

THE Apostolic Faith

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

January – March 2020

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VIEWPOINT

By Darrel Lee, Superintendent General



God can help
anyone who is lost
to be found.

Jeong Min Kim is District Superintendent of our churches in South Korea and serves as our Seoul pastor. His sermon excerpt titled “Where Are You?” on page 21 reminds me of a walk I took while attending the 2006 Seoul camp meeting. A habit of rising early coupled with jet lag from our recent flight motivated me to walk alone from the Seoul church’s guest apartment to a coffee shop over a mile away. Being directionally challenged, I mentally marked my path lest I should find myself lost in a foreign land. I successfully reached the coffee shop and later returned to the apartment without incident, though a bit anxious.

Being lost is something most of us try to avoid. I write this column just one month after my mother’s passing. Her memorial service reminded me that there was a time when my mother was lost. Oh, she had no problem finding her way around geographically—she always knew where she had come from, what her current location was, and where she was going. Yet, she was spiritually lost.

When I was a teenager, Mom, who loved country western music, taught herself to play the guitar. A couple of years later she entered a talent contest at our county fair in Roseburg, Oregon, where she was “discovered” by the leader of a local band. Soon she was performing with that band almost every other night at county fairs, grange halls, local celebrations, and even in a country western nightclub—places my parents had never frequented during their marriage.

In giving her account of those days, Mom wrote, “The whole thing became a horrible experience. After about six months I wanted out. How miserable

I was! I didn’t like the surroundings—there was a lot of drinking, and the things I saw upset me. I knew I didn’t belong there. The music that once had been so much fun had led me into a nightmare. Now I had no idea how to get out.” She was truly lost!

Her situation continued until the end of that year, when she sang before hundreds of New Year’s Eve revelers. She later wrote, “. . . on January 1, 1975, at 11:30 at night, I got down on my knees in my living room and prayed, ‘Lord, if You can straighten up the mess that I have made of my life, I’ll do anything You want.’ I wept my heart out, but when I got up from my knees, I knew that



Darwin and Maxine Lee in 2018.

finally everything was all right. There was such peace in my heart! The Lord had saved me.” That night, Mom was found!

My mom did what any spiritually lost person must do to be found: she repented and was saved. From that time, she continued to live for the Lord until her passing on September 23, 2019. Today, though in a sense one could say I have “lost” my mom, in another sense she is not lost because I know right where she is—Mom is in Heaven! And I have the hope of seeing her again one day.

As you read the contents of this magazine, may you be all the more inspired to live for God each day. Should Jesus tarry until your life ends, may your loved ones be able to recall how you were found, and know that you are not lost, but are waiting for them in Heaven.

D Lee

From **THE WORD**

*All scripture is given by inspiration
of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for
reproof, for correction, for instruction in
righteousness – 2 Timothy 3:16*

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By Darrel Lee

REMOVE THE OBSTACLES!

IS SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE HINDERING YOU FROM RECEIVING GOD'S BLESSING?

In our world today, we see nation after nation becoming “dechristianized”—removing all Christian influences or characteristics. Many believers around the globe live in fear for their lives due to persecution. Here in the United States, the spiritual framework that has been a hallmark since our country’s founding erodes with every passing generation.

The condition of our nation could be compared to that of Judah during the time of the prophet Isaiah. He lamented Judah’s spiritual condition in Isaiah 57. In the first verse of that chapter we read, “The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart.” That is certainly reflected in society today, where our historically strong Christian traditions are disappearing not only as a result of direct opposition, but also from neglect.

Isaiah went on to decry the wickedness, idolatry, and spiritual adultery of the people of Judah. Their sin was not a failure to be religious; it

was that they practiced a form of religion that accommodated their depraved condition. The debauchery with which they worshipped their gods was disgusting and licentious. The sins of Sodom were openly practiced, a problem that also exists in our country today.

Isaiah referred to Judah’s condition as adultery because the people had departed from the true God with whom they had a covenant, and devoted themselves to other gods instead. We can see why Isaiah lamented! As God looks upon this world today, He must lament. He must cry in His heart and weep over what He sees taking place and the general condition of the human race.

However, Judah’s situation was not without hope. Isaiah went on to speak for God, “He that putteth his trust in me [God] shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain” (verse 13). Trust in the Lord makes a person secure, while trust in anything else ends in ruin. It was not too late for Judah to trust in God, and it is not too late

A sinner who is bound and shackled by sin has no means of deliverance apart from looking to the Savior. That is why Jesus is called the Savior! He delivers us. He unshackles us. He sets us free!

for people today to cry out to God—to put their trust in Him.

When a person meets God's conditions, God will provide a remedy. That was the message of hope Isaiah offered the people of Judah. Continuing on in verse 14, we read what they needed to do in order to obtain that remedy: "Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumbling block out of the way of my people." God was telling them, "Remove the obstacles; level the hills; take out the obstructions." Their idols had been stumbling blocks that stood in the way between them and the true God. If they would remove those obstacles, they would find a path to God.

That is what we must do in our lives—remove any hindrances to getting a prayer through. It is not necessary to have obstacles in the way, because God is faithful to reveal to us when hindrances exist. Though those around us may be unaware of what impediments exist in our spiritual lives, the Spirit of God is faithful to reveal them. He tells us, "There is something in the way—a deterrent that needs to be dealt with in your life." He encourages us, "Cast ye up, cast ye up." Remove the hindrance! Prepare the way!

When I was a young boy, we lived on a farm where we obtained the water for our house from a well. In time, the Umpqua Water Basin Association made water available to the properties on Quail Lane where our home was located, but the homeowners needed to tap into that source. Dad had four healthy boys, so he gave us the assignment of digging a ditch, eighteen inches deep, from the street to our house. This was a distance of thirty yards or so. Although there were four boys in our family, I do not remember where the other three were! It was the middle of summer, and dad sent me out with a pick and shovel. The

ground was quite rocky, and laced with roots from the big oak trees on our property. In short, there were obstacles in those thirty yards—a lot of obstacles! It took hard work to clear them out, but eventually that ditch was dug and pipes laid so water could flow to our house.

We want a clear path for God's blessing to flow from where He is to where we are. If we do our part, God will do His. In verse 15, Isaiah continued, "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

The prophet correctly recognized the vast difference between God's position and ours. God is high; we are low by comparison. He is all-powerful and we are weak. It is no shame to acknowledge our helplessness before God. In fact, in order to obtain an answer from Him, we *must* acknowledge our helplessness. It is not in our power to do what only God can do. A sinner who is bound and shackled by sin has no means of deliverance apart from looking to the Savior. That is why Jesus is called the Savior! He delivers us. He unshackles us. He sets us free!

Let's look again at Isaiah's statement that God dwells with the one who is of a "contrite and humble spirit." It is important to distinguish between the words "contrite" and "humble." In the original language, *contrite* implies to be broken, crushed, beaten small, or trodden down. That is what life tends to do to us. We try to avoid being broken by circumstances, but the pressures of life bear down at times on every individual, and breaking happens. In contrast, *humility* means "a modest or low view of one's own importance." Humility is something we accomplish for ourselves.

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It is to empty ourselves, to relinquish self-governing, to come to a point where we realize we need God.

The problem with most people is not a lack of self-esteem, but a lack of yielding to God. We must get to a point of contrition and humility in order to obtain the answer we need from Him. Then when that answer comes, we realize the solution was not of ourselves but from the God of Heaven who enables us and gives us strength for living.

In the New Testament, the Apostle James addressed the need for humility, saying, "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble" (James 4:6). He went on in subsequent verses to describe how to obtain that grace, instructing, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." Verse 9 reads, "Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep." He was drawing a picture of the contrition and humility that are needed when we approach God.

When life bears down, some people resist contrition and humility. They think they can pull themselves through and handle challenges on their own. However, life proves that we cannot do it on our own. In fact, attempting to do so is unnecessary! God will provide the grace to help us if we call upon Him. Accessing that help begins with separating ourselves from all that James described earlier in chapter 4—all that is ungodly, and thus is an obstacle to living the kind of life God intends for us to live.

Looking again at Isaiah 57:15, we read that God is willing "to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." That word *revive* means "to restore to life; to give new strength or energy to." There certainly is a blessing in seeking spiritual revival. However, revival is not the goal. It is not even an indicator of spiritual success! The true measure of success is how one lives between revivals. That is what really matters.

A number of years ago, there was a knock on the door of our house, and when I opened it, I found six young people who wanted to talk with me. Several years earlier, I had had oversight of our church youth camp for two or three years. These young people had been mischievous during one of those youth camps, and they wanted to apologize.

The fact is, I probably viewed their behavior a little differently than they did. To me, they were pretty much acting their age; what they did was not life-threatening or even youth-camp threatening at all. In fact, I did not even have a strong memory of the actions they apologized for, which tells you how little it affected me when it happened.

However, it affected them. The Lord was telling them, "Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way" and they wanted to prepare the way for the Lord to let the blessings of Heaven flow. Those young people are in our church congregation today and are involved in our church ministries. They wanted to remove the obstacle, God honored that desire in their hearts, and the results have been long-lasting. Let's take their example to heart. We want to prepare the way and make sure there are no hindrances in our paths to God.

Several hundred years after Isaiah's admonition, John the Baptist quoted his words: "As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God" (Luke 3:4-6). John was emphasizing his theme of repentance by referring to how a king's servants would go before him and prepare the road so the king could pass from one place to the next without hindrance. We are not clearing a path on earth but a path to our hearts for the King of kings and the Lord of lords!

Each one of us has the power to prepare an environment in our personal lives where God can work. We can make a way free of obstructions between ourselves and God. Today, if something comes to your mind that stands between you and the Lord, we encourage you, "Cast ye up, cast ye up! Prepare the way!" When God speaks to you, act upon what He reveals. Do not delay in taking the necessary steps. Do not delay in praying that prayer. Look Heaven's way and clear out the obstruction, and see what God will do! ■

Reverend Darrel Lee is Superintendent General of the Apostolic Faith organization.



By Rene Cassell

“We do not have to be babes in Christ forever. There is advancement in the Gospel, and as a new believer studies the Scriptures, he will begin to grow.”

STEPPING UP TO MATURITY

As a person who likes to experience new things, I appreciate that in the Gospel we can always find new depths, new heights, and new lessons with the Lord. It is never boring at all. In fact, it can be difficult to keep up! The life of a Christian is one of continual spiritual progress until the day we make it to our final destination in glory.

To continue advancing in the Gospel takes effort. Our progress is based on our knowledge of God's Word and obedience to it. If we will determine to increase our knowledge and obey, we will always be moving forward spiritually, and this should be the purpose of every believer.


IT STARTS WITH A START

Before we can think about making progress in any endeavor, we must have a starting point. I have never

seen anything start well in the middle; there must be a beginning, and from there we can advance.

So it is in the Christian journey. My walk with the Lord did not initiate with becoming a preacher; the start was getting saved, and that is the same spiritual beginning for everyone. Salvation takes place when one experiences godly sorrow for his sins, recognizing that he has sinned against God. He must then confess his sins to God and ask for forgiveness, believing in Christ for salvation. Then God will apply Jesus' Blood to the heart, pardoning his sins for Christ's sake. That is the start of the Christian life.

There is a parallel between the beginning of a physical life and that of a spiritual life. Jesus explained this to Nicodemus when He said, "Except



a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Every man and woman, regardless of age, starts the Christian journey as a babe in Christ. It may sound a little humiliating for a grown man or woman to be referred to as a baby, but this is where each one must begin.

THE EARLY STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

The parallel between physical life and spiritual life continues beyond the moment of birth. For example, we know that newborns cannot eat meat; initially they can only digest milk, which is what their bodies need in order to grow. Later, as they get older, parents begin to feed them cereal and other solid foods, until eventually they can eat meat. A progression takes place.

In 1 Peter 2:2-3 we read, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious." This tells us that newborn Christians also require special nourishment: they must be fed with the "milk" of the Bible—the simplicity of the Word of God. That is what they need in order to develop to the point that they can handle more challenging spiritual lessons. This is great news because it means we do not have to be babes in Christ forever. There is advancement in the Gospel, and as a new believer studies the Scriptures, he will begin to grow.

As with babies, there will come a time when a Christian must start exercising. Babies will first kick and wiggle their arms and legs, then sit when propped up, and finally sit alone. Parents who have seen their children go through this progression know that it is exciting. One day, their baby is sitting alone on the floor, and then all of the sudden, he pulls himself up and is standing and holding onto the coffee table. Dad or Mom gets in there and encourages him to take his first step, and he does! Everyone is delighted.

The Gospel is similar to that. Once a person has started by receiving salvation, he begins to take in the nourishment of the sound Word of God, and also to do some spiritual exercising. That exercise could be deciding to pray, both at home and at church. It could be setting aside time to study the Word of God, and applying what is learned to one's choices in life. If a new convert was formerly accustomed to staying at home on Sundays, or maybe engaging in secular activities, he will need to alter his habits after salvation. He will choose to go to church on Sundays to worship God and fellowship with other believers. That is spiritual exercise. The new Christian will develop in a similar way as a child who learns to sit, and then crawl, and then stand, and then walk. It is exciting!

In the life of a healthy, growing Christian, everything may not always look perfect. Consider a child who is just starting to walk. He falls many times, but he quickly gets back up again. On occasion he may take a hard fall and cry until an adult comes and lifts him up and comforts him. This is part of the normal process of growth.

Spiritually speaking, there will be times along the way when a young believer will stumble and fall. I'm not referring to turning away from God in deliberate sin, but to the mistakes that happen when learning something new. The important thing is that we do not stay down; we must get up again, or cry out to our heavenly Father for help. If we will keep pressing on, eventually we will learn to walk with stability, and from there we can learn to run! This is progress.

MILESTONES ALONG THE WAY

From the starting point of salvation, new converts are encouraged to immediately seek the experience of sanctification by consecrating their lives fully to God. Sanctification occurs when God responds to that act of consecration by eradicating the nature of sin and imparting His divine nature in its place. This is a critical step forward in one's spiritual growth.

While the experience of sanctification is wonderful, God has even more in store. As the sanctified believer continues seeking God, He will baptize him with the Holy Spirit. This is the third definite Christian experience, and it is powerful. The baptism is a huge step of spiritual advancement. Yet, one can still move forward from there!

In 2 Peter 1:5-7, we find step-by-step instruction for continuing to make progress with God. It says, "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." These qualities are not the type that we can simply check off a list and move on; they can always be developed more deeply in our lives. Those who obey these verses will keep growing, keep progressing, and keep advancing spiritually.

Verse 8 concludes, "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." If we exercise these qualities, we will be fruitful—we will produce something useful. This also brings to mind the illustration of a growing child. As he gets a little older, he gains knowledge and skills that enable him to produce something of value. Spiritually speaking, when we use the knowledge God has given us, we come to a place where we can become contributors to God's work. This is another step forward in our Christian journey.

CHASTENING LEADS TO PROGRESS

When a child is misbehaving, he needs to be corrected, and it is a parent's responsibility to do that. Similarly, if we have stepped out of line in

our Christian walks, or done something outside of the boundaries of God's Word, then chastisement is needful. This is also part of the process of moving forward in the Gospel.

Hebrews 12:5-11 explains this thoroughly. It begins, "My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him." This verse may be a little difficult to embrace, because we know a reprimand must hurt—it could not be effective if it did not. A child will only misbehave more if the consequence is not in some way unpleasant.

Likewise, correction from God cannot feel good, yet we know it is good for us. The writer



When we are growing properly, there will come a time when we have matured enough to have a discerning spirit.

goes on to tell why: "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons" (verses 6-7). That is why God corrects us—because He loves us. If He did not care, He would let us go our own way and we would walk right into spiritual disaster. God does love us, so He chastens us.

What should be our reaction when God chastens us? Hebrews 12:9 says, "Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them much reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits and live?" We should subject ourselves to God and obey when He corrects us. Not all earthly parents have their children's best interests in mind when they discipline, but God always does. His intention is to make us holy, or as the writer put it, to make us "partakers of his holiness," because without holiness "no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:10,14). If something we do is causing separation between us and God, He will tell us, and reprimand us if necessary, because He does not want us to be separated from Him.

Hebrews 12:11 says, “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.” It never feels good when the Word of God pierces down into the heart and reveals a shortcoming in our lives. However, it does feel good to accept the correction and then feel the Father’s loving embrace. It feels good to take another step in the right direction, and to advance a little further in the Gospel.

SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Hebrews 5:14 reads, “But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” Being “of full age” does not refer to chronological age or how many years one has been in the Gospel, but to how much spiritual growth a person has attained. There are some who have been saved over twenty years but are still like babes in Christ, only able to take in milk. That is not a healthy Christian, but a Christian who is in a dangerous state of stagnation.

When we are growing properly, there will come a time when we have matured enough to have a discerning spirit. We will be able to recognize the spiritual dangers around us in this sinful world. A new believer may need to ask his pastor, “Is this choice spiritually unsafe?” But the mature Christian will be able to know where to safely draw the line. That is one who has been fed with meat, and digested it. He is able to stand up and resist the enemy.

As we become spiritually mature, we are able to receive what we need from God without depending on others. This aspect of spiritual growth reminds me of a lesson from my youth. When I was a teenager, my brother and I had our own fishing boat. My dad was a commercial fisherman, and he told us where to set our nets for a good catch. We set the nets where we thought he had told us, and when we pulled in the nets we did catch some fish, so we thought we were on the mark. But when we set them out again, many more times, we did not catch any more fish. Dad came to check on us and we learned that actually we were not on the mark. The only reason we had

caught something on the first try was because of the time of day; the fish were moving from the shore to the deeper water and we just happened to have a net in when they passed by.

That experience shows that anyone can catch fish if it happens to be the right time of day, but only a skilled fisherman can catch fish at any time of day. In a similar way, almost anyone can receive a blessing in a time of revival, but it takes a mature Christian to be able to receive from God at any time. As we grow in Christ, we mature to the point where we no longer rely on catching a “spark” from somebody else’s spiritual flame in order to get a prayer through, but we can pray down the blessing ourselves.

Ephesians 4:14 says, “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.” This epistle is a message about unity in the Church, but the writer brings out the important point that we should reach a place in our Christian walks where we are not being pulled all over the place or going around in circles. As mature Christians, we have a focus. We have established our goals and we are working toward them. We know where we are going because we are not children anymore; we have matured in Christ and are moving forward.

NO LIMITS

The Gospel is challenging. The spiritual journey begins at salvation as a babe in Christ, and from there we are constantly presented with opportunities for learning and growth. We will never reach a place where our relationship with God cannot develop further, or where we have exhausted Scripture of the lessons it can teach us. Truly there are no limits to what we can attain with God!

How far do you want to go in the Gospel? If you are willing to take another step today, look to Him in prayer. As you seek God, He will take you further still. ■

Reverend Rene Cassell retired as Apostolic Faith District Superintendent of Canada and remains on the ministerial staff at the church in Bide Arm, Newfoundland, Canada.

A FOUNDATION *for* FINANCES

ARE YOU EFFECTIVELY MANAGING THE RESOURCES GOD HAS GIVEN YOU? *Compiled by the Apostolic Faith Editorial Team*

When you take a couple of dollars from your wallet to pay for a random purchase, do you think about financial stewardship? Does it cross your mind when you pay for groceries? Not likely. But what about when you fill out an application for a student loan or a mortgage?

Whether we are making a small or large purchase, God considers financial stewardship of vital importance. It might surprise us to learn that it is a dominant subject in the Bible. Over 450 separate Biblical passages concern the proper handling of financial issues. Sixteen of Jesus' thirty-eight parables mention the use of money or possessions. God gave us these Scriptures about money matters, because our attitude toward money matters!

Armed with so many Scriptures on the management of resources, it is our responsibility to identify godly principles concerning finance and apply them to our lives. Here are a few to consider.

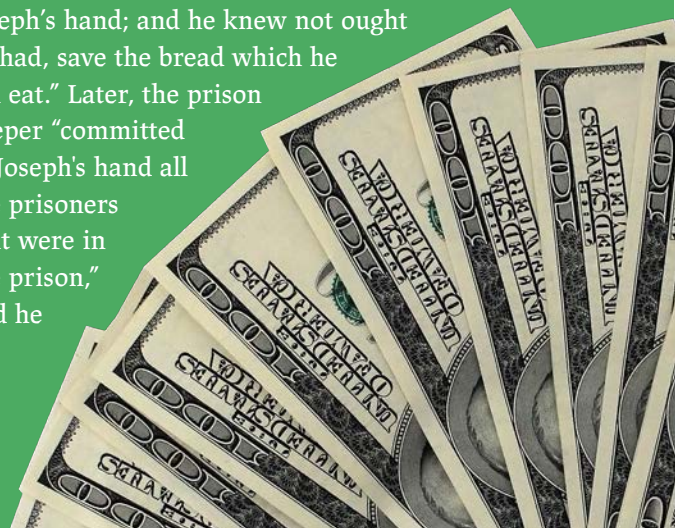
WE ARE SIMPLY STEWARDS

In Psalm 24:1-2, we learn that everything in this world was created by God and therefore, belongs to Him: "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods." The fullness of the earth encompasses all its resources, and "they that dwell" in the world includes us. Therefore, all of our material resources, as well as every aspect of our

lives, are owned by God and under His control; we are simply His stewards.

Jesus used the concept of stewardship in several parables. In the parable of the talents, He likened the Kingdom of Heaven to "a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods" (Matthew 25:14). He said that when the master returned, each servant was either rewarded or punished according to how well he had managed what had been entrusted to him. The message conveyed is that we are stewards, and will one day be called to give an account to God for the way we have lived, including how our resources were utilized.

The word steward can be defined as "manager, supervisor, or overseer." In Bible times, the position of a steward was one of great responsibility. This can be seen in the life of Joseph who first served Potiphar, then the prison keeper, and finally Pharaoh. In Genesis 39:6, we read that Potiphar "left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat." Later, the prison keeper "committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison," and he



“looked not to any thing that was under his hand” (Genesis 39:22-23). And Pharaoh, in making Joseph his steward, said, “Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou” (Genesis 41:40).

With such responsibility, an important quality in a steward is faithfulness. Jesus emphasized this in the parable of the unjust steward saying, “If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon [wealth], who will commit to your trust the true riches?” (Luke 16:11). The word *faithful* in this verse comes from the Greek word *pistos*, which means “reliable and trustworthy.”

For reflection: *Knowing that we are God’s stewards, how should these qualities apply to the management of our resources? In what ways might faithful stewardship reflect on our testimonies?*

THE TITHE IS THE LORD’S

One of the basic principles of Christian money management is the paying of tithes. This Biblical doctrine is the practice of returning to God a portion of what has been received from Him. Tithing was first mentioned in Scripture in Genesis 14 where the patriarch Abram, after recovering the stolen goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, paid “tithes of all” (verse 20) to Melchizedek, “the priest of the most high God” (verse 18).

Nearly three hundred years later, God gave the Law to the Children of Israel, and tithing was part of the divine instructions. Leviticus 27:30 states, “And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s.”

The word “tithe” comes from the Hebrew word *ma’aser*, which means “a tenth part,” and the word “increase” comes from the Hebrew *tebuw’ah*, meaning “produce, product, or revenue.”

Therefore, to tithe is to return a tenth of one’s revenue to God.

Examples of revenue are wages from a job, profit from a business, and gain from the resale of purchased items such as a house.

That Abram paid “tithes of all” to Melchizedek before disbursing the recovered goods, is one indication that God’s portion is to be based on the full gain, before anything else, such as taxes, is taken out.

The purpose for the tithe was to support the work of God by providing for His house and the workers who maintained it. This was explained in Numbers 18:21: “And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.” In today’s setting, the tithe should go to support the church where one worships.

Jesus sanctioned the giving of tithes in the New Testament era. When speaking to the scribes and Pharisees, He said, “Ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone” (Matthew 23:23). By saying, “these ought ye to have done,” He indicated that tithing is expected of God’s people.

The importance of paying tithes was stressed in Malachi 3 where God asked, “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me . . . in tithes and offerings.” He warned that there is a consequence for those who neglect the practice: “Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me.” However, He is ready to bless those who obey: “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:8-10).

For reflection: *What are some of the blessings that come to an individual or a congregation through tithing? How have you personally been blessed by this practice?*

OFFERINGS YIELD BLESSINGS

In addition to the tithe, the Israelites were commanded in Deuteronomy 16:10-11 to appear before the Lord three times each year with “a tribute of a freewill offering of thine hand.” This was to be given “according as the LORD thy God hath blessed thee” for the poor, including “the



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Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you." The people were encouraged to do this, that "the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest" (Deuteronomy 14:29).

Freewill offerings were also collected for building and maintaining God's house. In preparation for the construction of the Tabernacle, the Lord told Moses, "Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering" (Exodus 25:2). As with the tithe, there was a blessing for those who gave offerings and a consequence for those who did not. In Haggai 1:9 we read, "Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little... Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house."



Paul admonished those in the Early Church to give generously from the heart, each one "as God hath prospered him."

The theme of freewill offerings, which are often called "alms" in Scripture, was restated in the New Testament. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught, "But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth" (Matthew 6:3). By saying when instead of if, He implied that the giving of offerings was a common practice. He also instructed the Pharisees, "Give alms of such things as ye have" (Luke 11:41).

The Bible does not indicate how much God's people should give in offerings. However, Paul admonished those in the Early Church to give generously from the heart, each one "as God hath prospered him" (1 Corinthians 16:2), advising that "he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" (2 Corinthians 9:6). This was true of the early Christians who gave of their substance to God and enjoyed gladness, singleness of heart, and favor with all the people (see Acts 2:46-47).

For reflection: *God commends giving that is regular, in keeping with our income, and generous. What are some ways in which you could help those who lack resources or face an unexpected financial loss, such as a costly medical emergency?*

SAVING IS WISE

We read in Proverbs 21:20, "There is a treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up." This verse implies that it is wise to maintain a reserve. One way to do this is by regularly setting aside a percentage of earnings to accumulate over time as savings.

Building savings can be difficult as it requires discipline to forgo expenditures now in order to save for something in the future. However, doing so offers many benefits. Having some savings allows us the freedom to help others, lessens the impact of emergency and unexpected expenses, and is a way to make large purchases, such as a vehicle, without going into debt. It also provides the necessary down payment on a house or the initial outlay for an education, and during retirement, it may keep us from becoming dependent on others.

Some may think that maintaining savings, an emergency fund, or a retirement account shows a lack of trust in God for His provision. However, reliance on God is not determined by the size of our savings, but by the attitude of our hearts. King David had great riches and his attitude was, "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God" (Psalm 20:7).

Joseph's life offers an example of someone who saved precisely because his trust was in God. As Pharaoh's steward over Egypt, he heeded God's warning of a coming famine and coordinated efforts to reserve a portion of each year's harvest for seven years. As a result, the people of Egypt and Canaan were sustained through the seven years of famine that followed.

The spiritual danger is not in saving, but in relying upon our bank accounts for security. Another danger is in becoming greedy. Jesus warned against both in a parable found in Luke 12:15-21. He said to "beware of covetousness," or greed, and then told of a rich man who tore down his barns and

IN GOD WE TRUST

REAL ACCOUNTS OF HOW BIBLE PRINCIPLES FOR FINANCES WORK.

Lem was handicapped by cerebral palsy from birth and never had much income. He received a small check from Social Security and a small disability check from the government. His pastor was surprised to find out what he was doing with his money. For one thing, he was paying tithes—and not just a tenth, but double that. Then he would go to his pastor and say, “Have you sent the check for Korea yet?” or, “Have you sent my offering for Africa?” An annual youth conference was started in our church in Brooklyn, New York, and Lem would ask, “Have you sent my contribution to the youth conference yet?” How did he do it? We cannot know. Many have a hard time giving from their abundance, but Lem had a spirit of giving.

Some children in his church wanted to play instruments, but their families could not afford music lessons. Lem asked, “Could I pay for them?” He did not want the family to know who was providing the funds, but when one of those young people stood up in Sunday school and played “Jesus Loves Me,” Lem had the biggest smile you ever saw. Why? Because he had a heart of giving, and the by-product was joy.

In the early 1900s, Alonzo and Elsie Ott moved to the western part of the United States with the hope of obtaining land. When

having their own farm did not work out, they decided to settle in Portland, Oregon. Alonzo was a farmer, and he had a hard time finding a job in the city. He went many places looking for work. He cut wood and did other day jobs to provide for their needs, but he could not find steady employment.

The Otts were attending a holiness church at that time (they would later be among the earliest members of the Apostolic Faith), and they heard about tithing. One day, the Lord showed Elsie that she needed to pay tithes on the eggs she was selling. It would have been easy for her to reason that their children could suffer if she chose to obey. However, she heeded the promptings of the Lord and began tithing. A short time after that, someone told Alonzo that Standard Oil Company was hiring. He went there and was given a job as a bookkeeper though he had no experience in that field. He worked at that company for thirty years, and then retired and received a pension for another thirty years. God honored the Otts’ purpose to obey even if it meant some cost to themselves and their family.

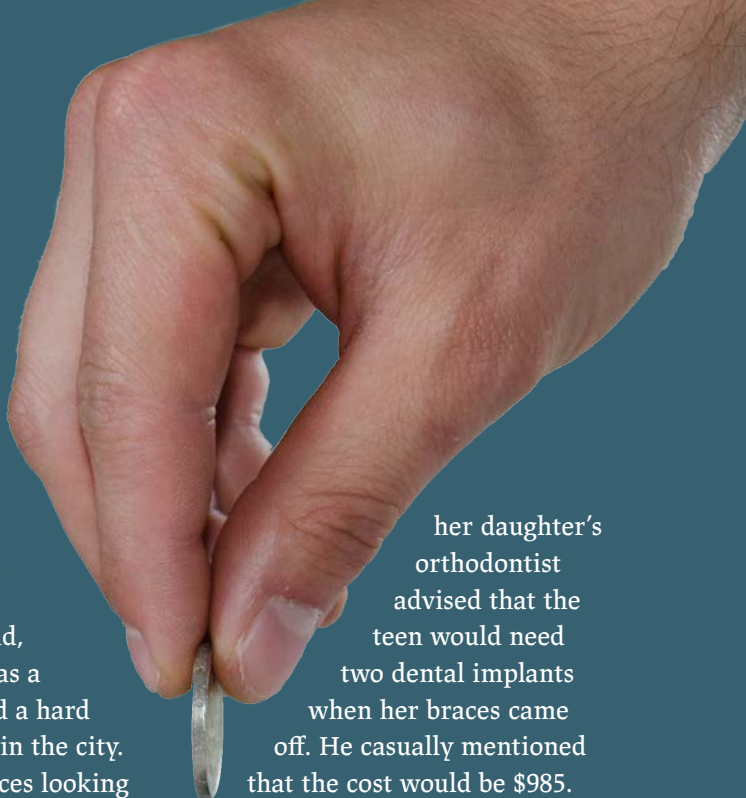
A current member of our Portland congregation tells of a time when

her daughter’s orthodontist advised that the teen would need two dental implants when her braces came off. He casually mentioned that the cost would be \$985.

As the woman had previously consecrated the use of credit, she began saving for this amount. When the braces were removed, she asked about the implants and learned that the amount stated had been for only one implant instead of two. In addition, it did not include the cost of the surgery, which was \$3070. This was disappointing news, but there was nothing to do but continue saving.

Two and a half years later, with the new amount in hand, the woman called to schedule the surgery and was informed that afterward her daughter would need to see a separate provider to obtain the teeth. These were an additional \$3319. The woman saved nearly half of that amount over the next year and then prayed, “Lord, we have been faithful to do what we know, and my daughter has waited patiently. For her sake, could you make up the difference?” That week, she received a retroactive raise from her employer, and the amount was enough to cover the balance.

When we are committed to honoring God’s principals, we can expect that He will help our efforts!



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built larger ones to accommodate a plentiful harvest. After stockpiling his crops, the man said to himself, "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease . . ." This man died that night, and because his trust had been misplaced, his efforts to save did not benefit either the poor or himself.

For reflection: *When we save under God's guidance, we and others will benefit. As our savings accounts begin to grow, how can we guard against transferring our trust from God to our own resources? What practical steps can we take to keep from becoming greedy?*

A DEBTOR IS A SERVANT

The writer of Proverbs likened being in debt to being enslaved, saying, "The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender" (Proverbs 22:7). It is important that we live free from financial bondage. We can avoid this by adopting a strategy to spend less than we earn, save in advance for large purchases, and exercise caution in taking on debt.

The Bible gives several warnings about debt. For example, the person who cosigns a loan is deemed "snared," and advised to "deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter" (Proverbs 6:1-5). However, debt itself is not forbidden. The Law of Moses included instructions to the Israelites for borrowing and lending. Specifically, they were not to require burdensome collateral (Deuteronomy 24:6) or charge interest amongst themselves (Deuteronomy 23:20). Also, they were to return all property to the original owner every fiftieth year (Leviticus 25:10). These laws, though particular to the nation of Israel, indicate that it is not a sin to borrow or lend.

Some types of debt unwisely bring borrowers into financial bondage. A few examples of these are payday loans, signature loans, and personal

lines of credit. Credit cards also fall into this category if not backed by a bank account with sufficient funds to pay the balance as it becomes due. Many troubles can stem from this type of debt, including high interest charges adding to the balance and a lowered credit rating. A better way to finance some long-term needs such as wedding expenses or a family vacation would be systematic saving in advance.

There are times when the decision to take on debt may not be unwise. One example could be the purchase of a home, where the value of the property provides collateral for the lender, and an adequate down payment anticipates long-term equity for the borrower. With regular payments, equity can build, making home ownership a sound investment. Another example could be a student loan if the cost of the education increases earning potential.

Debt of any kind risks financial stress, marital conflict, and strained friendships. It can also compromise integrity if regular and timely repayment is not made. Psalm 37:21 states, "The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous showeth mercy, and giveth." Therefore, when borrowing, it is important to make sure our resources are being handled prayerfully and prudently, and the repayment terms do not leave us with burdensome financial obligations.

For reflection: *Peace of mind and integrity of heart are of far greater value than anything that going into debt could buy. What are some examples of potential future expenses you could be saving for now?*

May God help us to be faithful stewards of the resources He has granted us. We want to accept the challenge of managing our finances in accordance with His directives and will for our lives. ■

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house.”

- Malachi 3:10



Faith Sees Victory!

A Lesson on Humility

Where Are You?

It Is Worth the Work

Light in the Tunnel

What Does Your Record Say?

SERMON EXCERPTS



FAITH SEES VICTORY!
ELVIDO ORTIZ | THE BRONX, NY

Faith motivates us to seek God, but we have to let our faith carry us into the victory. We need to let faith work.

Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is the

substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Some come seeking God for salvation, sanctification, or the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Others have physical needs, troubling family situations, or a variety of other problems. In each instance, there is a trust that if we put ourselves into a position to reach out and touch God, He will meet us and answer our prayers.

Abraham is an illustration of faith at work. God told him to take his son Isaac to a mountain and sacrifice him there for a burnt offering. God’s command could be summarized like this: “Two of you are going to make the trek to the mountain, but only one will return.” The thought of sacrificing his son must have been a difficult instruction for Abraham to follow! However, he obeyed.

On the third day, when Abraham saw the appointed place afar off, he told his servants, “Wait here.” Sometimes when we are seeking to follow God, others cannot come with us. Even when our friends are well intended, they may not be able to come along.

I love what Abraham said next: “I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you” (Genesis 22:5). To paraphrase his words, he asserted, “We are going up, and we will worship, and we will come back to you.” What a steadfast faith—believing that while God had said one thing, He would provide a solution that was not yet apparent. Situations can come into our lives where we have a natural view and reaction. But there comes a time when we have to lay aside our natural view and use the eyes of faith. What we see in the natural is not what we see in the spiritual. In the natural it seemed that Abraham would come back from the mountain alone, but in the spiritual, Abraham saw them both coming back because he believed God.

Trust God! He is able. He will perfect His work in your life as He has done in the lives of many others. The Apostle Paul said, “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight

of glory” (2 Corinthians 4:17). When he said these words, Paul was going through some difficult tribulations, but his mind was set on things above—on the victory that was ahead of him.

We must not let our situations blur our looking to God. We need to step out in faith and believe what God is able to do. We want to look at the victory that is ahead of us. We can move forward, believing and trusting in God that what is happening in our lives is by His design for us. By faith we can see the victory ahead. ■



A LESSON ON HUMILITY

JOSEPHINE McELVEEN | WASHINGTON, DC

In the time when Jesus lived, people often wore sandals and traveled on dusty roads that were shared with animals. Therefore, when a visitor came into the home, it was customary

for the host to make sure the visitor’s feet were washed. This task was not given to just anyone. The Jewish servants in the home could not be compelled to do this. Rather it was done by the most menial slaves, usually Gentile slaves.

However, the night before Jesus went to Calvary, He did something new. The Bible says, “He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water in to a bason, and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded” (John 13:4-5). He wanted to show His disciples an example before He went to Calvary.

Prior to this, the disciples had eaten supper. Feet were usually washed when travelers first arrived, but Jesus was doing this after they had eaten. They were talking following the meal, as some of us do when we eat, and the Gospel writer Luke says that a strife came up—the disciples were arguing about who was going to be the greatest in God’s Kingdom. Jesus was talking about a spiritual kingdom, but they thought it was going to be a natural kingdom, and they wanted to

know who would have the best seat. Their lack of understanding did not discourage Jesus; He did not even rebuke them. Instead He started teaching the right attitude by example.

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, he protested. I believe Peter was boisterous in his objection: “Not my feet; You’ll never wash my feet!” But Jesus had an answer for Peter. He said, “If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.” That touched the heart of this fisherman, because he wanted to have a part with Jesus, no matter what it took. Simon Peter submitted, even though he did not understand.

When I was saved and came into this Gospel, I had not been raised to know all the church policies and guidelines. I did not think some of it was relevant. However, an experienced Christian in the church told me, “If you obey, God will bless you.” We do not have to understand everything. God will bless us for just being obedient.

Jesus was entrusting the Gospel to these men that God had chosen. For the Gospel to carry on, these men had to receive the truth. Even though they did not know it, Jesus knew that one day they would give their lives for the Gospel. However, until then, they needed to work together.

We also need to work together. We need to humble ourselves to one another, to submit to one another, not worrying about who is going to have precedence. When we humble ourselves, that brings the unity of God’s Spirit. Our motives must be pure first, and then we want the best for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Jesus wanted the disciples to have a spirit of loving humility. And going forth, they did. Jesus left that for us as an example as well. Every now and then, we need to be reminded that we need one another.

Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” (John 13:16-17). Obedience brings blessing.

Peter did not understand what Jesus was doing, but one thing he did know is that he wanted to be a part. We want that attitude. “Lord, I want to be a part of Your Gospel. Whatever You are calling me to give up, however You are asking me to humble myself,

I want to do it." When I was saved, I asked God for the truth, and He led me to this Gospel. Whatever there was to give up does not compare to what I've already received, and God has more in store yet.

As we come in humility and submission and love to one another and obey God's instructions, He will bless us. ■



WHERE ARE YOU?

JEONG MIN KIM | SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

In the third chapter of the Bible we read this, "And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?" (Genesis 3:9). Adam had taken of the forbidden fruit of the tree of

knowledge of good and evil, and then hid from God in fear and shame. God's question, "Where art thou?" shows His warm heart toward man who had sinned.

This question was not about Adam's location. Do we think that God had no idea where Adam was so He asked this question? Of course not. God was asking Adam what his status was, what condition he was in. This question by God is important for us today as human beings who are born as sinners. Even now, the question of God for us is, "Where art thou?"

The Bible tells the original state of Adam. It says that "God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). Beginning with the creation of light, God made everything that was needed for mankind. When Adam was created, he was in a perfect state. There was only one thing that was forbidden—he was told not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Bible says that the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil were in the middle of the garden. The question might be asked, "If they were forbidden to eat of the fruit, why didn't God put that tree on the edge of the garden, so it was hardly noticeable?" The reason is very simple, but it is also very important. It was a matter of choice.

We also have a choice. The question "Where art thou?" challenges us to look inside ourselves

and see what our status is with God. Our choice is between Jesus Christ and the temptations of the devil. When temptation comes, we must not forget that Jesus Christ is with us. We want to make the right choice and yield our hearts fully to God.

My son loves playing baseball. When he was small, he would practice in the living room with his plastic bat. One day when I was in my office, I heard a loud sound from the living room. I jumped up and discovered that the television screen was broken. My son looked more shocked than me, and he said, "Dad, the TV just fell from the table, and right away I put it back up." He was hiding the plastic bat behind his back. I said, "Well, it looks as if something hit the TV; don't you think so?" Big tears were forming in his eyes. Then I said, "God was watching this. Where would the one be who did this?" My son started crying and said, "I did it. I'm so sorry." I gave him a big hug and forgave him, asking if he was hurt, and reminding him that I love him.

God loves us even more than we love our children. He asks each soul, "Where art thou?" If there is sin in your heart, come to God. Repent and give your whole heart to Him. If you feel alone or are suffering from difficult circumstances, remember that Jesus is near to help you. If you hear God's voice saying, "Where art thou?" raise your heart to Him and say, "God, here I am." He is calling in love, and He will heed your cries. ■

IT IS WORTH THE WORK

CHET KING | PORTLAND, OR

God's Word is true and full of positive statements.

One of them is in Proverbs 30:33: "Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter."

Many people have never witnessed this process and have no idea of the statement's reality. But I can say that I have seen it happen.

When I was growing up we had a cow, and one of my jobs was to milk her and take the bucket of milk to the house. Mom would pour the milk



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through a cheesecloth and then put it in the refrigerator overnight. In the morning, there would be thick cream at the top of the milk.

Some of this cream went into the butter churn, and I would sit at the dining room table and crank the churn's handle to make butter. I had to crank and crank and crank! I would use my right arm, and then switch to my left arm. It seemed as if the process took forever and was getting harder and harder. Mom would come to encourage me and say, "Keep going! You're almost there. You'll make it." Sometimes the neighborhood children were outside playing Kick the Can, Red Rover, or some other game, but I had to keep turning that handle. No matter what distractions there were, I needed to keep doing my job.

Then, just as promised, suddenly there was the butter! When the cream started clumping together, it happened quickly. For my reward, Mom would give me a slice of homemade bread right out of the oven and covered with fresh butter and jam. Oh, the reward was good!

When you are praying or seeking for something from God, there may be some distractions. Don't quit! Keep on "cranking the handle"—keep praying. Maybe your left knee will hurt and then your right knee will hurt, and maybe your elbows too. But keep on praying. The reward will be absolutely wonderful. Just as surely as the churning of cream makes butter, God's promises are true. They are worth working and waiting for. ■



LIGHT IN THE TUNNEL OLUSOLA ADESOPE | PULLMAN, WA

Light and darkness cannot coexist; it is impossible. That is true in the physical realm and also in the spiritual. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall

not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). Spiritually, to be in the light is to have our sins forgiven, and to be in darkness is to

remain in sin. When God saves us, He calls us out of darkness and into the marvelous light of His love and salvation.

Light reveals what darkness conceals. Perhaps we think we have done a good job of cleaning the house and dusting the furniture. But what happens when the sun shines in? It reveals what was missed. God's light will reach the depths of our hearts and reveal what we need to yield to God.

God's light provides guidance. Life is full of many unknowns and situations that are just not explainable. We need God's direction. Jesus is the Light and He will lead us along if we wholeheartedly desire to follow Him.

Darkness can never overcome the light. And spiritually, the darkness of the evils of this world will never overcome or extinguish God's light. His light continues to shine regardless of what the devil may do. Maybe you are going through a difficult time in your life. There is a common saying that "there is light at the end of the tunnel." However, God's Word lets us know that there is light for us *in* the tunnel! The Lord does not just wait until we get to the end of the tunnel; He will stand by us every step inside the tunnel.

We remember the three Hebrew children, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The king commanded that everyone bow down, but those three young men had been taught the way of God, and they refused to bow down. Christians, the devil presents many things for us to bow down to today, but we do not need to give in. The light of Jesus will help us stand true.

The king offered these men another chance to bow, but they refused. The furnace was heated seven times hotter than normal, and these men were thrown into it. Those who threw the three into the flames died. But when the Hebrew boys were cast into the fire, Jesus was not a "light at the end of the tunnel," He was right there with them! The king said, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God" (Daniel 3:25). The light overcame the darkness.

Whatever your situation, let Jesus the Light of the world give light to your life. ■



WHAT DOES YOUR RECORD SAY?

ANDY CHASTEEN | MEDFORD, OR

God keeps records. He has a record of

you and one of me—there was a man, there was a woman. We find a number of personal records alluded to in the

Word of God. For example, John 3:1 begins, “There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus. . .” The Bible says Nicodemus “came to Jesus by night.” Nicodemus had heard or seen something that rang true in his heart. Something had caught his attention; this Jesus had something he wanted to know about, and he came asking.

The Lord has a way of getting right to the important issue. He sees into our hearts. When we come to Him seeking an answer, He might say, “Let’s talk about forgiveness” or “Let’s talk about restitution” or “Let’s talk about your attitude.” He addresses the important issues, not because He wants to condemn us, but because He wants to help us. He told Nicodemus that it was necessary to be born again to see the Kingdom of Heaven.

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John” (John 1:6). Jesus said that there was no one like John the Baptist, “notwithstanding, he that is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he” (Matthew 11:11). Attaining Heaven is the greatest achievement, and Jesus made that possible. However, getting to Heaven will take commitment, dedication, and endurance. Don’t despair, God will help. In every step, God will be there. We just need to call to Him and He will come to our rescue.

“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job” (Job 1:1). Job was “perfect and upright,” but hard things came his way. He lost his belongings, his family, and his health. It would seem he had every reason to give up his faith in God, but the Bible says that he arose, tore his mantle, shaved his head, and fell down to the

ground and worshipped. In all that he endured, he found it was best to worship God.

Job had a history and a relationship with God, including that he prayed and sacrificed for his children.

This reminds me of my employment with the Medford School District as a supervisor in the maintenance department. We are trying to move toward planned maintenance. Much of what we currently do is reactive—making repairs that were not anticipated. Yet, some maintenance can be done ahead in order to prevent difficulties later. Job had done “planned maintenance,” and his reaction to the trials was evidence of that. When hard things came his way, he knew what to do: he went to God and worshipped. He had confidence that the Lord would be there, and God was. When Job could not find God, and his heart was heavy, he said, “He knoweth the way that I take” (Job 23:10). God knows the way that you take as well, whether or not you are serving Him. He can lead you to Himself, and then lead you all the way to Glory.

Luke 13:11 says, “And, behold, there was a woman. . .” This woman had an infirmity, but eighteen years of suffering came to an end when she met Jesus. The Lord can set us free from our infirmities, whether they are sin, sickness, doubt, fear, or anything else.

“And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. . .” (Luke 19:2). This man climbed a sycamore tree because he sought to see who Jesus was. Jesus saw him and called him, and Zacchaeus “made haste” to respond. When the Lord calls us, we want to be quick to answer.

What is your story? “There was a man. . .” “There was a woman. . .” Does your account include the Lord? If Jesus tarries, what will your record show in coming days?

Trials and difficulties will come, but don’t give in or give up. Persevere! God will be there to encourage you when you are discouraged, to lift you up when you are weary, to help you when you need help. He is the giver of strength, and He is on your side. ■

WITNESS

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand.

– 1 Corinthians 15:1

25 YOU ARE CALLED TO SERVE

31 A FLIGHT THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

28 BEING A WITNESS WHEREVER YOU GO

33 EVIDENCE



YOU ARE CALLED TO SERVE

By Antonio Castilho

From before my birth, my parents were faithful members of the Catholic Church in Angola. I was born on July 9, 1953, and water baptized ten days later. From a very young age my parents instilled in me a reverence for God.

My mother was my first teacher. She taught me how to read and write, and after that I started attending grade school. At the end of my fourth grade year, our teacher assigned us to write an essay about what we wanted to be in the future. As I prepared to write my essay, I heard a Voice say to me, "You are called to serve." Having been raised religiously, I saw the priests as the perfect role models of service to God, and I always had the desire to serve God as a priest. I had no challenge in writing my essay, stating that in the future I would love to work for the Lord as a priest.

From that day on, my life was different. Though I did not realize it at the time, I now know that was when God saved me. Afterward, my life was distinct from my peers because God had made a change in me.

After finishing primary school, I told my parents, "My desire is to serve the Lord. I would

A CALL FROM GOD IN HIS BOYHOOD LED ANTONIO TO A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN ANGOLA.

like to be a priest." Even though they could not afford to pay the school fees for becoming a priest, they tried by all means to help me get into a missionary school. By 1966 they were able to raise enough funds for me to enroll in the necessary program. However, after four years of courses, I realized that the priests were not the godly men I had thought they were. I was deeply disappointed and decided to leave the school, and soon after, stopped attending the church as well.

In 1972, I learned that my mother's brother, who was living in Luanda, Angola, was worshiping in a Protestant church. When I went to see him, I visited his church and felt better there than I had at the church I was raised in, so I decided to keep going. Not long after, in December of 1974, I married my wife, Ana Maria. We continued attending the same church and both worked as civil servants.

Several years passed, and I began to feel an emptiness in my heart, as though I was still

searching for something more from God. Part of the problem was that our church held a number of traditions that I believed were wrong. There was division in the church over these traditions, and factions were forming. My concerns grew to the extent that I decided to search out the actual doctrines of the church and find out whether or not our church endorsed those traditions. I inquired by correspondence with the African headquarters of the organization, which was in Zimbabwe at that time, and then in 1983 traveled there in person.

Though I was not a leader of the church, I had been ordained as an elder, so when I arrived in Zimbabwe they provided accommodations for my month-long stay. Among their literature, I found a tract from the Apostolic Faith Church of Portland, Oregon, and began to compare the doctrines of both organizations. Also, because of that trip, the leaders of my organization asked me to be part

in August. As I read the teachings of salvation, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, I started searching my heart and prayed, "God, I know that I am saved, but am I sanctified? Am I baptized? How can I receive these experiences?" Thank God, before I left Nigeria, He sanctified me and baptized me with the Holy Ghost.

That trip greatly helped to get the work in Angola started. Many people from my former church had joined me when I left, as well as some congregations from other provinces in Angola. However, we could not keep our former church buildings, so with great sacrifice we began constructing new ones.

At that time, Angola was in the middle of a civil war that had begun in 1975 and would last until 2002. The years from 1992 to 1994 were an especially dangerous period for us. We saw and experienced great suffering during the war,

yet God protected us tremendously. Once, I was in front of the church when two bombs dropped on our property,

The emptiness I had felt before had never gone away and I still yearned for more of God.



of the reunification team that would attempt to reconcile the opposing factions within our church.

The two groups were reunited, and two years later I was asked to be the overseer of a group of churches within the organization. I accepted that appointment, resigning from my profession and entering into full-time ministry. Two years after that, disagreements over doctrines and traditions arose again. Once more, factions within the church began to form and confusion entered.

The emptiness I had felt before had never gone away and I still yearned for more of God. At that point, I decided to walk away from that organization and start something new based on the clear, sound doctrines that I had read in the literature from the Apostolic Faith Church of Portland.

In 1991, I contacted Reverend Loyce Carver in Portland and talked to him about starting an Apostolic Faith Church of Portland in Angola. He told me to go to Lagos, Nigeria, to meet with Reverend Josiah Soyinka, so I went there in June of that year and stayed until their camp meeting



Remnants of the original church building that survived the war.

damaging one of our buildings, and God helped me to escape safely. On two occasions, enemies planted landmines at my entrance gate. Tragically, one of them was detonated by a mother who was passing by with her two children. The mother was completely destroyed and one of the children also died, but thank God, the other survived.

We saw people dying of hunger and many other terrible things, but God sustained us. Those who came out alive know that it was only due to the grace of God and His divine protection. Our church had a baptismal tank at the altar area, and many people took refuge there when they needed a place to hide. When the war intensified to the level that some had to flee the city, most of our brethren



Antonio and Ana Maria Castilho in December, 2019.

stored their belongings in the tank until they could return.

At one point we worked with non-governmental organizations to create a refugee camp on the church grounds. We accommodated more than five thousand internally displaced people there, and it gave us an opportunity to share the Gospel with them. Today, that site is where many people stay when they visit for our camp meeting.

As the danger of the civil war subsided, we were able to focus more on stabilizing the Apostolic Faith work in Angola. We had a large number of churches by then, but many of the congregants had previously been part of the other church and were used to the old traditions and regulations which were not from God's Word. Most of them had family members who still attended the other church, and sometimes the church buildings of the two groups were in very close proximity. In some respects, it would have been more convenient for our congregations to revert to their former ways. We recognized that we needed to be very careful in our approach in order to help the people come up to the standard of God's Word, rather than chase them away.

Thank God, He gave us grace and wisdom to teach and implement the sound doctrines of the Bible in Angola. Two Apostolic Faith ministers from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) visited us in 1998 to encourage us, and by God's grace, at that time my wife was saved, sanctified, and baptized with the Holy Ghost. Two years later, we had the opportunity to receive the overseer of the DRC work, Reverend M'Bengani Kalundandiko. These visits were a great help to us.

After the Apostolic Faith leaders from Zimbabwe became involved, the work in Angola grew tremendously. A team from Zimbabwe led by Reverend Oniyas Gumbo visited in 2010, and then another team came in 2011 including Reverend Dwight Baltzell from Portland. At that point, people started truly recognizing us as an international organization. The last time we counted our churches in Angola there were 335, and many more have been added to that number in recent years. Some are large congregations, some are medium, and some are small, and we thank God that they continue to grow.

God blessed my wife and me with eight children, though two have already gone on to Heaven. Our children have given us twenty-four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. I thank God for a good family, and especially for a wife who has supported me and been a virtuous woman throughout all of the years we have been together. When I resigned from my former church, I no longer had an income, but she continued working as a teacher until her retirement three years ago. In the most critical moments of the work, we had to use her salary for the church expenses, and I do not know what we would have done otherwise. Today, she is ever-present in the vineyard of the Lord, and we work together every day, sometimes until midnight to finish the work. She is always with me and has been helpful in every area.

Looking to the future, I believe God has great things in store for His church in Angola. I thank God for the opportunities He has given me and it is my prayer that the next generation will continue to carry this work forward. ■

Reverend Antonio Castilho is District Superintendent of Angola for the Apostolic Faith Church, and pastor of the Angola headquarters church in Huambo.

BEING A WITNESS WHEREVER YOU GO

WE HAVE COUNTLESS BRIEF ENCOUNTERS WITH OTHERS DURING A WEEK.
LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF THEM!



By Bobbi Downey

Have you ever wished for more opportunities to be a witness? That thought certainly has crossed my mind at times. I work at our church headquarters office, and am involved in numerous church activities. Most of the people I see on a daily basis are already Christians. When I do come in contact with people outside of my church family, it is often very brief, like standing in line at the store. Also, being shy in general, it is difficult for me to speak with people I don't know. Yet, in Matthew 5:16 Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." Recently something caught my attention that helped broaden my perspective on making the most of every opportunity to shine our lights.

While thinking about the words of a Christian song I had heard a few times, the message suddenly registered with me. It spoke of letting our lights shine to those we see in passing. I was reminded that witnessing is not always about having a lengthy theological conversation with a stranger. We can share the love of Jesus in small ways, letting the Holy Spirit shine through us by our demeanor and our actions. Although we may not always have an opportunity to say much to those around us, our lights can still shine out to them. And doing so can sometimes reach much further than we realize.

Witnessing to others can be compared to sowing seeds. The seeds may seem tiny, but just a small seed of faith or love planted in someone's heart can be a great start. God may have plans for someone else to follow later with the watering of that seed. Like Paul the Apostle said, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6). We just need to be willing to do what we can, and in the end, God will give the increase.

Of course, if we have an opportunity to actually speak a word for the Lord, it is important to be in tune with the Holy Spirit's leading. But when we don't have that chance, by giving a smile, a kind word, or a friendly gesture, we can sow that seed. Here are a few examples.

ON THE ROAD

Sharing God's love while driving may sound like a strange mission field. We can't actually tell other drivers how much Jesus loves them, but we can show it by our actions. When we face inconsiderate or inattentive drivers we can be patient, kind, and considerate—even the expressions on our faces can give an indication of the peace of God inside us.

As we travel, our testimonies will be seen by those riding in the vehicle with us as well as other drivers. We may think those other drivers do not know us, but as is often said, "It's a small world." How often do we see people we know pass by in a vehicle? Now just think about how often we may not notice an acquaintance pass by. Being patient and considerate drivers will leave a positive impression on those around us.

It is also likely that as we drive in a parking lot, for instance, we will see the other drivers inside the place of business once we park and go inside. As Christians, we want to drive in such a way that anyone we see would be happy to meet us and would be open to what God might give us an opportunity to say for Him.

IN THE WORKPLACE

Have you ever been falsely accused of mishandling your work? That happened at one of my past jobs, and it was not a pleasant experience. An account had not been handled correctly and the person in charge came to me with the

paperwork, very unhappy, wondering why it was handled the way it was. The Lord helped me to remain calm, assess the situation and figure out that the paperwork had actually been mismarked, and that I had handled it appropriately according to what it said. My co-worker was satisfied and our relationship remained intact.

Acting with honesty, humility, patience, and respectful communication can often defuse a difficult situation.

Mistakes and misunderstandings can happen in the workplace or anywhere. We may not have a chance to share our full testimony, but the way we handle these situations will give a good indication to those around us of what we stand for. Acting with honesty, humility, and patience, and communicating respectfully, can often defuse a difficult situation, and our lights will shine brightly to those around us—whether they are directly involved or just onlookers.

OUT AND ABOUT

Whether we are getting a coffee, shopping for groceries, or just running errands, we can show the love of Jesus to those around us. Sometimes life gets busy and we may feel rushed, racing through the day trying to get things done. These can be prime times to let our lights shine, if we are willing to make the effort. Showing patience to those who dawdle in front of us when we're in a hurry is not easy. Letting someone with only two items go ahead of us in the checkout line when we have a full cart may seem like time we can't afford. But these are ways we can shine our lights to others.

An author once said, "If you treat everyone as though they are hurting, you will be treating the majority of people in the proper manner." So many people are facing very difficult challenges in their lives, and many are facing those challenges without Jesus.

As we look at those around us, keeping this in mind can give us a little more patience with the

shopper who cuts in front of us, or the cashier who is less than friendly. We don't know what is going on in their lives. But we do know that Jesus can help them! If we are patient with them, showing love, it can give them that little bit of grace they need. They may wonder what would cause us to act in such a way, opening an opportunity to share more.

the case, we can be sure they notice our lives. When our previous next-door neighbor moved in, my husband would chat with him on occasion, but had not yet mentioned our faith. One day that young man came over with a friend to help my husband on a project. He told his friend that my husband was a Christian! Somehow he had

We want our attitudes, actions, and even reactions to be full of God's love.



My husband and I frequently travel through Roseburg, Oregon, on our way to visit family in the Medford area. We often stop at a certain place for gas, and there is a particular man there who has helped us more than once. He caught my attention because of his kind words. He doesn't say a lot, but each time he thanks us, tells us to have a good weekend, and wishes God's blessing for us and our family. His sweet attitude and those few words speak volumes. What a light he is, just working at the gas pumps!

AT HOME

Have you ever hired someone to do work on your home? Maybe they replaced your roof, remodeled your kitchen, or fixed your plumbing. Though our conversations with these people may be brief, there are many things they will see, including the peace in our homes, our pure speech, our honesty and kindness, and the way we treat others. Each person who passes through our doors brings opportunities to share Jesus.

One of our retired pastors tells of a remodel project that took place in his home, which gave him and his wife several opportunities to let their lights shine for the Lord. He said, "By the time the job was finished, everyone had mentioned that they had never worked on a job like this before. To my wife and me, our Christian witness came before every other aspect of the job. We did not try to take advantage of the workmen, but rather showed them the kindness that Jesus has shown to us."

Our neighbors are also a mission field. Some may become close friends over time. Others we may only smile and wave to in passing. Whatever

come to that realization without being told, but by observing my husband's life. When a fire later destroyed this neighbor's shed, I was able to say a word to them, offering our prayers.

WHEREVER WE GO

If ever there was a people who had a reason to be joyful, it would be Christians. We have the peace of God in our hearts! Our sins are forgiven and we know we are ready for Heaven. Jesus is our best Friend and He helps us day by day through the challenges of life. This joy should show on our faces wherever we go. "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance" (Proverbs 15:13). In this dark world full of pain and sorrow, what better testimony can we give than that of a cheerful countenance? It will certainly be noticed!

As we go about our day, we don't usually have the opportunity to share the whole Gospel story with those around us. We want what we do say to have an impact whenever possible. We want our attitudes, actions, and even reactions to be full of God's love. On occasion, someone might even ask us how we are able to react the way we do, giving us an opportunity to explain. May we always be ready to give an answer to every man that asks a reason of the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15). We want to sow the seeds of God's love to those around us in spoken and unspoken ways. If we are faithful to do our part, God will use our efforts and bless them. Only in Heaven will we see the full results. ■

Bobbi Downey is on the editorial staff at the Apostolic Faith world headquarters office and attends the church in Portland, Oregon.

WHEN SUSAN REALIZED SHE HAD TAKEN
GOD'S GOODNESS FOR GRANTED, HER
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING TURNED TO A
PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS.

A FLIGHT THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

By Susan Anderson

It was another white-knuckle flight. My short vacation had come to an end, I was on my way home to Portland, and I was terrified because I knew if the plane went down, I was not ready to meet my Maker.

From my birth, my parents brought me to the Apostolic Faith Church, and I heard many testimonies and sermons. However, I did not appreciate what I heard, and when I was in my twenties, everything seemed too tame to me. I wanted more excitement, and I got my wish. For thirty years I was gone from the church and from my hometown of Portland.

For the most part, my life was pretty good. It was interesting and fun, and there was some excitement. The Lord did not convict my heart, and I just went along my way. When I was in trouble or sick, I would call on the Lord, and He always answered my prayers. Then, during the last few years of that time, I became full of misery and heartache, and had some fear. I wanted out of the life situation I was in, but there seemed to be no way.

For about a year, I prayed every day and sometimes many times a day to be out of that situation, and God answered. There was a pleasant and easy transition, and I ended up back in Portland with a nice place to live and a good job.

Then, after a vacation in Idaho, I was on that flight back home to Portland. Even though I was

terrified of flying, it had never caused me to pray about giving my heart to God or even for a safe flight. I always just wanted to be done with the trip and safe on solid ground again. However, this day was different. As the plane gained altitude, I began looking out the window. It was a sunny day, and the sky was so blue and beautiful. The crops down in the fields were different colors. It was amazing how pretty everything was, and I started thanking God for eyes that could enjoy all of that beauty. I thought about living back in Portland and how God had answered that prayer for me. He showed me just how much He loved me in spite of my not even thinking about Him. I realized that He had been watching over me for many years, though I hadn't paid attention.

That prayer of thanksgiving turned into a silent prayer for forgiveness. I told God I was sorry for everything I had done wrong, and also for everything that I should have done and didn't do. In just a few seconds a warm peace came all through my body. I knew I had been forgiven. It didn't matter anymore what happened to the airplane. If it went down, in my mind I could see myself shooting right up to Heaven. The fear of flying was immediately gone. When I opened my eyes, I had the most beautiful view of Mount Hood with the sun shining down on it, and that became my spiritual landmark.



My life has been different since that day. God has given me a purpose and changed my whole outlook. He has cared for me and given me many opportunities to serve Him, especially through music. I enjoy playing my violin in the music programs of the church including its orchestra. One of the most fun things is to play old hymns with musicians who can play them after just the mention of a song title. It is such a joy and pleasure.

God shows His love to me in many ways. One example was some time back, when my daughter was living across the street from me. She came to my house most mornings for coffee before she went to work. One day she was in the house for about two minutes, and when she went back outside, her car was going down the driveway. She put her hand on it, thinking maybe she had not put on the brake, when all of a sudden it took off. Someone had stolen it.

A few hours after I took her to work, I noticed a man with a bicycle looking at her house. I went across the street and asked if I could help. He said, "I got this driver's license and was looking to return it." When I looked, it was my daughter's. He told me he had found it near a red car on a street that was not far away. I decided to go look, but stopped first and prayed, "God, she needs that car, and could You just lead me to where it is?" When I got to the place, there was no red car, but I drove just a little further, and there it was! We checked with the police, and seven hours after it was taken from the driveway, we had the car back. That was a real answer to prayer.

These mornings I wake up with a song in my heart. I am so happy to be a Christian, and I thank God for all His blessings. Now when I have the opportunity to take an airplane flight, there are no white knuckles—in fact, I love flying! The scenery is so beautiful, and the sound of the engine roaring and then being pushed back in my seat at take off is exciting! Most of all, I have the blessed assurance that if the plane crashes, it will just be a quick trip to Heaven. Joyful flying is just one of the many benefits of being a Christian. And whenever I see Mount Hood, it reminds me of that day—the day I was forgiven! ■

Susan Anderson attends the Apostolic Faith Church in Portland, Oregon, where she plays her violin in the orchestra and various ensembles.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

ACKNOWLEDGE "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"

Romans 3:23. "God be merciful to me a sinner" Luke 18:13.

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

REPENT "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"

Luke 13:3. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" Acts 3:19.

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

Isaiah 55:7.

BELIEVE "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" *John 3:16.*

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

EVIDENCE

Personal Testimonies of Victory



Candy Hall
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

I was raised in a Christian home, and knew the way to go. The Lord put it on my heart as a very young child to want to give my life to Him, to want to do the right thing. I received salvation, and as I got older, the Lord put His finger on me for sanctification. I received that also. Then, He began to pull consecrations from me, and as I gave those things to Him, the precious Holy Spirit came down and baptized me. Those were such definite experiences. I praise the Lord for them.

Yesterday's devotional on our church website caused me to remember an incident that happened when we lived in a very rural area in Washington. While I was at work, it started to snow. I headed home because the snow was really coming down and I had a long way to travel. The last couple miles were up a winding, narrow road. The snow plow had been through, and snow was piled high on both sides of the road to the point where only one car could pass through at a time. I prayed all the way, "Lord, please don't let me meet another vehicle." As I reached our driveway, a semi-truck came around the corner, and I thought, Lord, Your timing is impeccable.

I am so thankful for the Lord's impeccable timing throughout my life. I can look back and see so

many times where He went before me. I love Him tonight, and want to be ready when He comes.



Francis – I am the fourth of five children, and when I was two years old, my parents divorced. As a result, we children lived with our grandparents while my parents established new families on each side. Eventually, my father put me in a religious school and a church where they taught me to confess my sins to a priest and to pray through Mary. I had no concept of true salvation until age sixteen, when I was invited to an evangelical congregation. Shortly after that, I prayed and was saved.

One year after I started university in Nigeria, I was given an amazing offer to study in Russia. The first year was very demanding; the program was in Russian and very few people spoke English. I had no support network there and the weather was severely cold. I was close to giving up several times, but God stood by me and helped me all the way. He led me to a church community that also helped me endure until I completed my bachelor's degree. I give God all the credit for my accomplishments in Russia.

Leaving Russia, I moved to Norway to earn my master's degree, and God provided a job here afterwards. I married my wife, Mercy, in 2015, though it took over a year before she got a visa to come to Norway. We have lived here since then, and I thank God for all He has done for us.

Mercy – I grew up in eastern Nigeria in a family with several siblings. My father was unstable, but Mother was a strong woman and serious Christian. She was concerned about her children giving their lives to Jesus. By nature, I was a nice and kind girl, and didn't quite see the need for salvation until the day I turned fourteen. That day, I asked myself, What do I really want in this year? And then I realized I wanted to give my life to Jesus. Kneeling down alone, I, who previously had thought I hadn't done much wrong, was reminded of all the sins I had actually done. I wept and asked Jesus for forgiveness of my sins. There and then I experienced salvation and had an assurance that I had established a relationship with God. I immediately went out to tell my friends what I had experienced.

When I grew older, I had some anxiety about marrying and starting a family, partly because my own father was not a good figure in our home. God showed me that Francis was a gift reserved for me, and I thank Him for bringing us together. In three years' time, God helped me to be accepted in a nursing program at the University of Stavanger and to find a permanent job in Norway. I am grateful for God's care and it is my desire to be active in His work.



Francis & Mercy Adegbege
STAVANGER, NORWAY



Michael Ivany
ENGLEE, NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA

Newfoundland Youth Camp 2019 was a spiritual and physical blessing to me. Since 2015 I've had painful side effects from suffering a stroke and then having open-heart surgery to repair an aneurysm near my heart. One of the issues was weakness on my left side, and prior to youth camp, my left leg had weakened to the point that even walking was becoming difficult.

I went to camp but debated if I should return home because of my condition. Tuesday morning, we went to chapel service and my heart and soul felt the heaviness of my physical burden. During the service, the song leaders introduced a song I had not heard before. The title, "My God Is Awesome," spoke volumes to me. Part of the verse says, "He heals me when I'm broken, strength where I've been weakened." Hearing those words, something inside me seemed to wake up. A spark of faith crept in. All through that day, the enemy of my soul tried to persuade me to pack up and go home, but I went to the evening service convinced that God would do something for me. After the message, I went forward to be anointed and prayed for. In a moment of time, I felt strength coming back into my leg. The Healer passed by! I left the chapel walking on what felt like a new leg, all praise to my Jesus! Since then I have been enjoying a new lease

on life. Yes, I can say, "My God is awesome."



Though my parents never went to church, there were some Apostolic Faith church members in my community who were true children of God. Because of them, I knew there was a Heaven and a Hell. However, I always felt troubled when one of them would talk to me because they had no message except, "Sinners will go to Hell; you need to pray and be saved."

At an early age, I associated with some bad friends and we lived in sin. But God in His mercy brought a revival to our community, and in 1990, a very close friend of mine prayed and was saved. When he visited me afterward, it was clear that everything about him had changed. He spoke like the old men from church who would preach to us, and conviction descended into my heart to the point that I felt I would die if I did not respond.

On December 10, 1990, out on a coffee farm, God visited me as I earnestly prayed, asking Him to forgive my sins. Thank God He forgave me, and then also sanctified me. When God came into my life, the abuse of marijuana, drunkenness, and other wrongdoings stopped automatically, and my life became beautiful. Soon after that, in a humble house where our church members held Sunday school and prayed (at that time the church had been suspended by the government in Cameroon), God baptized me with the Holy Ghost and fire. Our God is good.

There is also power in the Blood of Jesus to deliver and protect. On

June 1, 2019, I left Cameroon with two other brethren to attend a retreat at the West and Central Africa (WECA) headquarters church in Lagos, Nigeria. Before arriving at the Nigerian border, we were stopped by a group of armed men. At gunpoint, they told me to get out of the car, and then instructed our driver to proceed and leave me behind, indicating that they were going to kill me. One of them led me with a gun while another pointed a gun at the back of my head, and the third was combat ready in case anyone dared to try to save me.

As we moved into the forest, it became obvious to me that I would not survive. I then prayed a very short prayer: "Lord, I have left everything behind for Your work. Is this how I will end up?" Immediately I heard an audible voice from Heaven respond, "Tell them who you are." I then turned to the man with the gun behind me and told him, "I am a man of God." He asked, "What man of God are you talking about?" and I replied, "I am a pastor." That statement startled him, and he quickly called one of the other gunmen to bring my identification card to him. Then he gave it to me and said, "Please, we are very sorry, forgive us." He further asked where I had been going, I told him about the church retreat in Lagos. His last words to me were, "Please, if you get there, pray for us."

This is how big our God is, and I praise His Holy name.



Francis Koume
BUEA, CAMEROON



Red Crested Turaco
State Bird of Angola

WORLD REPORT

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

– Mark 16:15

36 AN ABOUNDING WORK IN ANGOLA

39 90 YEARS IN TROMSO

AN ABOUNDING WORK IN ANGOLA



WHAT BEGAN HUMBLY DURING THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR HAS RESULTED IN THOUSANDS EMBRACING THE GOSPEL.

The 2019 Angola camp meeting was held August 18-25 in Huambo. A campground there houses the headquarters church for our Angola work, which began almost thirty years ago and now includes over three hundred congregations.

Representing the Portland headquarters church were Reverend John Musgrave, Director of Africa Work, and Reverend Erik Calhoun, the Portland youth pastor. They arrived in Huambo with Reverend Onias Gumbo and Reverend Boniface Banda, the Southern and Eastern Africa District Superintendents respectively, and a delegation from our Southern Africa headquarters.

The group was received at the airport by Antonio Castilho, the Angola District Superintendent (see his testimony on page 25), and several of the provincial leaders. As they exited the building, they were further greeted by brethren singing welcome songs in Portuguese, the national language of Angola.

At the campground, another warm reception awaited the team. Between four and five thousand

saints had already arrived, and many lined the main road waving and singing as the foreign visitors approached. A short introduction service followed, and they could not have felt more welcome!

That afternoon, a workers' meeting was held with the theme of "Unity." Also, a Sunday school workshop was given by Tawona Rusere, the Southern Africa Sunday school superintendent, to introduce the Apostolic Faith curricula of *Primary Pals*, *Answer*, and *Search*. This was in preparation for the next day, when the Angola churches would begin using these materials for the first time.

The opening day of the camp meeting began with a Sunday school general assembly, and then everyone disbursed to individual classes. Afterward, a tour of the campground buildings included the main church, which seats two thousand, a larger church currently under construction, a tabernacle, several classrooms, a kitchen, and a dormitory.

The morning worship service was held in the tabernacle, which accommodates about three thousand, and every seat was filled. During the service, three board members and five provincial overseers were ordained. The sermon reflected the camp theme of "The End Times and Rapture" while focusing on the Gospel invitation that is extended to all. During the altar service that followed, nearly one hundred who needed healing were anointed and prayed for.

The afternoon and evening services featured inspiring music and testimonies. Later in the week, after conducting a music seminar, Reverend Calhoun commented about the music, "A highlight of the camp meeting has been how the choir and congregation sing from their hearts with tremendous energy." The sermons continued the focus of the camp theme, stressing the urgent need to be ready for Christ's soon return.

As Sunday came to a close, Reverend Musgrave reported, "Every service ended with a rush to the altar area, which did not begin to accommodate the numbers. This left many to pray where they were seated, and they did pray!" It was a great start to the camp meeting, which concluded a week later with 320 being baptized in the Cuando River.

A HISTORY OF THE ANGOLA WORK

During the camp meeting, Reverend Castillo gave the visitors a tour of the campground and surrounding area, which included the remains of the original Apostolic Faith church building in Angola. He relayed the history of the work, saying that in 1990, after having previously found an Apostolic Faith tract, he began leading a group under the doctrines taught by the Apostolic Faith while corresponding with the Portland headquarters.

The people in Portland encouraged him to visit our Western and Central Africa headquarters in Nigeria for guidance, and in 1991, he attended the camp meeting at Lagos, and then stayed on for



Left to right: John Musgrave, Antonio Castillo, Onias Gumbo, and Erik Calhoun.

three months. During that time, he received the experiences of sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. When he returned to

Huambo, construction began on the first church.

At that time, the country of Angola was divided in a civil war. The war had begun immediately following the nation's independence from Portugal in 1975. On one side of the divide, Communist leaders were supported by the Soviet Union and its allies, and on the other side, an anti-Communist movement was supported by the United States and its allies. The war continued until 2002, resulting in more than half a million deaths and one million internally displaced people.

At one point during the war, the church property was used as a camp for those forced to leave their homes, and accommodated more than five thousand people. This provided an opportunity for the Gospel to be shared and for it to spread.

Another opportunity came when Angolans fled to refugee camps in neighboring countries. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Namibia, many came into contact with Gospel workers from the Apostolic Faith and were converted. When the refugees returned home to Angola, they became Gospel workers themselves, giving rise to the expansion of the work.

The work also grew as leaders of other churches compared the doctrines taught by the Apostolic Faith with their own and realized they were teaching something false. Reverend Castillo said that many times he was asked to send Gospel workers to teach the true doctrines, and did so as much as possible.

One of the biggest challenges in establishing the work in Angola was communication with Africa district headquarters churches and Portland due to the language barrier. However, God made a way in every instance. For example, some of the young people moved to Namibia to pursue an education. When they returned, they became very helpful in

WORLD REPORT

translating letters and publications. Now a team translates all church materials as well as communications between Reverend Castilho and the other leaders.

Registering the church was another challenge. It needed to be registered as the "Apostolic Faith Church affiliated with the United States" to distinguish it from another organization of the same name. As Angola was under Communist rule and had no diplomatic relations with the United States, this designation brought suspicion. However, the Lord undertook, and after much paperwork and waiting, the church was registered.



Angolans singing and welcoming the visitors.

In every village, buildings had been bombed and were in a state of disrepair. Yet, as we approached Kuito, there was a great crowd of people waiting. They asked us to disembark, and we walked on foot to the church, accompanied on all sides by brethren singing. The church building could not accommodate the number, and a tent had been set up outside. However, it too seemed small as the people stood in the open welcoming us. The choir sang such sweet melodies and the Spirit of God was felt in our midst." At the close of the trip, his team was thrilled to report that despite the hardships endured, the work in Angola had grown to include over three hundred churches.

In 2015, a law went into effect that threatened the existence of our Angola church, but the Lord has used it for good. The law required church organizations to prove a membership of at least 100,000 (the number has since been lowered to 60,000) or be closed and forfeit all assets to the government. Organizations that could not meet the threshold were to form coalitions and seek registration as a group. Our Angola congregations joined a coalition, and through this process, many other churches have come to know about the Apostolic Faith and have sought to become part of our organization. In Huambo alone, Brother Castilho meets weekly with fifteen church leaders to explain our beliefs and practices, and ascertain if they are in agreement. Another positive outcome has been that the president of the coalition has come to embrace the teachings of the Apostolic Faith and is using his position to encourage all of the churches in the coalition to do the same.

It is truly amazing what the Lord is doing in this war-torn country. ■



Sunday school at Angola Camp Meeting 2019.

Travel into Angola was difficult during the war, but visits were made to believers from Apostolic Faith delegates of the DRC in 1998 and 2000, greatly strengthening the work. In addition, Reverend Castilho made visits to the Namibia refugee camps where he was able to meet with brethren from Zimbabwe and receive encouragement. After the war ended, an enthusiasm among the congregations to spread the Word of God, as well as tools for evangelistic outreach, such as camp meetings and the "Jesus" film, were effective in bringing many into the Gospel.

In April of 2010, Reverend Gumbo led a team from the Zimbabwe headquarters to Angola and reported, "As we were driving along the road, signs of devastation from the war were everywhere.

COMMEMORATING 90 YEARS IN TROMSO

THE CONGREGATION IN TROMSO REFLECTS ON HOW GOD ESTABLISHED THE WORK IN THEIR CITY IN 1929 AND HAS SUSTAINED THEM FOR NEARLY A CENTURY.

De trådte Jesus fram
Jeg har fått all mætt i him
Gå derfor og gjør alle folksing i disipler:
Døp dem til Faderens og Sønnens
og Den Hellige Ånds navn
og lær dem å holde all det jeg har bebod
Og se, jeg er med dere alle dager forlikt vert



Tora Garde, Anna Folgero, and Ingeborg Johannessen, founders of the Tromso work.

Ninety years ago, three women went to Tromso, Norway, on a mission. Tora Garde, Anna Folgero, and Ingeborg Johannessen did not know anyone in the city, but they wanted to meet people because they had a message they wanted to pass on.

The women belonged to the Apostolic Faith Church in Stavanger, Norway, and felt God had called them to take the Latter Rain Gospel to Tromso. There, they sought out individuals who had requested literature or prayer from the leaders in Stavanger and the United States.

After seven days, the situation looked bleak: their money was gone and they had no contacts and nowhere to live. Then they read the account of Joshua walking around Jericho seven times on the seventh day, and they felt encouraged by the Lord. Shortly afterward, they were told of one who wanted prayer, and soon they were able to rent a building that formerly had been a grocery store. In July of 1929, they held the first Apostolic Faith church service in Tromso.

The first few years of the work in Tromso were full of trials. Resources were scarce, and the women had little food and fuel. Once, Anna went to the



Bamidele Opeifa preaches on Sunday evening with Steiner Bruvoll interpreting.

town square to buy fish with less than a penny, but she returned with both fish and potatoes without paying anything—a butcher in town (who was not a Christian) gave them the meat for their Sunday dinner, and repeated that favor for a long time!

Now ninety years have passed, and the congregation still meets at the same location, though over the years the building has been renovated. To commemorate the anniversary, a celebration was held at the end of the summer in 2019.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The special anniversary weekend took place August 31 to September 1. Invitations were distributed prior to the event, and many visitors attended, including representatives from neighboring churches.

The Saturday activities included a presentation on the history of the Tromso work given by Steiner Bruvoll. LeRoy Tønning, the Scandinavia District Superintendent, was also in attendance, and preached during a service held on Saturday. In the sermon, he told about the many beautiful churches he had seen while in Denmark this past year, noting that they were well-maintained, but hardly used. He said the house of God should be well-maintained, but more importantly, it should be filled with people and the Spirit of God.

Two services were held on Sunday and both featured beautiful music. Among the specials were a flute duet, baritone solo, and several organ pieces.

In addition, vocal ensembles sang in English, Norwegian, and Yoruba. One attendee commented that the Spirit of God was the same in every language, bringing unity.

In the Sunday morning service, Hanne Hansen preached. She has led the Tromso congregation since 2010. She and her husband, Ragnar, have gladly given themselves to the service of the Lord. In the afternoon, Bamidele Opeifa preached. Originally from Nigeria, he and his wife, Lola, moved their family to Tromso from England in 2017. Their three sons have also been a blessing to the congregation through their musical talents.



Attendees in front of the Tromso church. Group leader Hanne Hansen is third from left in the back row.

Between the Sunday services, lunch was served in a room that had been beautifully decorated with fresh flowers, and everyone enjoyed a delicious meal as well as good fellowship.

As the congregation in Tromso looks back on ninety years of service and God's faithfulness, they also look forward, hoping to be a light to their community for many more years, should the Lord tarry. ■


OUR CLASSICS



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In the 1960s, Gospel workers traveled on the "Wings of the Morning" aircraft to support and encourage branch churches across the United States. Della Edmonds (see page 42) is on the far right.



TURN AROUND FROM TRAGEDY

A MIRACULOUS HEALING FROM
TUBERCULOSIS AND CANCER LED
THIS WOMAN TO REACH OUT TO GOD.

By Della Edmonds

*Originally published in the October 2002
edition of our magazine.*

When my husband and I were married in Kansas, my father gave us a ranch and a new home as a wedding present. Things were going our way, and for seven years we enjoyed those surroundings where love prevailed. Then I became ill with tuberculosis and cancer.

I was seen by several specialists who could offer nothing more than the suggestion that I try a different climate. We moved around to Southern California and then New Mexico, and other places, but I only grew worse. Finally, we returned to Kansas, so I could die at home.

My brothers and sisters wanted me to go to the hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, to be

operated on, but something in my heart said, "If you go there, they will ship you back in a casket, and your three little girls will be left without a mother." For a time, I was undecided. I had lost fourteen of my people, including my mother and father, to one or the other of these diseases, and dreaded losing my own life to them. Another fear was that I knew I was not ready to meet God.

Gradually I grew weaker, and at times was in a coma. As my husband viewed my helpless condition, he would often go into the room where our three little daughters were sleeping and grieve, crying out, "Without a mother, they will never have a chance!"

Then one day, a little woman told my husband that her sister had been writing to a church in Portland, Oregon. She said, "They are a peculiar people. They pray for the sick, and the sick get well." She added, "Would you mind if I wrote to my sister and asked her to have those people pray for your wife?" Of course, he did not mind!

A few days later, my husband was preparing to go out to the field, when something miraculous happened to me. I walked into the kitchen and told him, "Someone has prayed for me and I am healed!" At first, he thought that my suffering had caused me to lose my mind, but I persuaded him that I was feeling well.

In the evening, as he returned from the field, he saw a big load of wash on the clothesline, and he thought a kind neighbor had come in to help me. To his surprise, he found that I had done the washing myself, and was then busy preparing our dinner.

A few days after that, I was washing dishes and began to meditate on the love of God. To think that He would visit our home and heal me even though we were not serving Him! I shook the dishwater from my hands and dropped on my knees in the kitchen. I offered my life to the Lord if He would come into my heart and make me a true Christian. I prayed, "God, You have healed my body; You have given me health that nothing in the world could have given me; and now I ask You to save my soul."

He did just that. He came into my heart and gave me peace. How the joy bells rang in my soul! From that time on everything in life has been worthwhile.

When I met my husband at the door that evening, I told him what God had done for me. Bewildered at such strange news, he answered, "Well, that's fine.

I'll never lay a straw in your way—just don't bother me with it!" Bother him with it? No, I did not, but each day I would kneel with our three little girls and we would pray for him. I also wrote to the church in Portland, asking them to pray.

When Holy Ghost conviction seized my husband, he tried to fight against the feeling that he, too, should give God his life. He even got up in the middle of the night and took his tractor out

to work in the field. When daylight came, he drove himself, working beyond his strength.

Then one day, he gave up. On his knees in his wheat field, he cried to the Lord for mercy. He was born again, and what rejoicing was ours!

My story did not end in Kansas. We longed to move to Portland, so another request for prayer was sent across the mountains: "Pray that God will send us a buyer so that we can go to Oregon." One day, a buyer came right to our door. Our prayer was answered! The farm and house were sold, our belongings were auctioned, and soon we boarded a train for Portland.

I had once said, "If we could only go to Portland, I would not care if we had to live in a tent." We arrived and with no place to live, were offered a tent on the campground of the Apostolic Faith Church. We lived there through sunshine, rain, and snow for a year, but God has more than repaid us for every sacrifice we made to be among His people.

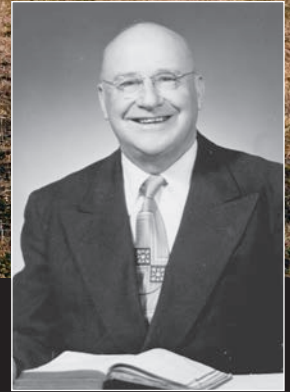
It is a privilege to trust the Lord for the body as well as for the soul. ■

Della Edmonds went to her reward in Heaven on February 16, 1984, at the age of eighty-eight. Her three girls were raised in the Apostolic Faith Church, and many of her grand children and great-grandchildren are still members of the Portland congregation.



Della and her husband, Fred Edmonds.

ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS



THE OLD PATHS OF THE GOSPEL HAVE A SURE DESTINATION.

By Clarence Frost

You know folks, the Gospel is precious. I heard one brother say that he's been nearly fifty years helping roll the old chariot along. I'm a little bit behind that, but I praise God for every minute I've had in the Gospel. I thank God for the hour He found me and brought me into it.

When I received word that I was to give the message, a Scripture came to me from Jeremiah. It's about the old paths. I couldn't help but say to God that after all these years, I ought to know a little about the old paths. I thank God I do, and I thank God for the old paths. There are a lot of new ones, and a lot of people want new ones. I don't know where those new ones go, but I do know where the old ones lead. I've watched a few pilgrims on that way, and I know where they are today. There are a lot of jagged rocks on the old path, and a few briars, but it's a good way.

"ARE WE GOING TO GET SOME NEW ONES?"

A man said to me one time, "Brother Frost, what about these old antiquated doctrines and teachings

of ours?" That's what he called them. He went on to say, "What are we going to do? Are we going to keep them, or are we going to get some new ones?" Well, I like them. I don't know what he wanted, but I'm still asking for the old paths. Bless God, I just hope the last breath that comes out of my body when I'm leaving this world will be the prayer, "God just keep me on this old path a few minutes more, because I want to make the trip. I know where it leads."

The sixth chapter of Jeremiah and the sixteenth verse—there's enough in that verse to get us all through to Heaven. "Thus said the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths..." Ask for them, pray for them! There is something wonderful about those old paths, and there is no excuse for getting off them either. God's Word says that when you start to turn a little to the right or the left, you will hear a Voice behind you saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it" (Isaiah 30:21). Ah, don't tell me anybody ever walked off of that path without the Spirit of God tugging at him. You don't get away from that path with a little half-turn.

DON'T GET DISCOURAGED

Jeremiah tried it. That old fellow was going through some pretty hot moments, and people were fighting him. Finally he got discouraged. He said, "I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more of his name." He thought, I'll just quit until things ease up a little. It isn't that simple. Jeremiah said that when he tried to quit telling it, he found out that "his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones" (Jeremiah 20:9). He got weary of withholding, of holding back from God. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everybody who's holding back from God today would get sick of doing so? If they would just come to the old altar, and say from the depths of their hearts that they are going to quit holding back, they'd find God would be there to help them.

Sometimes the way seems a little narrow, but I've seen the pianist at the piano quit and throw her arms in the air and praise God. She couldn't play anymore—the power was falling. Wouldn't you love for it to be just like that today? I would. That's along the old path. Oh, bless God. Call it antiquated if you want to. Say we are behind the times. I say we are way out ahead of the times. We are getting ready for something. That's why we are here on this campground.

KEEP THAT FIRST LOVE

There is a Scripture in Revelation that I think fits our case. "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy words, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: and hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Revelation 2:1-4).

The thing that struck me as I read these verses is that you can't judge your standing before God by the works you are doing. This good record these people had, and all these things they were doing, were being done with the first love gone. Think of it! So you can't depend on what you are doing. You

may hold a pretty high position, but if that first love is gone, look out. God has somewhat against you. I don't want Him to have anything against me, do you? And as long as we stay in that old path, He will take care of us, just as surely as there is a God in Heaven. It is a good thing to know that if I start to get a little to the right or to the left, I can listen to that Voice back there saying, "Get over here in the middle of the road, Frost. Walk in it." That's what I call "keeping power." Don't you thank God for it?

I was in a big auditorium one day, and there was a great crowd. The preacher got up and started to read this Scripture, and I thought, What a wonderful thing to preach that Scripture to this large group. But you know, he read down to the fourth verse: "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love," and he stopped! I don't want to stop there. I'd rather go on and tell people what to do when they lose that first love. God didn't beat around the bush and leave anybody in the dark about what to do. No sir. What He wanted done about it was just as plain as could be: "Remember therefore from whence thou are fallen, and repent, and do the first works" (Revelation 2:5). Now think back: what were those first works? They weren't just little snapshot prayers. Not by any means. We were telling God what we'd give up, and that if He would save us we would give Him the balance of our lives. God said, "Do those first works over again." It would be wonderful, wouldn't it, if a baptism of that first love would just get in back of us and roll like a big ocean wave right over us, and catch us all? Even if it required a little confessing, it would be worth it.

IS IT FANATICISM?

On those old paths, if we were to say some little remark about somebody, we'd feel so troubled about it that we'd leave home, maybe at night, to go hunt up that person. And we wouldn't beat around the bush about it either. We'd tell him what we said, and whom we said it to. We'd tell him we want to fix it up with that person too. There are many who don't do that, but it's the best way.

I said something about my boss one time. He really did have it coming, but it wasn't my place to say it. I went home, and oh, did God lay that old lash on.

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That's what happens along that old path. If you get off on a sidetrack, things like that might not bother you. But get in the old way, and it will trouble you. I tried to talk God out of it, but He wasn't in that kind of mood. Something told me I had to take care of that thing. You say that was fanaticism? Call it what you want, but we've seen the power fall like rain. If that's fanaticism, give us some more of it, God! We can stand quite a bit of that. Anyway, I kept putting it off for days, but finally I took the boss to one side and said, "I said such and such about you. Please forgive me." The boss didn't know what to do. At last he said, "I didn't hear you say it or I would have fired you." I told him, "Well, I said it and I had to come and tell you about it." Folks, the old path is so narrow, it almost makes us weep sometimes. We may have to do things that look a little foolish, but think

back to what has happened in the meetings. Think back to what has happened when those people on the old paths have testified or got up to preach!

I thank God for the old paths. He said to stand there in the path and ask for it. Ask who? Why, ask God. For what? For those old paths. If you like the new paths, help yourself, but I like those old paths. They have taken a lot of folks home to Glory, and they will take us there too. ■

This sermon was preached on July 4, 1958, at camp meeting in Portland, Oregon, by the late Reverend Clarence Frost. He was a pastor and minister of the Apostolic Faith Church for more than forty years and held extensive evangelistic campaigns throughout southern Oregon and northern California.

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A STATEMENT OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

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

THE DIVINE TRINITY consists of three Persons: God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Ghost, perfectly united as one. *Matthew 3:16-17; 1 John 5:7.*

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

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

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

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST is the endowment of power upon the sanctified life, and is evidenced by speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. *John 14:16-17,26; Acts 1:5-8; 2:1-4.*

DIVINE HEALING of sickness is provided through the atonement. *James 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:24.*

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

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

CHRIST'S MILLENNIAL REIGN is the 1000 years of peaceful reign by Jesus on earth. *Isaiah 11 and 35; Revelation 20:1-6.*

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT is the final judgment when all the wicked dead will stand before God. *Revelation 20:11-15.*

THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH will replace the present heaven and earth, which will be destroyed after the Great White Throne Judgment. *2 Peter 3:12-13; Revelation 21:1-3.*

ETERNAL HEAVEN AND ETERNAL HELL are literal places of final and eternal destiny. *Matthew 25:41-46; Luke 16:22-28.*

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

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

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

THE LORD'S SUPPER is an institution ordained by Jesus so that we might remember His death until He returns. *Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23,26.*

FOOT WASHING is practiced according to the example and commandment Jesus gave. *John 13:14-15.*

You may obtain additional information about these doctrines and learn about our other publications in both English and foreign languages by writing to the Apostolic Faith Church at 5414 SE Duke Street, Portland, Oregon 97206, U.S.A. or visiting our website at www.apostolicfaith.org. Before these magazines are sent out, they are always prayed over for the healing of the sick and the salvation of souls.

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Jesus
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