision to sell my home and move closer to the church. The house itself was in good condition, but by that time, the hedge had grown tall again. I remembered that when I had told one family member how the Lord had cut my hedge, she asked, "What are you going to do the next time it needs trimming?" I didn't want to be ungrateful for what the Lord had done before, but I wondered if God would cut my hedge again.

One night my realtor called to ask if he could show my home the next day. I agreed, but as I walked out to the mailbox, I looked at that hedge and thought, Who will ever buy my home when the hedge is so overgrown? One glance will reveal what a problem it could be. A sob came from my heart and I told the Lord, "You are still my husband!" The next night as I drove into my driveway after work, I saw to my amazement that the hedge had been cut back again-and once more, trimmed so perfectly that I knew God had done a miracle for me a second time. I was overjoyed. My home sold right away and the Lord once again

proved to me that there is nothing too difficult for Him.

PURSUING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

As I settled into my new home, I had such a hunger for more of the Lord. God would bless me as I prayed, and He gave me strength as trials came along. He also helped me make difficult restitutions, mend relationships, and straighten out things from my past that were not right. On the last Sunday of camp meeting that year, the Lord wonderfully sanctified me. I felt so pure and could hardly speak for several days, just savoring the sweet presence of the Lord.

Then I began to seek diligently for the baptism of the Holy Ghost, realizing my need for God's power in order to serve Him most effectively. He impressed upon me that it was a serious matter to not believe He would do what His Word promised. Finally I came to the place where I knew I had done everything God had asked of me, and that seemed to boost my faith. On the Sunday evening before Memorial Day, I had not intended to really seek for my baptism after the service. A big workday was planned on the campground the following day, and I thought I would just enjoy spending time in prayer. However, as I joined others in praising the Lord, it seemed the windows of Heaven opened and God filled me with His precious Holy Spirit. It was such a wonderful experience and I am so grateful He fulfilled His promise to me.

UNANTICIPATED BLESSINGS ALONG THE WAY

Looking back, it seems that many of my spiritual blessings have come during camp meeting. One year I stayed in a cabin on the campground, and on a Sunday afternoon after a young people's meeting, I went to my cabin to rest before the evening service. I suddenly awoke feeling my heart beating rapidly and the Lord impressed upon me very definitely that I was going to work at our church headquarters office. That startled me because I had a good job that I really enjoyed at a small plumbing company in southwest Portland. I began to pray about it, but when I received no further instruction from the Lord and no one asked me to come and work for the church, I wondered if I had really heard the Lord correctly.

I told no one about that experience, but shortly thereafter, the business where I had been working began to fail, and in time, God did open the door for me to work at the headquarters office.

I am reminded of God's love when I think about how He has repaired my life and replaced sin's damage with blessings and beauty.

My tasks there have been such a joy. At first I opened the mail and entered it into the database, and later had the privilege to answer letters sent by prisoners and other correspondents. God gave me such compassion for the prisoners as I read of their distresses. He also gave me a burden to pray for all of our correspondents, which has never left me. I am also blessed to proofread articles, and type sermons and testimonies. Working for the church has truly been a privilege.

A few months before I went to work at the church office, the Lord saved my middle child, Jeff, and several years later he too came to work full time for the church. In 2007, the Lord saved my oldest child, George, and soon after that he began working for our church as well. I feel like I have been blessed beyond measure to serve the Lord together with my sons.

The Lord has continued to be with me in my senior years. Not long ago, God provided an opportunity for me to sell my home and move onto the street that borders our campground. Not only do I live just a half block from our church, but I'm surrounded by lovely Christian neighbors. I love walking to work each day and I also enjoy walking around our beautiful campground. The Lord surely has been so good to me.

Several years ago, I had the privilege to attend the week-long camp meeting in Cajamarca, Peru. I never imagined I would have such a wonderful opportunity. It certainly proved again to me that with God, anything is possible. It was a blessing to meet those loving people, who seem so willing to give their all to serve the Lord, and a thrill to hear their testimonies of how God provides their needs in miraculous ways.

During that trip, I had an opportunity to trust God for healing. Near the end of the camp meeting, I became very sick, possibly due to the altitude. On what was to be our last night there, I could not sleep at all and was so weak I knew I would need a wheelchair to get to the airport. However, my fellow team members prayed for me, and then Brother Sam Ajayi, who was leading the group, asked me to do something I was sure I could not do: to go to the restaurant in our hotel and eat something. I didn't feel well enough to walk that far, but I thought I should at least try to do what he asked. God helped, and as soon as I ate just a little bit, the Lord miraculously strengthened me, and within moments, there was a dramatic change in my condition. God had touched me and I was even able to enjoy a few additional days of vacation in Lima before traveling back to Portland.

God has been so good to me. As I grow older, I am reminded of God's love when I think about how He has repaired my life and replaced sin's damage with blessings and beauty. I can say with assurance that there is no problem too difficult for our awesome, loving Heavenly Father, and my desire is to continue to serve Him for the rest of my life.

■ Dee Cummins is a member of the Apostolic Faith Church in Portland, Oregon, and a correspondence secretary at the world headquarters office.

Love Our

The day her purse was snatched, Zelma learned some lessons about how to respond to those who "despitefully use you."



"The Lord's still. small Voice said to me, 'Pray for that young man that he might find salvation."

By Zelma Pierce

IN MY FIRST YEAR AS A CHRISTIAN, my faith and obedience to the Lord were tested. I lived and worked in a rough part of San Francisco, California. Almost every day, I walked eleven blocks to the junior high school where I worked as a teacher's aide. Knowing the neighborhood, I usually carried what I would need for the day in my pockets-hidden from potential thieves. However, one day I took my purse along, planning to stop at a local market to purchase coffee for the teachers' lunchroom. Walking up a familiar hill, I spotted a man on the sidewalk ahead of me. The thought entered my mind as I passed him that I would make an easy target for a purse-snatcher, but I told myself that I could not be afraid of everyone I saw on the sidewalk.

After my route made a turn to go down the hill, there was the sound of footsteps racing toward me. The man I had passed just a few minutes before stopped directly in front of me and placed a knife to my throat. He said, "Give me your purse." Despite the circumstances, I remember feeling a calm Presence; there was no fear. Looking him in the face, I replied, "No!" We had a tug-of-war with the purse. Then the straps gave way, and he ran off with it.

Reaching up to my neck, I realized I was bleeding. In a nearby daycare center, I explained the situation and they helped me call the police. I was taken to a small office where a doctor stitched up the cut. He informed me of how fortunate I had been as the cut was close to my jugular vein.

Returning home, as the harrowing events settled upon me, the Lord spoke to my heart. Previously that morning I had read Matthew 5 for my devotions. I sat down on my bed, picked up my Bible, and re-read those verses. Matthew 5:44 stood out to me: "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." The Lord's still, small Voice said to me, "Pray for that young man that he might find salvation."

What a challenge from the Lord! Situations where we are attacked or hurt by others can present a real test of our faith. We may wonder why God would let people get away with these things, and how He can expect us to repay malicious behavior with love and blessing. Yet, if we really

believe God's Word, then we must trust that His divine providence is always at work, whether for our blessing, another's blessing, or both. The different situations we encounter in life will challenge us, and hopefully teach us to have a more mature understanding of His love. While it was not instinctive for me to show love to my enemy, the Lord helped me. Following are some of the lessons the Lord has taught me through that experience.

LOOK TO JESUS' EXAMPLE

Jesus is our best example of loving those who "despitefully use you," for while we were yet sinners, He died for us. There has never been a greater display of undeserved love and forgiveness! As we read through the Gospels and take note of Jesus' mercy toward sinners, we are inspired to do the same. If we think back on the love Jesus showed us. and recall that His love for each one is equal, it will help us to see others as He sees them-individuals created in His image with the potential to be a great blessing. Jesus is a living example to which we can always look to keep focused.

PRAY FOR THE OFFENDER

When dealing with any type of trial, prayer is the best place to start. Prayer changes things. Whether it is a person who has hurt us or just someone we find difficult to be around, our resistance will melt as we mention their names before God's throne of grace. When we ask the Lord to work in their lives, we find that He does a work in us! He helps us to see the situation from His perspective, and imparts to us His love for that soul. Perhaps that person is suffering and going through some trial of their own; only the Lord knows what is going on in their lives. This person may be in desperate need of prayer, and we could be the one to provide it. May we never forget that someone prayed for us too!

CHOOSE TO FORGIVE

Forgiveness does not always come easily, and sometimes it is simply an act of the will. We can also choose to let go of our hurt. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was an example of this. In Acts 7:60 we read that as he was being stoned: "... he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." Stephen forgave and even prayed for his murderers! We know that at least one of those present-Saul, whose name was later changed to Paul-was converted and his life transformed. No doubt, Stephen's act of forgiveness had an effect on Paul, whose life was also eventually taken for the sake of the Gospel. Stephen and Paul recognized that those who desire to hurt others are in desperate need of Jesus' forgiveness and life-changing power. They were more concerned with seeing lost souls saved than their own well-being. Though it may be difficult, with God's help we can also choose to forgive, and who can say what good may result from that decision?

SHOW KINDNESS

In some situations, we actually have the opportunity to encourage the very person who is trying to discourage us. If it is an antagonistic co-worker, we might leave an anonymous small gift or note on that person's desk to brighten his or her day. We could bring him or her a coffee or tea. It may be as simple as a daily smile and "hello," expressing appreciation, or praising something good he or she has done. Even something small, when done as unto the Lord, can have a big impact. It may change that person's outlook for the day, and eventually change his or her opinion of us, and perhaps of the Gospel too.

KEEP AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

Colossians 3:2 says, "Set your affection on things above, not on things

on the earth." All of the material objects in the world will be left behind after this life is over, but the people we interact with do not have to be left behind. We will be reunited with them in Heaven, if they choose to yield their lives to God. God places people in our lives for His divine purpose. These are precious souls whom He loves, and we have the opportunity to encourage them toward the Heavenly goal. Think of the joy of seeing them in Heaven someday! Every soul we meet has that potential.

Sitting on my bed that day many years ago, as I thought about the man who put my life at risk for his own gain, I began to pray. I let go of the hurt and anger, releasing it to the Lord. I prayed for him then, and to this day, whenever I notice the small scar on my neck, it is a reminder to pray for the person who hurt me, that God will somehow reach his heart. What a thrill it would be to meet him in Heaven!

We certainly need the Lord's help to love, pray for, forgive, and bless those in our lives who appear to be undeserving of such actions. It is a high calling to show Jesus' love to others through forgiveness and mercy, and every day of our walk with the Lord is an opportunity to step higher in our calling. May we live in such a way that those around us see the light of Christ in everything we do.

■ Zelma Pierce works at the Apostolic Faith world headquarters office, and is a member of the church in Portland, Oregon.

EVIDENCE



RAISED IN THE GOSPEL in a tiny Christian community in Newfoundland, I had a mom and dad who prayed, but that didn't make me a Christian. I went a long ways down the road of sin and got involved in things I should never have been involved in. I thank God for one night, the twenty-sixth of January 1992, when I found myself in a little church in Fredericton, New Brunswick. I had no intention of giving my heart to the Lord that night, but He came calling for me. The invitation went out, "Do any of you want to give your heart to the Lord tonight? Would you raise your hand?" I was sitting with my son who was seven years old and he pushed my hand up and said, "My dad do." I pulled my hand down, embarrassed, but I thank God the pastor then said, "Everyone close your eyes and if any of you want to raise your hand, we will pray with you." My son pushed my hand up again, and I held it up that time. That night, I found Jesus and strength for my journey. He not only saved me, but has sanctified and baptized me. He keeps me from day to day. He has brought healing to my home. I thank Him for being real in my life. Now, no matter where I go or where I am, I want others to know that I am a child of the living God and have been set free. I am glad to be on the Lord's side.

■ Dave Canning, Newfoundland, Canada



YEARS AGO, I followed my brothers to church. I did not go to be saved, but God is merciful. I heard testimonies of people who said God provided for them. I grew up in a palace, so I felt I did not need God for that. Someone else testified that when he was sick. God healed him. I had never been sick, so I reasoned I did not need God for that. Another testified that he was a dullard in school, but God opened his understanding. I didn't need that, because I was one of the best students in my class.

Then one day, someone testified that salvation brought peace to his heart. The Spirit of God spoke to me, asking, "Do you have that?" I said, "No," because I really didn't have peace in my heart. Additionally, I heard the Word of God and learned that if a person dies in his sins, he will go to Hell. I said, "God, I don't want to go to Hell." I humbled myself and prayed, and God saved me. He also sanctified me and baptized me with the Holy Ghost and fire. Since then, God has been all in all to me. I did need God for deliverance, for keeping power, for provision, and to make me able to express all of that. It has been thirty-six years since God saved me. I pray for His grace and mercy to continue to lead me on.

■ Tony Ademuyiwa, Lagos, Nigeria



GOD CALLED ME into the Gospel when I was young. He saved my soul, sanctified me, and filled me with His precious Holy Spirit. Since then He has done many miracles in my life.

Recently, I traveled to Cotonou to attend the camp meeting in the Republic of Benin. During my return flight to Paris, I had a problem: I could not breathe. I was suffering and it seemed that I was dying. I arrived home and spent a week there, but then was rushed to the hospital. When the doctor looked at me he said, "You are lucky to be alive." I had blood clots on my lungs and didn't know it. He said it was a miracle that I was still living. I knew the saints in London and Paris had been praying for me and God had answered their prayers. I am sure God has something for me to do in Paris. Join me in praying that I will fulfill the will of God.

■ Mathieu Bobo, Paris, France



THREE YEARS AGO the Lord found me. I had a lot of pride and didn't want to admit to anyone that I wasn't saved, but the Lord knew what I needed to hear. He sent people my way to encourage me. I went to the altar and in about ten minutes. God saved me. I am so thankful for that. I had given up on myself and was in a bad place, but it doesn't matter where we are or what we think of ourselves, God still loves us. Two days later in the very last service of camp meeting, He sanctified me, and the following February, He gave me my baptism.

I also want to thank God for His provision regarding my schooling. First of all, I praise God that I was admitted into nursing school. Then He helped me get through it, though it was really tough. He helped me obtain a job for the summer that allowed me to be in most of this year's camp meeting. Also, God helped me financially so that I will have no student debt. God has always been there for me, and I want to go all the way with Him.

■ Li Arechy, Richmond, California



and I thank Him that I was born and raised in this Gospel. My family came to church every

THE LORD IS SO FAITHFUL.

family came to church every meeting. I had a little trouble sitting still and talked in church, but at age seven, the Lord called me. That day, I said, "I need to go down and pray instead of walk around with my friends." I prayed and God saved me.

Fast forward more than thirty years, and now I have my own children. Today, rather than mouthing to them to be quiet in church, my husband and I can text them to be quiet. Times have changed, but the Lord has not; He is still faithful. This past weekend, when we were putting our eight-year-old daughter to bed, she said, "I need to get saved." We prayed with her by the bed and she was saved. Bringing our children to church can seem like a lot of work considering all the rest that life has going on, but it does make a difference. I thank the Lord for His faithfulness.

■ Kristi Tonning, Portland, Oregon



I AM THANKFUL FOR SAL-VATION and also for what the Lord did for me on Friday. The preacher was talking about consecration. I had prayed for sanctification many times, and as he preached, I thought, That is what I should do. I went to the altar and God began talking to me. He asked me to consecrate several things. Some of them didn't even make sense to me, but I did it. Then God put two words in my mind: total surrender. I surrendered all to God and He sanctified me. Later, I felt unsure. Then, on Sunday morning, the whole service seemed focused on sanctification and consecration. I went to the altar again and remembered that Brother Darrel had said he felt a warm feeling when he was sanctified and asked for it to come again to confirm that the work was done. I prayed to God, "I want that warm feeling too." Instantly, the warm feeling came, and I knew that God had really sanctified me.

■ Timothy Folarin, Oceanside, New York



IT HAS BEEN FOUR YEARS since God saved me. I am so

thankful that He has kept me. He also sanctified me in 2015 during youth camp. Recently, on a Friday afternoon, He helped me let go of a burden that I have been holding onto for a while. Then, on Friday evening, He filled me with the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I am just so thankful that I serve a God who really does help us; when I have doubts

or am going through struggles, God is always there. I am also thankful for the church family who are always there to pray for me when I have a need. I am so happy to be a part of this Gospel.

■ Katia Fedosov, Portland, Oregon





HEAD QUE Office Dedicated

ON JULY 4, 2018, less than two years after a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Apostolic Faith world headquarters office, the building was formally dedicated for God's work. The service began in the campground tabernacle with the junior orchestra playing "He Is Exalted" and "Star Spangled Spectacular." A young ladies' ensemble sang "Still Feelin' Fine" and then Reverend Sam Ajayi, Director of South America and Australia Work, led the congregation in a special prayer for the future work of the Apostolic Faith organization. The last music special was Ashley Morgan singing "Bless This House."

Dedication comments were given by Superintendent General Darrel Lee, who recounted the distress felt when the campground East Chapel was destroyed in a fire in February of 2014. He said the Lord has granted us "beauty for ashes" by turning the fire into an opportunity to build a beautiful new office. Reverend

Lee also quoted the words of Reverend Loyce Carver, the former General Overseer of the Apostolic Faith organization, when he spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Fifty-Second Avenue headquarters building on July 20, 1979. Reverend Carver had declared, "The function of this office is to send out to the whole world the product of meetings held here-sermons that are preached and testimonies that are giventhat God's name might be glorified. These are typed and edited, printed, and distributed into all the world, free of charge. It is the same Gospel that you hear when you come to a meeting, but we try to put wings to it so it will go everywhere."

Reverend Lee emphasized that this remains the charge of the organization today, but the office staff will strive to accomplish that goal in a more widespread manner yet by taking advantage of modern technology. He also said that just as God blessed the efforts of our forebearers, we depend upon Him to bless the labors of the current and future generations until Jesus returns. He declared, "We continue to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints!"

Following the comments from Reverend Lee, the congregation was dismissed to

(Top to bottom): The ribbon is cut by three longtime staff members; Charity Hinkle carries scissors; the junior orchestra plays during the dedication service.

ARTERS ation Service

the front of the headquarters office for the dedication prayer and ribbon-cutting ceremony. A prayer was offered by Board Member and Corporate Treasurer John Musgrave, who gave thanks for God's provision of a new office building, expressed the collective desire for it to be wholly dedicated to God's work, and asked His blessing on the efforts of the Apostolic Faith organization.

Once everyone had assembled in front of the new office, three scissor carriers delivered scissors to three ribbon cutters. The carriers were three-year-olds Daisy Andersen and Charity Hinkle, and four-year-old Anhaiya Larrechea, who all have a rich heritage in this Gospel. Daisy's great-great-grandparents Earnest and Lowana Phillips received Apostolic Faith papers in 1910 while living on the prairies of Kansas, and subsequently moved to Portland to attend the church. Charity's great-grandmother Audrey Hinkle was invited to special meetings held in Southern Oregon by members of the Medford Apostolic Faith Church, and was saved soon after. Anhaiya's great-great-grandfather George Friesen was saved at the Apostolic Faith Church in Dallas, Oregon, and her

great-great-grandmother Lena Young was saved shortly after receiving an Apostolic Faith paper from a neighbor in Medford. The three ribbon cutters were Karen Barrett, Cheryl Paulsen, and Gary Wolfe, who each began working at the headquarters church office when it was located at Southwest Sixth and Burnside, and will continue working in the new building. Combined, they have worked for the headquarters office for over 130 years! These three also have rich heritages in the Gospel that go back to grandparents who joined the Apostolic Faith Church in the 1920s and 1930s, and now they have their own children and grandchildren in the Gospel.

After the three girls carefully carried the scissors to the cutters. Reverend Lee announced, "We dedicate this building in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," and the ribbon was cut! Soon after, a youth brass ensemble began playing "Glory Bound," and the audience was invited to do a walkthrough of the new office.

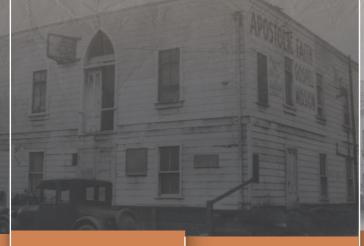
(Top to bottom): Guests enter the new building for a walk-through tour; Esther Ademuyiwa-Jelenke passes out cookies at the end of the tour; the dedication program.



A LEGACY OF PUBLISHIN

1906 - 1907

The first Apostolic Faith paper was produced in an upstairs corner of the Azusa Street church building. Wooden boxes were used for chairs, and boards across boxes became work tables. Equipment consisted of one old typewriter and a mimeograph machine.



1906

1907



Portland, the congregation rented a building on SW First and Madison which had some office space. The second edition of *The Apostolic Faith* was produced during camp meeting that year in a large tent on the Mount Tabor campsite.

1908 - 1922

In 1908 the organization obtained a large building at the corner of SW Front and Burnside, where the lower floor accommodated a printing department. In 1917, the first pieces of printing equipment were purchased, and in 1919, a larger press was acquired.



1908



Church members helped construct a new church building at NW Sixth and Burnside, with space on the first floor designated as the headquarters office, including mailing and printing departments. A horse-drawn transfer wagon was used to transport the heavy equipment.

IG FOR OVER 100 YEARS

1939 - 1955

The church remained at Sixth and Burnside but the printing work was moved to a newly constructed building at NE Sixth and Hassalo, which had more space for the printing machinery.

1980 - 2018

Church members again worked to construct a new building with room to accommodate a large high-speed web press and other heavy machinery for mass print production. The turn of the century brought a shift toward digital publishing; in 1998 the first website was launched, and in 2010 the church app for mobile devices became available. The large press was replaced in 2015 with a digital printer and in 2017 most of the Gospel literature became available in digital formats.

1939

1955

The Hassalo property was sold because of a commercial project in the immediate area. At that time, extensive remodeling was done at the Sixth and Burnside location to make room for the presses and related equipment so that office and publishing

1955 - 1980

work could return there.

1980

July 2018

The new world headquarters office has been built to facilitate multi-channel publishing with a global reach. Gospel materials will be produced in print, digital, audio, and video formats, and then delivered to Apostolic Faith churches and individuals through the website, app, and digital subscriptions. Collaborating with regional Apostolic Faith leaders around the world will allow most printing to be done locally for faster and more efficient distribution.



CHURCH DEDICATION IN OCEANSIDE, NY

ON SUNDAY, JUNE 10, a new church building was dedicated in Oceanside, New York. This building will be used by the congregation who was meeting in nearby Hempstead, New York. Having outgrown their old location in recent years, the Lord provided the congregation with the opportunity to acquire this new church last year.

The dedication was preceded by a weekend of special meetings, including evangelistic services on Thursday and Friday, and a concert on Saturday. At the Thursday evening service, two who were instrumental in starting the Hempstead church each testified about the early days of the work. These included Reverend Ene Ekpin, pastor of our church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Reverend Glory Thomas, who once pastored our Lafayette church in Brooklyn, New York, and now leads the group in Orlando, Florida. The Friday service brought more visitors from surrounding church locations as well as local guests.

Saturday's concert was well attended. It began with the orchestra playing "Hungarian Dance No. 5," and continued with the choir singing "And the Glory of the Lord." The audience enjoyed listening to a variety of instrumentalists and vocalists who were featured throughout the evening, including a pianist who played "Hear Ye, Israel." To close the evening, the orchestra and choir combined to perform "Down by the Riverside." The entire program was very well done.

On Sunday, many joined from neighboring branch churches for the dedication, and the sanctuary quickly filled to its capacity of three hundred, with another two hundred watching from the large fellowship areas. The service began with a medley of musical specials including "The Heavens Are Telling" by the orchestra, a trumpet solo of "Rejoice Greatly" by Joel Oni, and "Holy Art Thou" by the choir, featuring soloist Lydia Adesina.

Reverend Alfred Ikotun, the Oceanside pastor, formally welcomed the visitors to the dedication, thanking many of them by name for their part in helping to establish the Hempstead work. Then Reverend Josephine McElveen, pastor in Washington D.C., gave the opening prayer, and Tony Ademuyiwa of Lagos, Nigeria, sang "How Big Is God."

The Sunday school children presented a program of songs, Scripture reading, and a skit depicting church

workers successfully reaching out to one in need of the Gospel. It was inspiring to see where the next generation of workers will come from, should the Lord tarry.

During the service, a brief history of the Hempstead work was read by Reverend Joseph Lamidi, a former Hempstead pastor, and Maruita Kupoluyi, who is the widow of the Hempstead pioneer pastor, Reverend Christopher Kupoluyi. Reverend Kupoluyi was one of several college students from Long Island who commuted to attend our Lafayette church in the 1980s. In 1992, a group of about twelve began meeting in his apartment in Hempstead for Sunday services. As the Lord blessed and their numbers increased, it became necessary to relocate, and in 1995 they settled in the two-story Hempstead church.

In recent years, that location became congested, and the congregation began praying for an alternative place to worship. God provided the Oceanside church, and refurbishing began in December 2017. Contractors were hired to renovate the sanctuary, residence quarters, welcome center, event center, fellowship center, and other offices in the complex, while church workers supervised and participated when necessary. The first service was held in the new building on May 6, 2018, with much rejoicing.

The dedication service continued with a Scripture reading by Reverend Sam Ajayi, Director of Australia and South America Work, and then the dedicatory sermon by Superintendent General Darrel Lee. This was followed by the dedicatory prayer offered by Reverend Gabriel Ajayi, the Lagos Region Overseer in Nigeria. The final benediction was offered by Reverend Eugene Segres, the District Superintendent of Eastern and Southern U.S. Work and pastor at Kingstree, South Carolina, before the choir closed with "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You."

We are thankful for the many blessings received at the Hempstead location, and know God will continue to bless at Oceanside as we pray.

Short Takes **CENTURY CAMP CELEBRATES 60 YEARS**

THE CAMP MEETING HELD JULY 22-29 IN CENTURY, FLORIDA, commemorated the sixtieth camp meeting of the United States Southern and Eastern District. Attendees from branch churches throughout the district came for the diamond anniversary, and the enthusiasm was evident from the very first service.

At every evening service of the convention, a number of pioneers of the work in that region were remembered. On Tuesday, the testimony of the late Reverend Isaac Davis was shared; he was saved in 1947 and served as U.S. Southern and Eastern District Superintendent for over ten years. The testimony of the late Reverend Leon Dicks was recalled on Wednesday. He was saved in 1944 after his heart was pricked during a street meeting, and he later founded the Apostolic Faith Church at 265 Lafayette in Brooklyn, New York. He also served as District Overseer from 1985 to 1989. Several other inspiring testimonies were shared, encouraging attendees to be faithful like those who have gone before.

On Thursday, a photo gallery was set up in the Century church, highlighting the sixty years of camp meetings. A video was also shown of the late William McClary preaching a memorable sermon titled "A Song in the Night." The entire camp meeting was a blessing as the saints remembered all God has done and looked forward to what He will do in the days ahead.

NEWFOUNDLAND **75TH ANNIVERSARY** CAMP MEETING

THE CAMP MEETING HELD AUGUST 5-12 IN RODDICKTON, Newfoundland, Canada, included a celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Roddickton church, which was founded in 1943 as the first Apostolic Faith Church in Canada.

On Wednesday of the camp meeting, a walk-through was set up with photos and displays that recounted the history of the work. The memorabilia included a model of the original church, with such intricate details that pews and a pulpit were visible on the interior. There was also a model of the boat used during the early days to evangelize towns which were only accessible by water. There were many photos documenting the work through the years as well.

The Wednesday evening church service was also dedicated to the history of the church in Canada. During the service, Reverend Rene Cassell, former District Superintendent of Canada, gave an overview of the work, including how it expanded from only Newfoundland to other parts of Canada during his tenure. The late Reverend Gideon Hancock, founder of the Roddickton church, was known to have loved the song "Abide with Me," and members of the Hancock family sang that song during the meeting. Later, the current District Superintendent of Canada, Reverend Chris Hewlett, read a Scripture passage from Ephesians and then acknowledged the founding veterans of the Roddickton work, bringing out that the Gospel message has not changed at all in the past seventy-five years.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT **OF JAMAICA** APPOINTED

IN LATE SPRING OF 2018, it was announced that Reverend Calvin Palmer would be retiring from the position of District Superintendent of Jamaica, with Reverend Rohan Clough succeeding him. Reverend Clough had served on the Jamaica Board of Trustees since 2002, and in May of 2018, was appointed as the interim leader of the Apostolic Faith work for the island nation. On July 14 of the same year, at the Portland camp meeting, the headquarters Board of Trustees prayed for him, and he officially assumed his new role on August 1. Reverend Palmer will continue to serve as pastor of the churches in Christiana and Crofts Hill, Jamaica.





The Promised

God is still pouring out His spirit. Have you received?

By Florence Crawford

WE READ IN JOEL 2:28-29, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit." We are living in that dispensation of the Holy Ghost. Nothing should be left undone in our preaching, teaching, and living, so we prove to this old world that this is so.

When I hear the wonderful testimonies in our church services, it takes me back to the time when I was living in the city of Los Angeles, California. I had been brought up in a home of unbelief: I never knew what it was to hear my mother pray and I never laid my hand on a Bible until I was a grown woman. Yet God, in a marvelous way, spoke to me one night when I was dancing in a ballroom and said, "Daughter, give Me thine heart." Oh, how I praise God that I heeded the call! He marvelously took the unbelief out of my heart and gave me a heart to believe.

After God saved me, I yearned to tell a lost world of the great things He had done for me. I would find my way into the slums, behind prison bars, and into homes for the outcasts to tell the story of Jesus. But there was such a lack of power. There seemed to be such feebleness in every word spoken. My heart cried out for the

Living Water! How I thank God that the day came when I heard He was pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh, and that my soul, too, could be filled. I had seen souls born again under my ministry before I had this marvelous experience, but oh, it was so few compared to what I have seen since God Almighty poured out His Spirit on my life!

My heart overflows with gratitude to God as I hear men and women praising God. Some were in the depths of sin, and others were moral lepers. I looked upon their faces before God saved them, and then saw them redeemed-transformed by power divine! Oh, I worship God that He ever sent the Latter Rain Gospel! I thank Him, too, that we had hearts to receive it. It is in the earth today, yet how many people are turning a deaf ear.

PURGED HEARTS ARE PREPARED HEARTS

The power of God is not bought with money, as Simon of old tried to do (see Acts 8:18), but it falls on hearts that have been purged and made pure by God. In Matthew 3:11-12, John the Baptist said, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: whose fan is in his hand,

and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel is the same today as it was in the days when John the Baptist spoke those words. Jesus, the Word of God, is still God's fan that "will throughly purge his floor." The fan of God causes souls to repent, to turn to God, and forsake their sin. He will cause them to make restitution—to pay back the money stolen and give back the wife or husband they have stolen, even though the divorce courts have legalized it. The same fan is working today.

The Word of God is washing; it is purifying by the power of God. The Lamb of God has power not only to forgive sins, but power to take away inbred sin, the Adamic nature. Jesus is the Word that can purge and purify and make a soul ready for the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Jesus said in John 14:15-18, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." Also in Acts 1:4-5 and 8, "And, being assembled together with them, he [Jesus] commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem,

but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.... But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Jesus was speaking to His disciples, whom He had saved and sanctified wholly. In John 17:17 Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." No soul is eligible for the baptism of the Holy Ghost unless he has first been sanctified wholly.

The disciples also had settled all doubts and fears in their hearts. After Jesus' death, a great consternation had come over them. Some had hoped that He would set up His Kingdom while He was yet on earth, and they were mystified to a great extent concerning what Christ was going to do. In their sorrow at seeing Him on the Cross, they had become more mystified and seemed to forget that He had said He would rise again on the third day. Jesus upbraided them for their hardness of heart in not believing the report that He had risen from the dead, but in appearing unto them, He removed every doubt and fear from their hearts. It was in this condition that they went into the Upper Room and began to pray for the promised power to come down upon their lives.

EVIDENCE OF A REAL EXPERIENCE

You may say, "I see so much sham and make believe." Yes, there is plenty of it in the world; nevertheless, the Word of God stands true. Where you see souls who are baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire—the real experience—you will see souls in whom the fan has cleansed away the sin and purged out the old Adamic nature. They have made restitution, have gotten their spiritual houses set in order, have been cleansed and

sanctified, and they are ready to tarry for the mighty outpouring of the Spirit. We see it day after day at our altars of prayer. How we praise God for it!

Let us read Acts 2:1-2, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting." This event happened in the Upper Room on the Day of Pentecost, just fifty days after the day of Christ's resurrection. While the disciples prayed, God sent the promised power and filled all the place where they were sitting, and they began to praise and magnify the God of Israel. "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:3-4). This shows us that there is a witness to the baptism of the Holy Ghost. It does not matter whether you believe in tongues or not; according to the Word of God, there is a witness, and that witness is speaking in another language.

We read, "And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" (Acts 2:5-8). God was making something real to those people: the evidence of this mighty baptism. When God sent Peter to the house of Cornelius eight years later, and the Holy Ghost fell upon those Gentiles, they began to speak in other tongues and glorify God. Twenty-three years after the day of Pentecost, God poured out His

Spirit on those at Ephesus, and they spoke in other tongues and glorified God. These instances made manifest to the world that the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire was given not only to launch the Church in the beginning, but God has also given the baptism right down through the ages to this present time.

HUNGRY HEARTS WILL BE FILLED

We know the Church went into darkness and lost her power through the Dark Ages—not only the power of the Holy Ghost, but even believing faith. Yet in a certain time, God restored it. A monk named Martin Luther, crawling up and down stairs on his knees, heard from Heaven because his heart was hungry and honest before God. God spoke out of Heaven and said, "The just shall live by faith." Martin Luther rose from his penance and began to believe God. The Reformation broke out and God saved many souls.

Later, God restored the teaching of sanctification through John Wesley's preaching. After that, God sent back the faith of divine healing to a great extent. Then, in 1906, God saw fit to pour out the baptism of the Holy Ghost upon this old earth. And oh, how we thank God we have lived to see that day! God watered the thirsty ground, the barren hearts, and brought into souls a living faith that would press in for the mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire!

We have a wonderful example of a hungry heart in Elisha—how that man of God longed for a double portion of Elijah's spirit! Something in his heart just cleaved to that prophet. The account is told in 2 Kings chapter 2 how one day Elijah said to Elisha, "Tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Bethel," but Elisha said, "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." When Elijah moved on, Elisha moved on, too.

Then Elijah said to him, "Tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Jericho." Again Elisha said, "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." The sons of the prophets came to Elisha and said, "Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day?" He said, "Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace." He knew what was going to take place, but he was not going to let that man of God out of his sight until he had received the desire of his heart.

Elijah said, "Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the Lord hath sent me to Jordan." Elisha responded, "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee," and he followed on. When they got down to the Jordan River, Elijah took off his mantle, struck old Jordan, and the waters divided. So they went across, and Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee." Elisha said, "I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me."

Oh, that hunger in his heart! The longing after God! Elisha was cleaving to the old prophet that he might get that double portion of his spirit. Elijah turned to him and said, "If thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so." There is a lesson in that for us—we can gain a blessing from God through our diligence.

They had not gone but a little way until they saw the horses of fire and the chariot of fire, and a whirlwind swept down and took Elijah into Heaven. Elisha cried, "... the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof." He rent his clothes, picked up the mantle of Elijah, and God was with him. He had seen Elijah go, and he had received the mantle. God had given him the desire of his heart. Then he turned to his life's work. He went down to the brink of Jordan, and smote it and said. "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" The waters rolled back and he went through.

Oh, that we today would have that hunger-that longing that will cause us to go on to Bethel, on to Jericho, and on to Jordan. A burning desire that will not stop, but will watch until the mantle falls. If we will watch, it will fall and God will make us witnesses for Him.

RE A WITNESS FOR CHRIST

Who are the most effective witnesses for Christ? The ones who have received the experience in their hearts. They know they have been saved and passed from spiritual death unto life. They know that they have received the sanctifying portion and the old carnal nature has been destroyed; they are walking on the highway of holiness. Not only that, but they have tarried until God has poured out the Holy Ghost upon their lives. Then they are truly ready to pray for others. Then they are ready to bear witness for Christ.

Last night in the dead of the night, God seemed to be so near on this campground. And out of the depths of my soul I said, "Oh God, I want to be a faithful witness for the Lord!" I wonder today how many really want to be a witness for God?

■ Florence Crawford, founder of the **Apostolic Faith organization, preached** this sermon on July 13, 1930, during a camp meeting on the campground in Portland, Oregon.

DO TO BE S

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" (I John I:9).

REPENT

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

"I tell you, Nay: but, "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).



One More CHANCE

Having been rescued three times, Jim knew he could not presume upon God forever.

By Jim Gilmon

THANK GOD FOR SALVATION that can take a man out of sin and place his feet on the solid Rock, Christ Jesus!

I grew up in a semi-Christian home. My mother prayed for her children, but Dad was not a believer. While still young, I decided to lead a life like his. I traveled down the pathway of sin, picking up all the bad habits and appetites the world has to offer.

Rheumatic fever struck me when I was a lad. The doctor told me I would not be healthy like other boys. He said, "When you go up the stairs, you will take them slow-ly—not run up them." I promised God my life if He would heal me, and He did! But I broke my promise.

God never let me forget what I had vowed. Year later, when I was in drunken stupors, He would remind me that I had promised to serve Him. One night while under the influence of liquor, I was in an automobile accident. I was taken to the Marine Hospital in Seattle, Washington, and doctors tried everything they knew to do, but they could not bring me back to consciousness.

Then the people at my mother's church prayed for me. When consciousness returned, she told me Jesus would take care of me. I said to myself, "She does not know the promises I have made to the Lord and not kept." Once

more I promised God that if He would just get me out of the hospital, I would serve Him. Again, God did His part, but I did not do mine.

Later, I was working with my dad and he took sick. Mother called the ministers of her church to come pray for him. Dad prayed too, and God saved him. He came out to the job site and told me, "The Lord will do the same for you if you meet the same conditions." I thought, That

is all right for you, Dad; you're old. But I want to live my life in my own way.

I quit working with Dad and got a job in the woods, driving a log truck. One day a truck loaded with logs got away from me. It rolled over two and a half times into a canyon. God was dealing with me again. When the truck hit the bottom and quit rolling, I was afraid to move, fearful it might roll some more. With my head on the seat, I cried, "O God!" And it was not a swear word, either! Again, God spared my life. I climbed out of that wreck with only a few scratches on my cheek. Still, I was not ready to give up my life of sin.

Over a year later, coming into the little town of Chehalis, Washington, I stopped alongside the road to look at a wrecked car. A woman in the back seat was calling out for someone to help her. I wondered why she did not ask Jesus to help her. A dead man was under the steering wheel, his body all torn up. Right then it seemed God spoke out of Heaven to me and said, "You are going

to be next." I knew I was heading the wrong way and I did not want to die in the condition I was in.

The prayers of my parents and their Christian friends were being answered. I told myself, "I'll go to church Sunday," but I didn't. Oh, what conviction settled on me that night! I couldn't sleep. Finally, I phoned my parents, and they told me to come to their home. They called the minister, and at an old davenport, I knelt to pray.

Tears flowed from my eyes, though I hadn't shed a tear for years. My dad was sitting there in a wheelchair. "I don't know how to pray," I said. My dad responded, "Ask Jesus to be merciful to you a sinner." That is what I did, and the Lord did not turn me away. He saved me that night and delivered me from drinking and from the cigarette habit—things I could not stop in my own power. He changed my filthy tongue. Thank God, He made me a new creature, and gave me the old-time religion!

These days my trust is in the Lord. I want to walk in His will. When I pick up one foot and put it down again, I want it to be in the center of His will, not to the right or left. God has done so much for me. He will take care of me the rest of my life.

■ Jim Gilmon was a member of the Apostolic Faith Church in Chehalis, Washington, until he passed away in December of 1977.

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 enduement 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; I Peter 2:24.

The Second Coming of Jesus will be as literal and visible as His going away (Acts I:9-II) and will consist of two appearances. First, He comes to catch away His waiting Bride. Matthew 24:40-44; I Thessalonians 4:15-17. Second, He comes to execute judgment upon the ungodly. 2 Thessalonians I:7-IO; Jude I4-I5.

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 II 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:II-I5.

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; I Corinthians II: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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