

# THE Apostolic Faith

July – September 2020



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## HOW TO HAVE UNITY IN THE CHURCH DESPITE DIFFERING CULTURAL PRACTICES AND PERSPECTIVES.

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# VIEWPOINT

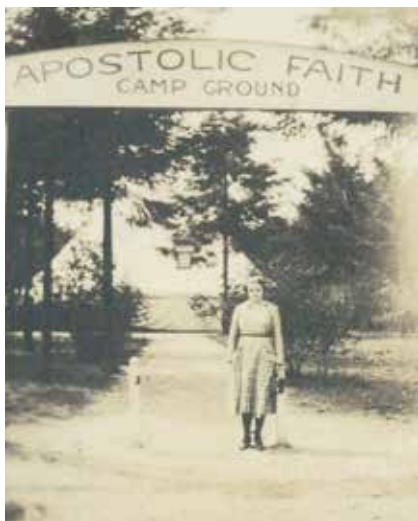
By Darrel Lee, Superintendent General



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For the last century, believers from all walks of life have continued to enjoy unity in Christ.

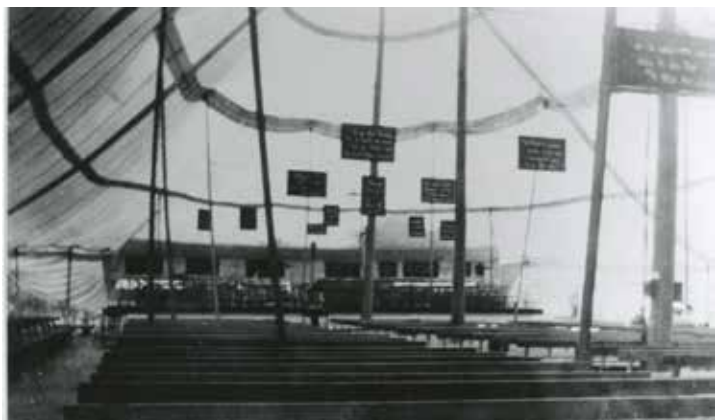
**S**unday, June 28, will mark one hundred years since Florence Crawford preached the opening sermon at the first camp meeting at our current Duke Street location (read her sermon on page 42). A look back at 1920 history is a reminder that while some things have changed since then, others are strikingly similar. A century ago, the United States was emerging from a global pandemic that took the lives of millions. There was a deep racial divide with gross injustice, antisemitism, political infighting, corruption, and a wide income gap between the wealthy and the impoverished.



It was in that setting that hundreds of people representing all strata of life gathered on what we now know as the “old campground” to conduct the first camp meeting here. Since the tabernacle

was not erected until a year later, the services in 1920 were held in a huge tent, with sawdust under the rows of benches and straw around the altars. One common feature with our current church settings is that it was a sanctuary—a retreat where the turmoil of the world was left outside. That did not mean

## 100 YEARS OF SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



Inside the tent used for the 1920 camp meeting.

there was no suffering or heartache among those who came. However, they enjoyed fellowship and found solace in worshiping God together. There was a measure of chaos across the country, but unity, in the spirit of Pentecost, among the people of God.

For the last century, believers from all walks of life have continued to enjoy unity in Christ. The article “Cross-Cultural Christianity” by Sister Antonia Schleicher (see page 19) expounds on the Bible teachings that help maintain harmony among believers, even those who come from vastly different backgrounds and perspectives. While society around us rejects God and therefore remains largely dysfunctional, those who come to the Gospel of Jesus Christ are reconciled to God and enjoy true fellowship with each other.

In this commemorative edition of our magazine, a number of the articles remind us of the camp meeting blessings for which we are grateful, even in this year when camp meeting cannot be held due to health risks and civic restrictions. On Sunday morning, June 28, a commemoration service will be held and webcast live from the campground. It will be a time to express appreciation for God’s blessings in the past, while anticipating what is in store for the future. Though the number in attendance will be limited, may we join together, in the spirit of camp meeting, with our prayers of gratitude to God.

*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*

6 STAND FAST  
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From a sermon  
by Darrel Lee

# STAND FAST

THE WHY AND HOW  
OF CHRISTIAN STABILITY.

**T**he Apostle Paul wrote his epistle to the church at Philippi during his first imprisonment in Rome. During that time of incarceration, no doubt he thought often of the little congregations he had established on his missionary journeys. We sense his affection for the believers in Philippi in his words, “Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved” (Philippians 4:1). Paul obviously was concerned for their success.

Perhaps the Apostle reflected back to when that church began at the riverside where some women had gathered to pray. There were not many Jews in Philippi, so rather than following his usual practice of going first to the synagogue to preach, Paul had gone where he knew people assembled for worship. Lydia, one of those women by the riverside, was the first convert in Philippi. Then some of her family members turned to Christ. Another early convert was a certain damsel who had been marketed by her masters for gain. When she was saved, those masters were irate, which led to Paul and Silas, his traveling companion, being thrown into jail.

It was there in that jailhouse where some more Philippian citizens came to the Lord—the jailer and his household. Elsewhere in Paul’s epistle, we read of two other women who were part of the Philippian congregation: Euodias and Syntyche. These people were the beginning of the church at Philippi, and Paul’s heart went out to them as he encouraged them to stand fast in the Lord.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF STANDING FAST

The importance of standing fast is alluded to in some of Paul’s other epistles, where it is evident that everyone who started in the Gospel did not stay in it. Paul’s heart was heavy as he wrote to those individuals, imploring them to continue in what they had previously learned from him and the other Apostles. It is one thing to start and another to finish, and that is where standing fast comes in. We want to finish! We have begun in this Gospel way, and by the grace of God, we want to continue to the end of this race.

Paul reminded the saints at Philippi that a better day was coming. In Philippians 3:20 we

read, “For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven.” We are citizens of a better land! One of these days, the trumpet will sound and we will be raptured, to enjoy all the special privileges of heavenly citizenship. Paul went on in the next verse to explain that these physical bodies of ours will be “fashioned like unto his [Jesus’] glorious body.” Directly following that statement in Paul’s letter is the word “therefore.” So, based on the fact that a better day was coming, Paul instructed these believers with the text cited earlier, “Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.”

## WHERE WE STAND MATTERS

Notice that Paul specifically said they were to stand fast “in the Lord.” It matters where we stand! This past December, Debbie and I traveled to southern Africa. The first leg of our return flight took us from Johannesburg, South Africa, to Atlanta, Georgia—a sixteen-and-one-half hour flight. In Atlanta, we disembarked at one terminal and needed to go by train to another terminal to board our next plane. As we came down an escalator, probably not thinking too clearly after the long flight, I saw ahead of us the open doors of the train. There was a blinking red light above the doors and to me that light meant, “Hurry, for the doors are about to close.”

To Debbie, it seemingly meant, “Stop, for the doors are about to close.”

I ended up on the train, looking at her outside the train as the doors were closing. We were standing in two different spots! Debbie had a somewhat panicked look on her face, and I probably had a look of dismay on mine. I quickly did what the sign says not to do—inserted myself between doors so they would not shut. I thought she would look at me with admiration as she stepped onto the train but that was not the case. It seems she thought I should have stood fast beside her, and simply waited for the next train.

In terms of our Christian lives, we want to stand in the right place, which is “in the Lord.” We want to remain fixed and secure there until we

reach the portals of glory. The storms of life will come, bringing potential for discouragement and dismay. Circumstances will arise that could shake our footing and threaten to destabilize us. Perhaps something like that had happened in the church of Philippi. Whatever their exact circumstances, Paul reminded these believers to stand fast in the Lord. In essence, he was saying, “You took a position when you were saved; now you must continue to remain there with the resolve to make Heaven your home.”

When we stand fast, others benefit as well. Children benefit when they have parents who remain steadfast in the Lord over the years. Grandchildren benefit as well. No one benefits when there is a turning away! In all my years as a Christian, I have never seen a person better himself by turning from the faith. We want to stand fast in the Lord, and doing so is not difficult. Following are five attitudes and actions that will ensure success.

## HOW TO STAND FAST

**We must be determined.** Standing fast is not standing down. The instruction to “stand down” typically means to cease action—to back off and do nothing. Standing fast is different; it is an action of decisiveness. It shows tenacity. It is being unrelenting and determined.

We saw an example of determination recently in our three-year-old grandson George. He and his siblings had received some sweets, and he knew his parents would not approve of him taking

that candy to church. However, he was determined to do so, and he had a plan. His Sunday best that morning included a cap. When he got to church, our son noticed that George’s hat was a bit awry. He reached over to straighten it, and when he did so, George’s candy fell out! You have to give our grandson credit for determination.

The Word of God includes many examples of individuals who showed determination. For instance, we see it exhibited in 2 Kings, chapter 2, when Elisha was determined to stay with the

“**It is one thing to start and another to finish, and that is where standing fast comes in. We want to finish!**”



prophet Elijah despite the opposition from his peers. He even faced discouragement from Elijah at one point. When Elijah told him to stay behind while he went on to Jordan, Elisha said, “As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee” (2 Kings 2:6). That is what it takes to stand fast. The Gospel way is not for the faint of heart. It will take determination and perseverance.

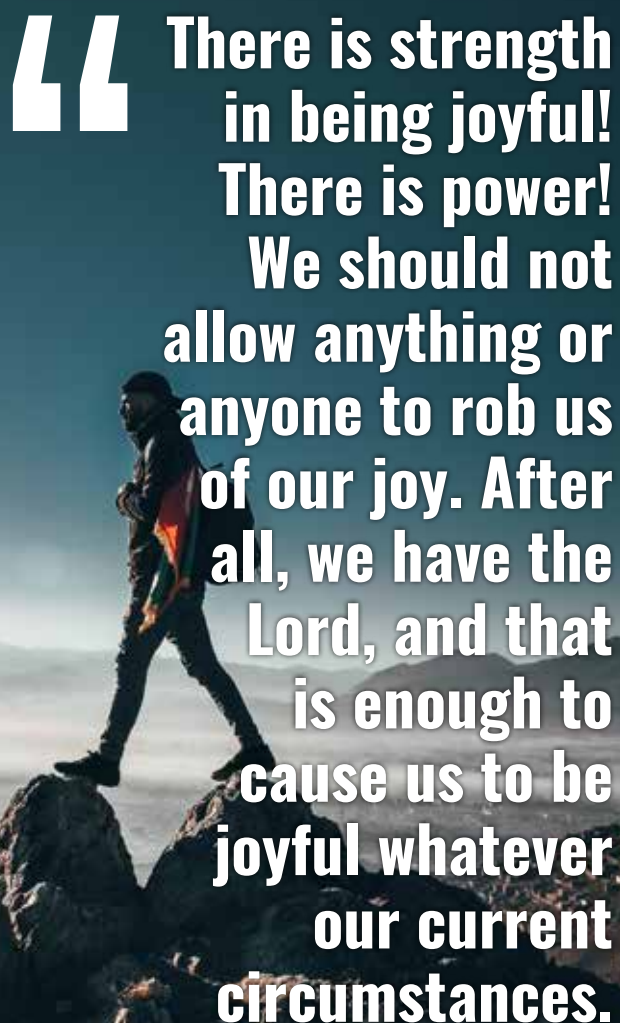
**We must be unified.** That is what Paul was saying to Euodias and Syntyche when he admonished them in Philippians 4:2 to “be of the same mind in the Lord.” Paul was not suggesting that these women needed to think alike regarding every matter. Christians will not always be of the same mind regarding favorite recipes, career choices, political viewpoints, or a wide range of other matters. We come from different backgrounds, we have different personality types, and these will shape our opinions and preferences.

**We must learn to distinguish between personality and carnality.** Carnality includes actions or thoughts that flow from the fallen nature of the human race. Personality is different. Some people are more outgoing and others are more withdrawn; perhaps some are viewed as too overpowering and others are viewed as too laid back. That is personality.

We do not know what happened between these two women to cause Paul to call them by name and encourage them to be of the same mind in the Lord. However, the implication was that they were to put conflict aside. They were to be unified, and that is what Paul would exhort for us as well. We are to have a determination to uphold the work of the Lord together, understanding that God uses our differences to accomplish His purposes. We want to thank God for one another, and labor together in a united manner.

**We must be joyful.** In Philippians 4:4, Paul counselled the believers, “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.” Clearly, he felt the necessity of having joy was worthy of repeating.

Our daughter’s name is Alicia Joy and our son’s daughter has the same middle name; she is Margaux Joy. She is nine years old. While Margaux usually exemplifies the characteristic of her middle name, she can be a bit dramatic at times. She



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circumstances.

has four brothers; that might be justification for occasional frustration. One day a couple of years ago, she told my wife, “I do not know why they named me Margaux Joy, because I am not very happy.” As I said, she can be dramatic!

Her proclamation reminds me of Proverbs 17:22, which says, “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.” A merry heart—a joyful heart—has value. The prophet Nehemiah said, “The joy of the LORD is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10). There is strength in being joyful! There is power! We should not allow anything or anyone to rob us of our joy. After all, we have the Lord, and that is enough to cause us to

be joyful whatever our current circumstances.

Paul did not have a morose spirit, even though he endured many hard places. As noted earlier, he was imprisoned when he wrote this epistle. In Acts 20, he told the saints at Ephesus that wherever he went, bonds and afflictions awaited him. However, he added, “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy” (Acts 20:24). Joy is a condition that is independent of circumstances.

No one begins the Christian life feeling downhearted. Of course, when we approach God as sinners seeking salvation, we have remorse and godly sorrow for sin. However, once we ask the Lord to forgive us and receive the assurance that He has done so, the joy of Heaven comes in. We rejoice! That is how Paul began the race, and he set his sights on finishing his course with that same attitude—with joy. That is the attitude we want to have at each point throughout our life, by the grace of God.

**We must be prayerful.** Our men’s quartet sings a song that includes the words, “Down on my knees I learned to stand.” That is where we will learn to stand fast in the Lord—through prayerfulness. In Philippians 4:6 we read, “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” If we choose prayerfulness over fretfulness, it will bring us peace; it will hold us steady. Paul referenced that in verse 7, “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

The Psalmist David was one who learned the power of prayer. In Psalm 5:3 he declared, “My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.” Does God hear your voice in the morning? Has God heard your voice this morning? In Psalm 55:16-17, he repeated the same thought, “As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall

save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.” The Lord likes the sound of our voices! If we want to be steadfast in Him, we must be prayerful.

**We must be mindful of our thoughts.** Paul advised the Philippians, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8). If our purpose is to stand fast in the Lord, this is good counsel for us as well. We want to read wholesome content, associate with wholesome people, and engage in wholesome conversations. Doing so will help our

thoughts stay focused on wholesome topics.

Paul concluded by telling the Philippian saints, “Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you” (Philippians 4:9). These believers had spent time with Paul. They had heard sound doctrine from him, and had seen him model those teachings in his own life. Now he was telling them that if they wanted to stand fast in the Lord, they needed to recall what they had learned and received from him, and do likewise. If they did, the God of peace would be with them. They would stand!

## THE END RESULT OF STANDING FAST

Today, like the saints of God in Philippi, we can remain steadfast in the Lord. If that is the purpose of our hearts, we will not find the Gospel way hard or laborious. We will not go through life as if we are half defeated; we will have an upbeat spirit because we have hope! We have confidence that as we stand in the Lord, when the trumpet sounds, we will be among those raptured out of this old world and found rejoicing around the throne of God.

*Reverend Darrel Lee is Superintendent General of the Apostolic Faith Church.*

# GRACE FOR THE WAITING



*From a sermon by James Timbilla*

## THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE OF TRUSTING GOD WILL HELP US WAIT ON HIM.

**W**aiting is defined as “the action of staying where one is, or delaying action until a particular time or until something else happens.” It is not a passive state, but rather something that requires effort. It is also something all believers must deal with as we walk this Christian pathway.

David was one who experienced the challenge of waiting on God. Psalm 13:1-2 says, “How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?” Here we see David asking the Lord the same question four times: “How long?” He was tired of

waiting! At the time that he wrote these words, David was experiencing serious affliction, and there appeared to be no relief in sight. He had no advisors and was lonely. It seemed his enemy had triumphed over him. He wondered if God had forgotten him or was hiding His face from him. Overwhelmed, David presented his complaint to God through this prayer.

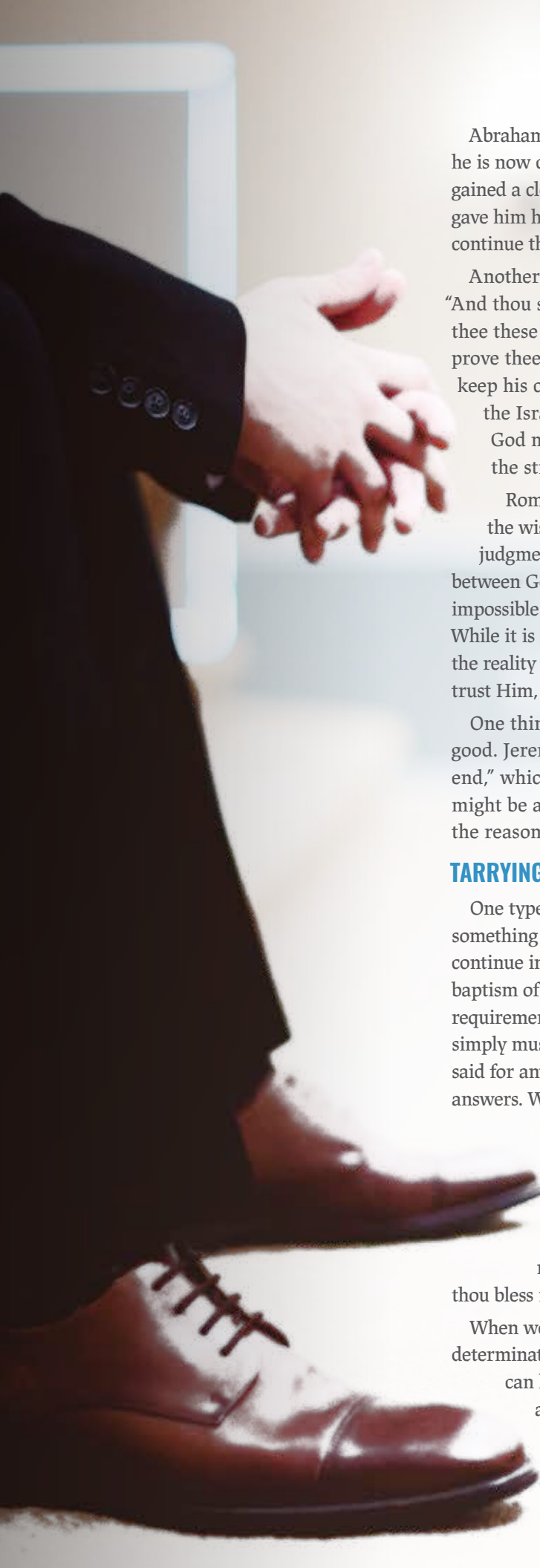
Sometime later, David wrote the words of Psalm 27. In verse 14 we read, “Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.” This seems to be from a different David! The man who once questioned God, “Why hast thou forgotten me?” is now saying, “Wait on the Lord.” He even repeated it: “Wait, I say, on the LORD.” By the time he was writing this psalm, David had proved God. God had answered some of his prayers. The beginning of the psalm tells part of that story: “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” David had seen God’s deliverance and developed an implicit trust in Him. Now he could recommend that others should wait on the Lord.

At times, we might also feel as David did when he wrote Psalm 13, and we can find ourselves asking God, “How long?” Rest assured that the God who delivered David is the same today, and He will deliver us too. Some view waiting as being of minor importance, while others see it as a burden, or perhaps even a form of bondage. What we must understand is that when God allows a delay, it is for our well-being. Rather than viewing it as something negative, we should ask God for the grace to wait as long as He sees fit. With the right perspective, we will understand that the time of waiting is a blessing, and it will not be a discouragement to our souls.

### WHY MUST WE WAIT?

God has reasons for allowing delays in our lives. David waited for deliverance from Saul for almost ten years, and during that time he learned to lean on God. God used those years to develop David’s character and prepare him to be a good king. Not only that, but his difficult situations inspired many of the psalms that today are a real encouragement to us. These are just a few of the reasons why God might have allowed an extended period of waiting in David’s life.



A person wearing a dark suit and red shoes is shown from the waist down, with their hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting.

Abraham waited for his promised son for twenty-five years, and he is now called the Father of Faith. During those years, Abraham gained a closer walk with God, and ultimately was rewarded when God gave him his promised son—not an ordinary son, but one who would continue the lineage through which our salvation came.

Another example is found in Deuteronomy 8:2 where we read, “And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.” Here we see that one purpose for the Israelites wandering in the wilderness was to humble them. God may use waiting as a way to refine us, and it can also be the strongest test of our obedience.

Romans 11:33 declares, “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!” There is a vast distance between God and man. God’s ways are infinite, and therefore it is impossible for us to understand all the reasons for what He is doing. While it is good to seek to know the mind of God, we must also accept the reality that His ways are past finding out. We have to choose to trust Him, whether or not we understand.

One thing we do know for sure is that God’s intentions for us are good. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us that God wants to give us an “expected end,” which we know is an eternal home in Heaven. Whatever else might be accomplished by our waiting, we can be sure that part of the reason is to help us arrive at that blessed goal.

## TARRYING IN PRAYER

One type of waiting on God is to physically tarry before in prayer, something that can be extremely beneficial to us spiritually. We must continue in prayer until we receive salvation, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. God does not have a set time requirement for receiving those three basic Christian experiences; we simply must continue to pray until we receive them. The same can be said for anything we need from God—we must keep praying until He answers. We can lose the blessing if we do not tarry long enough.

In the Bible we find examples of the importance of waiting for God to answer. Genesis 15 relates how Abraham had to wait for God to honor his sacrifice. A whole day passed and it was late in the evening when God responded. In Genesis 32 we read about Jacob, who never gave up but instead said, “I will not let thee go, except thou bless me,” and eventually he received the answer.

When we kneel before God in prayer, we should have the same determination. It will not always be easy to continue in prayer, but we can lean on God for strength. Though we may not know why the answer has not yet come, through prayer God can reveal to

## FROM THE WORD

us if anything is lacking on our part. If we will do all we know to do, and continue to wait on the Lord, He will certainly meet our every need.

David shared some insight about tarrying in prayer. In Psalm 62:1-2 he said, “Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.” The declaration, “I shall not be greatly moved,” speaks to the effort that is exerted in waiting. Without effort, the natural tendency is to be moved—to begin to doubt God and to struggle spiritually. We must determine to keep our focus on God and His faithfulness.

Moving on to verse 5, David said, “My soul, wait thou only upon God,” and in verse 8, “Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him.” Pouring out our hearts to God requires prayer, and that is what sustains the Christian. Trials will come, temptations will come, and all manner of challenges will come, but prayer will see us through. The successful Christian is one who prays and who finds refuge in God. When David poured out his heart before God, He heard his cry and answered. God has abundant blessings for us too, and when we spend much time in prayer, we will see what He desires for us.

## EACH EXPERIENCE IS UNIQUE

There are many different situations that may require us to wait on God. As in the case of David, we might be in need of deliverance. David’s very life was in danger and he sought a place of physical safety. Some may be sick and are looking to God for healing. We may need financial help or some other type of breakthrough from the Lord. There are many who are praying and waiting for God’s direction about marriage, and many married couples who are looking to God regarding children.

After I was saved, I waited for fifteen years before marrying, and once my wife and I were married, we waited eight years before our son was born. At the point when we had been married for five years, I was struggling about what to do and finally decided to consecrate the whole matter to God. I prayed, “God, You have blessed me and given me everything in my life. I have everything one needs, and it is just a child that I don’t have, and I will never pray to You about a child again. It is done.”

# “

**WHAT WE MUST UNDERSTAND IS THAT WHEN GOD ALLOWS A DELAY, IT IS FOR OUR WELL-BEING. RATHER THAN VIEWING IT AS SOMETHING NEGATIVE, WE SHOULD ASK GOD FOR THE GRACE TO WAIT AS LONG AS HE SEES FIT.**

There were still some difficult times following that prayer, but the matter was settled between the Lord and me. Three years later, when we were not expecting it, God gave us our son. I do not know why God chose that timing, nor how our lives might have been altered if the events had unfolded differently. We may never know why, but God always has a reason and we trust Him.

At times, God does let us understand the reason for waiting. That was the case recently when our family relocated to Wharton, New Jersey. In the United States, it takes an average of forty-five days to process a loan application for a home. After looking and looking, we found a house that we liked, but delays caused our bank loan to expire two times, which meant we had to re-apply twice. It was eight months before we moved to the home! However, during that eight-month period, the price was significantly reduced! We ended up thanking God for the delay.

Each case of waiting is unique. The case of David was different than that of Abraham; David waited for only ten years and Abraham for twenty-five, yet each produced the same result: God was glorified in

their lives. Our experience will be unique as well. God has a plan for you, and He has a plan for me. He has reasons why we should wait, and there is a blessing for us when we do.

## THE DANGER OF RUSHING AHEAD

There is often a temptation to become anxious as we wait, in part because the enemy of our souls tries to convince us that our situation is terrible and that God will fail us. Often we may feel an urge to run ahead of God and solve problems in our own way rather than waiting for His answer.

King Saul is an example of the consequences of not waiting on God. In 1 Samuel 13 we read that he decided to offer a sacrifice to God rather than waiting for the prophet Samuel to come and officiate. The sacrifice was meant to solicit God's favor in a war with the Philistines. As Saul saw the enemy host approaching and his own people cowering, he chose to make the sacrifice himself. Samuel arrived immediately afterward and told Saul, "Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for

now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever" (verse 13). Saul had been instructed to wait, but instead he chose to do things his own way, and he suffered for it.

Psalm 37:7 says, "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself . . ." God wants us to rest in Him. That means being fully assured that He will do what He has promised, regardless of how circumstances appear. We must remember that God does not need our help to accomplish His plans. God is not early. God is not late. God is on time! We may encounter distressing situations, but we can still wait for God. Jesus has promised to never leave us, and if we humbly seek His help, He will give us the grace to wait when we need to.

## GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN

In Isaiah 40:27 we read an insightful question: "Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD?" Anyone who feels that God has forgotten him can substitute his own name for "Jacob" and "Israel" in this verse. God never forgets His own. Before we were made, He knew us, and He knows everything about us. Even our very hairs have been counted by Him. Verses 28-31 continue, "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." These are four powerful promises from God. We can trust in God; He has never failed.

Perhaps you have been waiting for something for years. Be assured, God will answer your prayer. We read in 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise." God's promises are sure! Let us not be afraid or troubled, but let us tarry and ask God to give us strength to wait on Him, and He will surely bless us.

*Reverend James Timbilla is the pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Wharton, New Jersey.*



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FOR ONLY TEN  
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THEIR LIVES.**





# THE APOSTOLIC FAITH

OUR NAME, MOTTO, LOGO, AND MISSION STATEMENT ARE AN INSPIRATION TO US AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS AN ORGANIZATION.

Compiled by the Apostolic Faith editorial team.

**D**aniel 12:3 states, “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” Turning many to righteousness has always been a core purpose of the Apostolic Faith organization.

From the early days of the work, the founder Florence Crawford and the saints of God laboring with her felt called to proclaim God’s power to save repentant hearts, sanctify the converted, and pour out the Holy Spirit on sanctified believers. Through their efforts, and those of the faithful Gospel veterans who followed them, the humble ministry that began in Portland in a converted blacksmith shop in 1907 has grown into an outreach that literally spans the globe. Today, people around the world are serving the Lord,

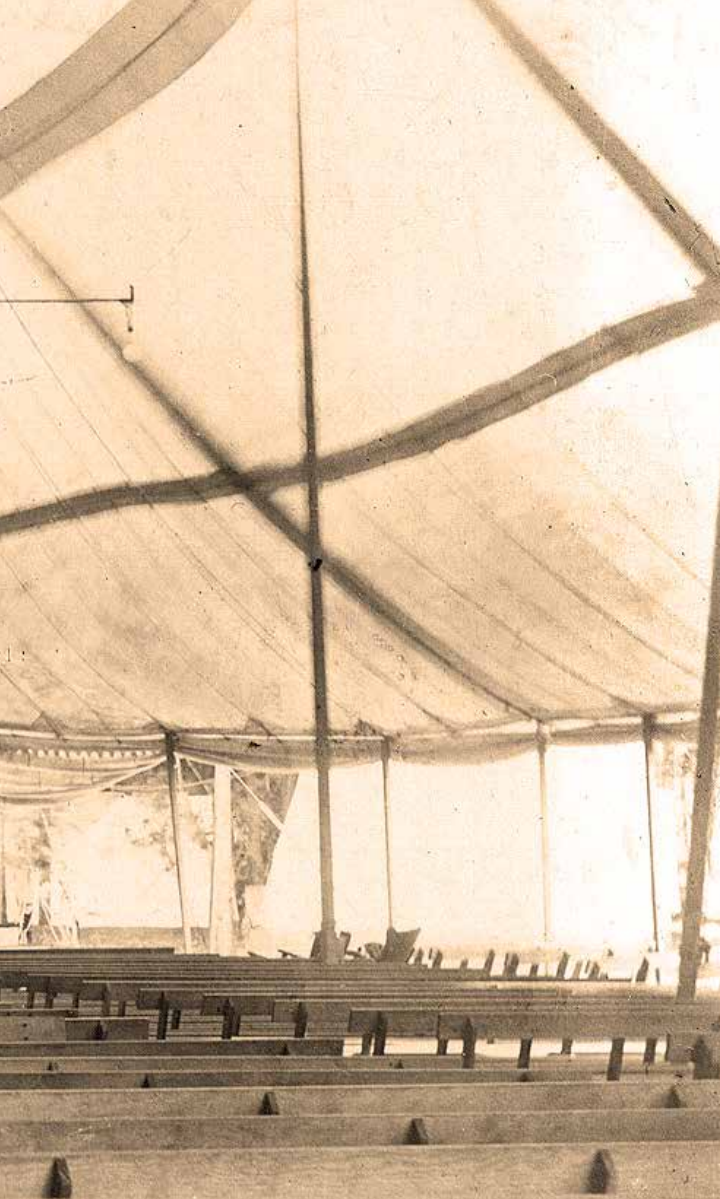
rejoicing in the message that Florence Crawford brought to Portland more than a century ago.

Over the years, locations have changed. People have changed. Methods have changed. However, the Apostolic Faith work today has the same purpose that was upheld by workers of old: to reach the world with the Latter Rain Gospel.

Four ways the Apostolic Faith organization expresses that purpose today are through its name, motto, logo, and mission statement.

## THE NAME “APOSTOLIC FAITH”

The phrase “apostolic faith” refers to the faith that was expounded and practiced by the apostles of the New Testament. While the word “faith” frequently alludes to believing faith, the phrase “the faith” refers to the entire scope of Biblical doctrine



## Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints

JUDE 3

those meetings, which later became known as the Azusa Revival. She quickly became an integral part of the core group who helped to set policy at the Apostolic Faith mission. One of her duties was sending out news of what was happening there—accounts of a Pentecostal outpouring that ultimately changed the world's religious landscape.

### THE MOTTO: JUDE 3

In the early days of the Azusa Revival, leaders there took the words of Jude 3 for a motto. “Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” had been the motto of the group through which William Seymour, one of the Azusa leaders, had first come in contact with the Latter Rain Gospel.

Since Jude was encouraging whatever struggle was necessary to defend the faith, that verse was appropriate, considering public reaction to the revival. The happenings on Azusa Street quickly attracted attention from secular media. Faced with the resulting persecution and ridicule, those who had received the Pentecostal experience soon understood firsthand the necessity of contending. The Azusa leaders were convinced that the authoritative communications of the apostles of the Early Church must not be influenced by criticism or compromised by false teachers. Jude spoke of the faith that was delivered to the saints, and those whose lives had been empowered at Azusa knew something precious had been entrusted to them. They recognized that it was their responsibility to care for it and ensure that it was faithfully transmitted to others.

The workers who put together news reports at the revival epicenter decided to feature this verse from Jude on the first publication that carried abroad the news of the Pentecostal outpouring. Later, when Florence Crawford was led by God to come to Portland, Oregon, and make this the headquarters for the Apostolic Faith work, she kept the verse on the papers printed at the new location. In the years since,

and practices given through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Acts 6:7 says, “And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to *the* faith [emphasis added].”

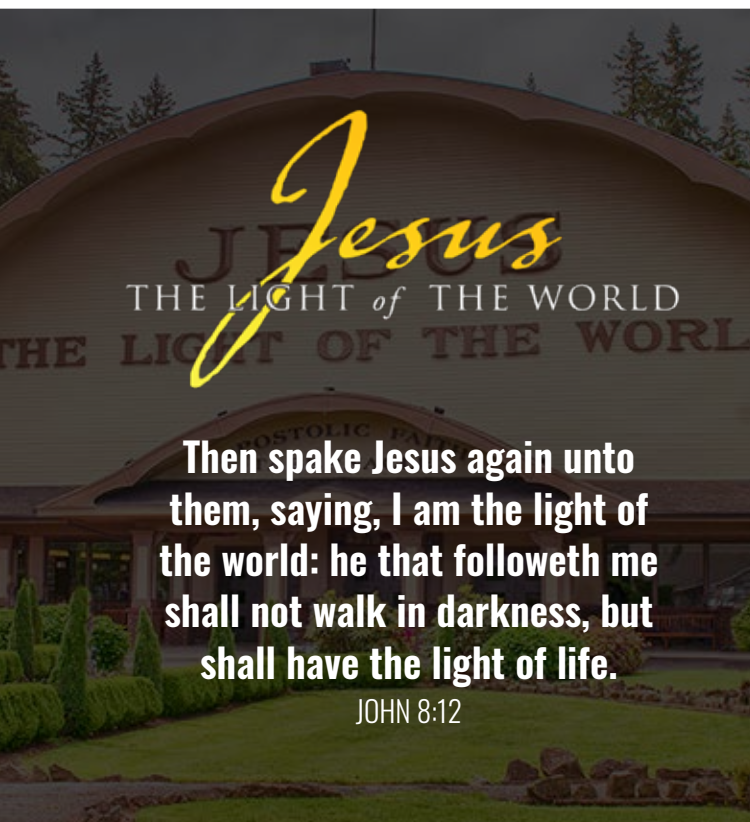
In the early 1900s, the phrase “apostolic faith” gradually came into use by religious groups around the country who were striving to revive and experience teachings that aligned with the teachings of the apostles. In April of 1906, the power of the Holy Spirit was poured out on one of those groups that had adopted “Apostolic Faith” as their name—a gathering of saved and sanctified people who were meeting in a ramshackle wooden building on Azusa Street in Los Angeles, California. Florence Crawford was sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit in



## FROM THE WORD

Jude 3 has appeared on every issue of the flagship publication of the Apostolic Faith organization.

Contending for the faith continues to be a hallmark of this church. It is necessary because of the natural tendency toward deterioration. A downward tendency is like gravity—it is a natural law. There is a clear understanding in the Apostolic Faith that if the present generation does not “earnestly contend for the faith,” they will leave little for the next generation to stand for.



### THE LOGO: JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The Apostolic Faith logo, which features the phrase “Jesus the Light of the World,” was initially displayed in 1917 as an electric sign on the first Portland headquarters church building. Located at the end of the Burnside Bridge, it became known as “The Lighthouse by the Bridge.” At times, the words of this sign caught the attention of desperate individuals who were thinking of ending their lives by jumping from the bridge into the river below. Arrested by its message of hope, some came into the services to seek God and went away with new courage and transformed lives.

When the headquarters church was moved to Northwest Sixth and Burnside in 1922, the same message was displayed above the new building. It shone out from that spot for sixty years. The large sign’s dominant position at the heart of downtown Portland made it a well-known landmark; in fact, it was featured in local and national publications on several occasions. Its message touched countless lives.

In 1921, when the tabernacle on the newly obtained campground was constructed, the same words were placed on the front of that building. Today, one hundred years later, those words are still there. People in Southeast Portland are very familiar with the big domed building bearing the words, “Jesus the Light of the World.”

As years have come and gone, Apostolic Faith branch churches in locations around the world have chosen to display the same soul-stirring message. Today, from the Philippines to the Caribbean and across the Atlantic to the continents of Europe and Africa, scores of Apostolic Faith church buildings feature the words chosen to be on the corporate logo.

### THE MISSION STATEMENT: PRAY, PREACH, AND PUBLISH

Around the year 2000, the decision was made to formulate a written mission statement for the Apostolic Faith work—one that would reflect what God called the organization to in the past, but also serve as a challenge and direction for the future. The leadership determined that it should provide both a corporate and individual challenge, and should be suitable for the headquarters church in Portland as well as for the branch church congregations around the world.

Three unique aspects of this work were identified as being central to the mission of the Apostolic Faith. The first is the emphasis placed on prayer. The second is that the organization continues to uphold the original doctrines taught at the Azusa Revival of 1906. The third is that since the days when Florence Crawford first labored to produce news reports about the revival, the organization has been aware of a clear and definite call to publish the Gospel. These three points formed the basis for the mission statement, which is as follows:



The mission of the Apostolic Faith Church is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We accomplish this as we:



**Pray** – We make prayer the basis of every ministry and encourage communion with God as the way we grow to spiritual maturity in Him.



**Preach** – We emphasize the original Pentecostal doctrines of salvation, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit, continually striving to develop fully committed disciples of Jesus Christ.



**Publish** – We publish the Gospel through the printed word, the spoken word, and through our personal lives, daily looking for opportunities to spread the message, “Ye must be born again.”

In summary, prayer is the basis, preach is the message, and publish is the challenge.

**Pray.** The statement, “We make prayer the basis of every ministry...,” points to a corporate purpose of this work. Seeking the guidance of God is understood to be a necessary preliminary for steps taken by this organization. Additionally, in accord with the Scripture, “My house shall be called a house of prayer,” prayer is a key part of every church service. Around the world, workers gather in a prayer room before meetings, prayer takes place during the meetings, and meetings conclude with a time of prayer around altar benches. These times of prayer are not merely a formality or custom; they are the sustaining force behind the Apostolic Faith work.

The part that says communion with God is “the way to spiritual maturity in Him” is the personal challenge. Any successful effort at spreading the Gospel depends upon people who have an up-to-date relationship with God, and prayer is the way a person establishes and maintains that relationship.

**Preach.** The word “preach” in the mission statement specifically points to preaching *doctrine*, and at the heart of Biblical teaching in the Apostolic Faith are the three foundational Christian experiences of salvation, sanctification, and the baptism of

the Holy Ghost. This is not a new message; clear exposition of the need for three definite spiritual experiences was a hallmark of the Azusa Revival, and it is just as common in Apostolic Faith church services today.

While the word “preach” is typically associated with a behind-the-pulpit ministry, preaching is not limited to pastors and ministers. When used in the New Testament, the word translated *preach* simply implies a herald’s task of proclaiming. Whether it is done while teaching a Sunday school class or simply having a personal conversation with a friend, this is a task that every believer can take part in.

**Publish.** A central calling of this organization since its founding has been to produce Gospel publications and distribute them around the world free of charge. In recent years, digital publishing technology has made it possible for the Latter Rain Gospel message to be shared through computers and personal devices. However, the word “publish” does not refer exclusively to publications. The mission statement gives two additional ways to publish: through the spoken word and through personal lives. Verbal witnessing includes sharing one’s testimony both in church services and on a one-to-one basis as God opens doors. “Publishing” through personal lives means living in a way that exemplifies godliness. These are ways that every believer can become involved in fulfilling the organization’s mission statement.

## A GOODLY HERITAGE

Psalm 16:6 says, “The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.” That is the testimony of individuals around the world who treasure the heritage they have in the Apostolic Faith organization—and more importantly, in the Biblically based teachings of the Latter Rain Gospel. However, with privilege comes responsibility. Psalm 78:4 speaks of the importance of “shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.” In the New Testament era, Paul the Apostle challenged the younger man, Timothy, with a similar message: “Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.”

May God help each one to have that purpose. ■

# 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

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# CROSS-CULTURAL CHRISTIANITY

## HOW TO HAVE UNITY IN THE CHURCH DESPITE DIFFERING CULTURAL PRACTICES AND PERSPECTIVES.



By Antonia Schleicher

**B**efore moving to the United States from Nigeria in 1982, my mentor from church held a sendoff party for me at her home, and there she shared some advice with me. She said, “You are going to be worshipping with people whose ways of life will be different from yours. Watch and learn the way they do things there. Don’t tell them to do things the way we do here in Nigeria, and do not condemn them, as long as they are not violating God’s principles.” She also reminded me of Paul’s words from 1 Corinthians 9:20-21, “And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that

are under the law.” She was advising me that my experience would be better if I would try to be like an American while serving God among Americans.

Why did this trusted friend feel the need to counsel me about getting along with believers in the United States? Some might assume it is easy to have a good relationship with anyone around the world who is also saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost. However, I have seen firsthand how cultural differences can be challenging, even within the church family. Since moving to the United States nearly forty years ago, I have also studied cultures extensively in my professional career. Although my Nigerian friend was not a cultural studies expert, I now know that she truly grasped what culture is all about.

### CULTURAL PRACTICES AND PERSPECTIVES

Understanding another culture goes beyond learning about food, clothing styles, and music. In the field of foreign language studies, where culture is at the center, we also talk about “cultural practices” and “cultural perspectives.” Cultural practices are overt markers that distinguish a group of people. For example, for some it is customary to greet one another with a handshake, while others use a hug, a kiss on each cheek, or something else. It is helpful to know about one another’s preferred practices, but this does not eliminate the possibility





for misunderstanding because cultural perspectives also have an important role.

Cultural perspectives have to do with the way we interpret behaviors based on common beliefs and values. This means that the same behavior can be viewed as positive according to one cultural perspective and negative by another. An example would be that in some people groups it is considered rude for children to look at their parents while being reprimanded, but in other groups it is rude for children *not* to look at them. When we consider that the world's multitude of cultural practices can be viewed from many different cultural perspectives, we quickly see room for misunderstandings, including among believers.

A lack of awareness in these areas can lead to confusion and even conflict, supplying our spiritual enemy with ammunition to use against the Church. When we approach intercultural situations with the right attitude and expectations, it will be easier to maintain unity in the global church body and work together effectively. An example from my personal life provides several lessons on the topic.

### **A FRIEND IN THE NIGHT OR NO FRIEND AT ALL**

For years my husband and children and I lived in

Madison, Wisconsin, before we had a church in that city. Consequently, our family would travel every weekend to a branch church that was about one and a half hours away. The pastor and his wife invited us to their house on Sunday afternoons to eat and then rest until it was time to go to the evening service. We did this for so many years that their house became like a home away from home for us.

My pastor's wife was an amazing, caring, and loving woman. On one typical Sunday afternoon, as we were clearing away the dishes, she said, "You will not believe what happened to us last weekend when we were flying out to Medford!" I was all ears because she always had funny stories to tell. She then told how they had booked an early morning flight out of Madison, and had decided to drive there the evening prior and stay one night in a hotel before departing. Unfortunately, after getting to Madison they found that all the hotels were fully booked. Her story ended, "By midnight, we still could not find a hotel room, so we drove all the way home and then to Madison again in the morning to catch our plane!"

She obviously thought this was a funny story, but I was not laughing. Questions were running through my mind, but I was too upset to ask them. I wondered, If she and her husband were truly our friends, why didn't they call us when they couldn't find a hotel room in Madison? If I had been in their situation, I would not have even considered a hotel in the first place; I would have just asked to stay at my friends' house. Even if I had decided to stay at a hotel, once I found there were no rooms available,

I would not have thought twice before calling my friends for help. That's what friends do! Her story revealed that she obviously did not consider us to be friends, and I was hurt.

After we returned home that night, I let my husband know how upset I was to discover that my dear sister was not a true friend. By this time in my life, I had been living in the United States for almost ten years and was married to an American. I believed I had a good understanding of American ways. However, after patiently listening to my sad story, my husband told me, "You know, what they did was actually out of respect for you." Incredulous, I responded, "What respect? If they respected us, they would not mind knocking on our door even if we were already sleeping instead of driving hours back and forth!" My husband replied, "Americans do not like to inconvenience people. They would rather inconvenience themselves than inconvenience others." I still did not believe him until he added, "If I were in their shoes, I would have done exactly what they did." That got my attention! I know my husband is a good man, so if he would do what they had done, I had to admit that it must not have been insulting. It must have been done out of respect for us!

## LESSONS FOR THE MULTICULTURAL CONGREGATION

This encounter is a typical example of how a cultural mix-up can become a spiritual setback. In this case, neither my pastor's wife nor I had bad motives, but I misunderstood her actions. Here are a few key lessons we can learn from this situation.

**Don't judge others based on your own cultural perspective.** In my Yoruba culture, knocking on someone's door in the middle of the night without any warning is a sign of closeness, friendship, trust, and respect. However, it was a mistake for me to interpret my sister's actions based on that standard.

We must learn to distinguish between Bible commands and cultural standards. The Bible instructs us to show friendliness, but it does not say whether or not to knock on someone's door in the middle of the night. When people do things

differently than we would, that does not mean they are wrong—their way is just different. Jesus admonished the Pharisees, "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24). We, too, must endeavor to judge righteous judgments. That will require us to go beyond a surface-level analysis and look for each other's true intentions.

“

Some might assume it is easy to have a good relationship with anyone around the world who is also saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost. However, I have seen firsthand how cultural differences can be challenging, even within the church family.

**Ask the "why" question.** When we find ourselves troubled by a fellow believer's behavior, a helpful course of action is to stop and ask ourselves a simple question: "Why?" Why did he or she do this? Could the behavior be rooted in culture? If so, what was the cultural belief that led to it?

In my nearly forty years of living in the United States, almost all of my cultural misunderstandings happened when I failed to ask the "why" question. If we do not know the answer, we could ask the other person, or someone who has more experience with that culture than we do. When we understand where the individual is coming from, we may still not like that behavior, but at least it will not confuse us or hinder God's work among us.

Many times when a cultural misunderstanding occurs, there is the tendency not to say anything, thinking that talking about it will make it worse. However, I have personally seen that ignoring cross-cultural problems usually compounds them. The Word of God instructs us to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Through honest and sincere communication we can begin to understand where our brothers and sisters are coming from.

**Unto the Jews, become as a Jew.** Paul said he adapted his way of life to fit with the people around him, and that is good advice for us too. When I came to the United States, I had to be careful not to expect others to change their ways for my sake.

or even hurt us. When this occurs, we have to make a choice—will we hold a grudge or will we forgive?

Paul spoke of Christian unity in Colossians 3:11 when he said that among believers “there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.” The Apostle immediately proceeded to instruct on how to avoid conflict within the Church, thereby acknowledging that causes for conflict can still arise. In verses 12-14 he said, “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.” In situations where reason alone does not provide a solution, our love for one another will lead us to extend grace and forgive.

## HEAVEN'S MULTICULTURAL CHURCH

There are many benefits that result from cross-cultural congregations—a whole other article could be written

on that topic. Yet, we must also be aware and guard against the potential pitfalls. Heaven will be filled with people from all different nations, languages, and cultures (see Revelation 7:9) and it is not too soon for us to be in unity now. When we choose an attitude of love and respect toward our brothers and sisters from other cultures, we will have the blessing of God as we serve Him together. ■

*Antonia Schleicher is the leader of the Apostolic Faith group in Bloomington, Indiana, and a professor of Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures at Indiana University.*



I learned that I could accept and respect the way they did things because they were not violating any Bible doctrines or practices of our church. My desire was that wherever God placed me, I wanted to fit in with His work. I was willing to give up personal preferences in order to maintain unity. Still today, when I have the opportunity to visit our churches in another country, this is my mindset.

That said, we also want to remember that cross-cultural relationships go both ways. Whether we are the foreigner in a new place or the local resident welcoming foreigners, we all have a part to play.

**Forgive easily but do not be offended easily.** Often, cultural miscommunications are a source of laughter. However, in the worst of cases, our own fellow believers may unknowingly embarrass, insult,



# PARDONED IN PARADISE

**GOD FREED THIS HAWAIIAN COUPLE  
FROM PARTYING, DRINKING, AND  
DRUGS, AND TOOK AWAY THE DESIRE  
FOR THOSE THINGS IN A MOMENT!**

*By Al and Blanche Sifagaloa*



**M**y family is from the island of Oahu in Hawaii. Ours was a good home but not a Christian home, but my parents did let my siblings and me go to the Apostolic Faith Sunday school.

From the time I

was little, someone from the church would pick us up and take us every week, and we would stay for some church services too. I remember seeing our pastor and others cry as they prayed at the altar benches after services. Even though I didn't comprehend what it was all about, I knew that prayer meant talking to God one-on-one. However, I didn't truly understand what salvation was and didn't give my heart to the Lord.

As I entered my teenage years, I went to church less and less. I had my own ideas about what I wanted to do, and that is what I did. I began living a sinful life of partying, drinking, and doing drugs, though my memories from church always stayed with me and I longed to have what I had seen in the lives of the people there. Occasionally I would go back to church, but never consistently.

At age sixteen I became a mother, and eventually had six children. They did not all have the same father and none of the fathers were around for very long. As each of my children grew old enough, people from the church came and picked them up for Sunday school in the same way I had been taken—sometimes it was the children of the people who had brought me years before. I also went with them now and then, and many times I told God I would change my life, but never did.

In my early thirties, I reconnected with a friend from high school named Al, who later became my husband. He was wonderful and he became the father my children never had before. However, Al and I were partiers, and our house was a party house. People from all walks of life came and went around the clock. Our doors were wide open to anything and everything.

My mom passed away in 1997, and that was a very difficult time for me. At that point I had not been to church for quite some time, and at the beginning of 1998, I finally decided I needed to go back. I had just turned thirty-six years old and went to a service with my children. That day, several of the church people helped me pray, and I finally understood that Jesus' death was something that really happened—Jesus literally shed His Blood for my sins. I knew I had done very bad things, and thinking about that was painful. I was so sorry. I confessed my sins to God and asked Him for forgiveness, and I received salvation! Tears of joy flowed as I realized that God sent His Son not to condemn me, but to save me! I knew I didn't deserve His love and mercy, but my eyes were opened to understand that God loves me, and that He had loved me all along. Still today I cannot understand why God loves me after the way I treated Him, but He does.

I walked out of that church feeling like I was in the

clouds! I had been paying for drugs to make me feel good, but salvation from God was better than any drug I had ever used, and it was free! Immediately, all my desires for sinful and worldly pleasures were gone. I quit smoking cigarettes, quit drinking, quit doing drugs, and did it with no treatment plans. I never even had withdrawals. I got *saved*!

Things in our home changed as well. The doors that had been wide open, closed. I told my party friends, “I love you, but I don’t party anymore.” Al was supportive of the changes, too. Though he was not saved, he had always supported me in whatever I did, including my new faith. He set up two baby gates in one of the doorways, stacked double high to keep our old friends away. They had to learn that ours was not a party house anymore.

The kids were amazed and so happy about what God had done for me. I had been selfish before, and they suffered because of it. When I received salvation, I began to truly value my children and treat them the right way.

About a year and a half after I was saved, I went to my first camp meeting in Portland, Oregon. Our church in Oahu had a picture of the tabernacle displayed, and it was exciting to actually be in that spot and take my own picture there.

**L** When I opened my eyes, I felt like I was in Heaven surrounded by angels. The experience was so beautiful and felt so good! I walked out of the church totally different than when I had come in—I felt so pure and clean.

I was seeking for sanctification at that time. A friend had told me sanctification takes the root of sin out of the heart, so when we seek for it, we have to dig up every bit of self and consecrate it as an offering to God. I prayed so hard but it seemed I just couldn’t get through. Yet, I felt the Lord encouraging me, “Don’t give up!” As I continued seeking, after one of the meetings God sanctified me! When I opened my eyes, I felt like I was in Heaven surrounded by angels. The experience was so beautiful and felt so good! I walked out of the church totally different than when I had come in—I felt so pure and clean. It was even better than what I had felt when I was saved. This walk with God only gets better!

That camp meeting, I also saw Gretchen Friesen, who had been my Sunday school teacher when I was a little girl. She told me she had been praying for me all those years! I was amazed to hear that, and I know it also encouraged her faith to see that her prayers were answered. Now she is in Heaven and I look forward to seeing her there some day.

Al still was not saved, but he did start coming to church regularly with me. The church on Oahu was becoming very small in number, and around 2009, the decision was made to close it. Brother Lonnie and Sister Clara Carlson came from Portland to handle the closing process, and they also taught Al and me how to watch the webcast of the Portland church services. They encouraged us to kneel and have a time of prayer after each webcast, and said doing so would help us stay connected with the Lord and the church.

The Carlsons returned to Portland for camp meeting that summer. On the first night of camp meeting, we watched the webcast just as they had taught us, and then got down to pray. Oh what fire and power came down that night! God filled me with the baptism of the Holy Ghost! I was so joyful that I just had to tell someone, so I called the church office in Portland. I didn’t know who answered, but I told him, “Hi, this is Blanche from Hawaii and I just got my baptism!”

Somehow he got the word to Lonnie and Clara and we were all so happy.

God has brought me so far since He saved me, and I truly appreciate Him and all the people

He has used to encourage me in the Gospel. Many people came to encourage us in Oahu over the years, and those people still mean so much to me. Before I was saved, some would come to our home and sing worship songs with us, and others would come just to visit. They knew we were partying at that time, but they came for us and for our children. They never gave up, and their efforts and prayers were rewarded. I love these people so much, and most of all I love God for all He has done. My desire is to keep serving Him, and to see all my family saved and serving Him too.





**G**rowing up, I was from a broken home. My father was hardly around; he was a heavy drinker and died at only forty-two years old. My mom took my siblings and me to a Mormon church occasionally, but I never learned anything about

what they believed. We went for the social experience rather than for anything spiritual.

At a young age I started drinking, doing drugs, and partying. It was the same for all of my siblings; our lives revolved around partying. My mom passed away when she was just fifty-four years old, and with no parental influence, my life went further downhill.

One night, at the back of a bar I saw my former classmate Blanche, who I hadn't seen in years. We were basically inseparable from that time on, and soon her children felt like they were my own. I joined their family and later Blanche and I were married.

My first encounter with the Gospel was when Blanche and I went to church with the kids. For many years we only went rarely, but then Blanche was saved and there was a big change in our home. The changes seemed good for her, but I wasn't interested in becoming a Christian myself. I did gradually stop doing drugs, simply because they weren't around our house anymore, but I was still a heavy drinker. I would start drinking first thing in the morning and keep it up all day long. I was following right in the footsteps of my father.

In time, God started talking to my heart about my drinking habit and let me know I needed to make a change. Then one day, Blanche suddenly broke down in tears in front of me. I asked her what was wrong and she told me, "I don't want you to drink anymore." I came to the realization that I had to choose between my wife and my drinking, so I told her, "Okay. I'm done." She was amazed at that response, but what she didn't know was that the Lord had already been talking to me about it. The next day, I threw out all my alcohol—I was done! Blanche was in disbelief. Most people who drink the way I had go through

painful withdrawals and cravings, but I with no withdrawals, no cravings, and no treatments. I knew it was the Lord who had helped me.

I started going to church with Blanche regularly, but I still did not understand much about the Gospel and did not intend to become a Christian. Then one day in 2012, Blanche said to me, "You're coming with me." I asked, "Where are we going?" and she said, "We're going to Portland for camp meeting." Though I did not want to go to camp meeting, she insisted. She told me she wasn't ever going back to her old life, so I had to move forward to where she was and do things God's way. She wanted me to go to camp meeting and see what Christianity was all about. Finally, I agreed to go.

When I arrived at the campground, everything was completely new to me, and I was in awe. I thank God that He took me away from all that I was used to, to a place where I was willing to try something different. On the fifth day of camp, after one of the services I prayed and surrendered my life to God, and He saved me! I was blown away by that encounter with God, and I will never forget it.

Hungry for more of Him, I kept seeking. As soon as a service would end, I went to pray-er, and it felt like we were surrounded by angels at the altars. Just two days after I was saved, God sanctified me! I kept seeking Him and two days after that, as I was praying I suddenly felt a gush of wind go "whoosh!" in front of my face. I thought, Wait, we're in the sanctuary. The doors are all closed. What's going on? Soon, I was praying in a language I did not understand. God had baptized me with the Holy Ghost, and it was amazing! I call that experience "the explosion" because that was what it felt like in my soul. Blanche and I just hugged each other and cried, thanking the Lord. In only a few days, God had changed everything in my life. At the end of camp meeting I was also water baptized. It was the full treatment!

Back in Hawaii, we continued watching the church services on the webcast, but we felt the need for fellowship. In June of 2014, God made a way for us to move to Port Angeles, Washington, where one of our sons was living. It was sad to say goodbye to our children who stayed in Hawaii, but soon another son also moved to Port Angeles, and then two daughters did as well. Today, we are all practically neighbors! We immediately felt at home at the church in Port Angeles,



and God helped us find temporary jobs right away. In time, Blanche was able to return to being a school bus driver, and later I was hired in the same school district as a custodian. God worked out all the details and we could not have done it without Him.

Shortly after arriving in Washington, the Lord reminded me of some restitutions that I needed to make. My driver's license had been suspended years before because of traffic violations, including one for driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI). For years I had driven with no license or insurance, collecting many tickets for those violations as well as others, and never took care of any of them. The Lord let me know that it is not okay to sweep those things under the rug. Though hard to face, I felt the need to straighten out my past.

**L** For about fifty years, I did not know anything about the Lord and my life was a mess, but God has turned my life into something good.

When I called the traffic court, I found out there were pages and pages in my record—going back to 1992! I was sentenced to take a class for alcoholics, do over seventy hours of community service, and pay a \$2,000 fine. I could not get a license again until I cleared up my record, so Blanche had to do all the driving for us.

When I went to the class for alcoholics, it was funny in a way because by that time I had not had a drink in years. When I introduced myself, instead of the typical, "Hi, I'm Al and I'm an alcoholic," I said, "Hi, I'm Al and I'm just here to get my papers signed." Thank God, He had already delivered me completely from alcohol.

For my community service, a friend mentioned that our church had a volunteer pro-gram. I was actually able to complete my hours by volunteering for certain jobs at church! That is how our amazing God works.

The last requirement was to pay the fine. Once we saved up the money, we decided to fly back to Hawaii and appear in person at the courthouse to make the payment and take care of the final paperwork. Blanche had put together a folder with all of my tickets and documentation, so when it was my turn to go before the judge, I gave him the folder and then waited.

As the judge turned the pages, his comments were not encouraging at first. He was saying, "Alan, wow! You've been cited for a lot of tickets! . . . I see you have some DUIs . . . Some of these are over twenty years ago?" But then he said, "Oh, you have already complied with all you needed to do? *Wow!* Good for you, Alan. You know what we're going to do? All of these tickets here, we are going to dismiss them." He started turning pages and at each one he would say, "Dismissed. Dismissed. Dismissed. . . ." Then he saw the fine I had paid and said, "We will refund that back to you. Congratulations! Take care, okay Alan?"

I couldn't believe it; my record was completely cleared! It was a miracle! Blanche and I just looked at each other and couldn't help but cry tears of thanksgiving to God. Straightening out my driving record was a burden that seemed too big for me, and it was gone! Even though it was a problem I had created for myself, God helped me to resolve it. Soon I got my driver's license again and could drive legally. Today I am so glad I took care of those restitutions. It was well worth it!

For about fifty years, I did not know anything about the Lord and my life was a mess, but God has turned my life into something good. Blanche and I know that it's not because of anything we have done; we made a lot of mistakes, but God is good and He showed us the way out. All we had to do was follow Him. Today, Blanche and I are so happy to be able to serve God together. We want to be accountable and to be ready when Jesus calls. ■



*Al and Blanche Sifagaloa attend the Apostolic Faith Church in Port Angeles, Washington.*

# A TURNING POINT

After my sister and I returned to the Dominican Republic, our grandmother began taking us to Sunday school again. One Sunday afternoon, I was sitting on the front

steps of my grandparents' house when a friend who was not a Christian came by and said, "Hey, what if we go to church tonight?" I had never been to an Apostolic Faith meeting outside of Sunday



## HIS FRIEND'S QUESTION, "HEY, WHAT IF WE GO TO CHURCH TONIGHT?" CHANGED THE COURSE OF ELVIDO'S LIFE.

*By Elvido Ortiz*

**T**he home I was brought up in was a multi-faith home in the Dominican Republic. My father was Catholic and my mother was an evangelical Protestant. My father lived in the United States for work, and when he would come home, he would take my sister and me to a Catholic church. While he was away, my mother would periodically take us to an evangelical church. A more consistent experience in my life was my grandmother taking me to the Apostolic Faith Sunday school. She lived near the La Romana headquarters church, and took me faithfully from the time I was about seven. Of the three churches I was exposed to, that is the one that stood out; I have vivid memories of my first class and teacher there.

My dad brought our family to live in New York. However, after three years, my parents decided the schools were not safe and would not yield a good education, because of gang violence. In 1980 when I was twelve years old, my sister and I were sent back to the Dominican to live with my grandparents while my parents stayed behind in the United States to work. To me, this move seemed like a great window of opportunity. With my parents no longer having direct control over me, I would have the freedom to do more worldly things. I was a young kid who was ready to turn my life upside down. However, the Lord also saw an opportunity and turned the situation into something good.

school, but because there was nothing else to do that evening, I agreed to go.

We went and sat on the second or third bench from the front. I do not recall anything about the service, except that afterward a young man came up to us and asked, "Do you want to receive Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?" I looked at my friend and said, "Why not? Let's go." We went to the altar and I prayed the sinner's prayer, and God saved me. Even though I did not fully understand the concept of salvation, I knew God had done something real in my heart, because everything was suddenly new to me. When I got up from praying, the burden of sin was gone, and I felt as if I were walking on air.

I am thankful that the Lord saved me at that early age. Two years later, my mom passed away from cancer at the age of thirty-four. That was hard on my sister and me, as well as our younger brother who had been born while we were in the United States, but having salvation made all the difference. God was able to help us. Our mother's funeral was on December 24, which is the day Christmas is celebrated in the Dominican Republic. Yet because of the Lord, over the years Christmas has not been a sad time for us. We know that our mom received salvation before she died, and we have the hope of seeing her again in Heaven.

One way the Lord helped me through the time following my mom's death was by providing other mother figures in the church. Many of the women encouraged me and prayed for me. I became like an adopted son to them. One sister who was in her eighties would invite me to her home to read the Bible and pray.

She always told me, “Elvido, no matter where life takes you, be faithful to the Lord.” I never forgot that.

Eventually, I became involved in the youth activities and music at church. One day during special youth services, some of us young musicians were talking about serving the Lord, and we realized that by playing our instruments in church, we were part of God’s ministry. We suddenly felt the need to take our roles more seriously by seeking to receive our deeper experiences. As we tarried in prayer after the services that week and consecrated our lives to God, He began to bless us one after another, and I received sanctification.

That experience helped me to grow closer to the

For about fifty years, I did not know anything about the Lord and my life was a mess, but God has turned my life into something good.

Lord and develop a deeper relationship with Him. Where before I had a general desire to serve Him, afterward I had a clear purpose: to allow myself to be used by God in the way that He chose. Over the next several years, the Lord continued to strengthen me and our youth group.

When it was time to go to college, I went to a school in the Dominican Republic for nearly two years, and then transferred to a school in the United States. At that time, I began attending the Apostolic Faith church in Brooklyn, New York, and became involved in the work there, singing in the choir and playing the guitar, as well as driving a van for Sunday school.

In 1992, cottage meetings began to be held in the Bronx, New York, for Spanish-speaking residents. Many times, I had the privilege to go with others from the Brooklyn church to encourage the new group. One of the young ladies there caught my attention and I prayed for the Lord’s direction in asking her on a date. God put peace in my heart to move forward, and Jenny and I soon began a courtship. As time went on, we continued to pray for God’s will in our lives. We asked Him to show us if the relationship was of Him. He did, and we were married in 1994. Our relationship has been a blessing, and we attribute that to letting God have first place in our lives. We do not base our decisions on our wants, but instead take everything to the Lord asking for His will.

One of our first decisions was in which location to worship. The Lord led us to the Bronx church, because Jenny was very involved in the work there as a Sunday school teacher and choir director. While in the Bronx, I realized that to be fully effective in serving God, I needed the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and began praying to receive it. However, I became discouraged at times, and would quit seeking for a while. Finally, during a week of special services, I asked myself, “How can I continue like this?” I went to my pastor about the situation, and he began praying with me after the services. On a Thursday evening, we were praying until close to midnight when the Lord came down powerfully. Then the next morning, His Spirit came down again, and I received the witness. It was a wonderful experience, because it made me able to be fully used by God for His service.

Over the years, God has brought me through some difficult times. In 2011, I was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. The Lord was there and did not let me ignore the symptoms. It was by His grace that the cancer was caught early enough that something could be done, and He went with me through surgery. I praise Him for a full recovery.

In 2016, I had the opportunity to attend the camp meeting in Chile and help with the work as an interpreter, minister, and musician. Since then, I have been back three times to Chile and once to Peru, and each visit has been a tremendous blessing. I also attended my first Portland camp meeting in 2016, and fell in love with it. I could feel the Spirit of God from the moment I stepped on the campground, and found it to be a place where I could get away from my normal responsibilities and connect with God. Each service was filled with beautiful music, and I was impressed that it was truly an international camp meeting. I knew we had churches all over the world, but I had not realized that people came from all those places to worship together at camp meeting. The prayer meetings were so special, and the experience was so wonderful that I have attended each one since, and brought my wife and daughters too. I love the Lord and intend to serve Him for the rest of my days. ■

*Elvido Ortiz is a minister at the Apostolic Faith Church in the Bronx, New York.*



# EVIDENCE



Frank Igweonu / Melbourne, Australia

**A**s I was growing up, my parents took my siblings and me to church but we were only nominal Christians. I never heard the message of repentance and salvation. As I got older, I picked up

sinful habits and made choices that led me deeper into sin. I stole from my parents, told lies to cover my bad behavior, and did everything I could to have my own way. My parents were quite strict and would discipline me, but that didn't stop me. By the time I left the university, I was well-steeped in sin, and my focus was to make money any way I could.

I was frequently in trouble with the police, but that did not make me want to change my lifestyle. On one occasion, I was arrested and my mom came to see me at the police station. She was crying, and that broke my heart, but I was powerless over my drive toward sin.

In late 2000, while sitting in a police cell in Lagos, Nigeria, I saw two Apostolic Faith magazines on the floor. For want of something to do, I began to read them. Every testimony related how people prayed and God answered their prayers. Some told how they had recognized they were sinners and confessed their sins with repentance, and while they were praying, God answered and saved their souls. That pierced my heart and I felt a great desire for God to answer my own prayer and forgive my sins also. When I was released by the police, I took the magazines with me, determining in my heart to write to the address on the back for further guidance.

I wrote to the Apostolic Faith Church headquarters in Portland, Oregon, and they encouraged me to reach out to the leaders in Lagos for guidance, which I did. I was directed to Reverend Albert Adegboye and I told him I was interested in attending a Bible school. He told me that the Apostolic Faith offers lifelong learning through Sunday school materials, but the more pressing need was to repent and be

saved. I agreed to attend the next Sunday church service and pray.

On September 16, 2001, I went to church and heard the preacher tell how Enoch walked with God, and God took him to Heaven. I believed the Word of God, and prayed at the altar after the service, and God mercifully saved me! Full of joy, I hurried home to tell my relatives what had happened. I was thirty-two years old at that time, and they seemed to doubt that I had repented and was changed, but the change has lasted to this day.

Two weeks after I was saved, as I prayed and asked God to have His way in my life, He spoke to me: "Chuka has died." Chuka is my Igbo name, and when I heard those words I started to cry, but then realized that God had sanctified me—the old Chuka was dead! My tears turned to joy.

In the following weeks I continued seeking God, and He led me to consecrate further, until I had relinquished control of every area of my life to Him. My prayer was that He would fulfill His purpose for bringing me to the Gospel, and God baptized me with the Holy Ghost in December 2001. From that time forward it has been clear to me that the only life I can live is one of service to Him.

*Ye are the light  
of the world. A city  
that is set on an  
hill cannot be hid.*

— Matthew 5:14



Roxana Becerra Gonzalez / Chimbarongo, Chile

**I** was born into a Christian home where my parents both went to church and my grandfather was a pastor. God's hand of protection was over me from the time I was a baby. At just three months old, my mother laid me down on a bed and then felt an urge to move me somewhere else. After she moved me, there was an earthquake that caused a very heavy box to fall where I had been laying. God saved me from an accident that probably would have killed me, and He has continued to be with me.

Though I did not like going to church as a child because it seemed boring, I am grateful my parents always took me because around age fifteen I prayed and Jesus came into my life. I realized that I was nothing without Him, and as I continued growing, He sanctified me and later filled me with His Spirit.

God gave me a Christian husband, and when we were first married we lived with his mother since we did not have a place of our own. Then in 2010, a serious earthquake left us homeless. As a result, for some months we had to live in a very small space. However, through those circumstances, God provided us with a home of our own. It is a solid structure, and I thank Him for it.

In 2017 we planned to attend the Portland camp meeting for the first time. I had an illness at that time and had been waiting for three years to have a necessary surgery. Just two months before we were to leave, the hospital told us that the operation was finally scheduled. I worried that it would

cause me to miss the camp meeting, but thank God, everything was completed so fast that I was still able to attend. Because of the illness, my husband and I are not expected to be able to have children, but I know that God is faithful and He has a plan for our lives and our marriage. My trust is in Him alone, and I give Him all honor and glory.



Imelda Reyes Lucero / Raniag, Philippines

**W**hen I was about twelve years old, I was invited to attend Vacation Bible School, and I am so glad I went. After it ended, I continued attending church services every Sunday with my grandmother. The warm welcome and the love I felt from the church people drew me. In one of the services, I heard a strong sermon about Hell and then simply prayed, "Lord, help me; have mercy on me." God saw a lost, confused, and scared little girl beneath a stubborn facade, and He saved me.

For two years during junior high school, I was not able to go to church, and I turned away from God at that time. But God saw the longing in my heart and He provided a way for me to move back home. Soon, I began attending church again and at age sixteen, God saved me at a youth service. He delivered me from having a terrible temper, and also put a love for lost souls in my heart. I yearned and prayed for my loved ones to be saved too, and I held on to the words in Acts 16:31, "Believe on the

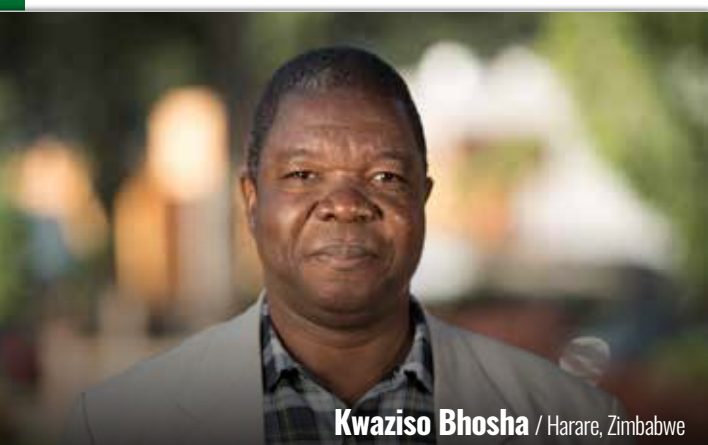


Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” Soon, my sisters joined my grandmother and me at church and eventually our parents did too.

The year I graduated from college, I applied for jobs at institutions where I could work and still attend church, but I wasn’t hired by them. I knew the Lord had other plans for me. I was offered a teaching position in a town that was about five hours away from my home and church but I thought, I will perish there. I was so unhappy because I remembered how I had struggled in junior high when I was away from church. However, I accepted the position and God was faithful to keep me. That same year, the Lord had impressed upon my heart that I needed to be sanctified, and when I yielded my will and consecrated my life to Him, He sanctified me.

Four years later, during the Philippines summer camp of 1984, God baptized me with the Holy Ghost, and He also gave me a vision that He would establish His church in Isabela, Philippines. Praise God, in June 1986 we dedicated a church there, and a second in February of 1999.

Through the years, I have had mountain top experiences with the Lord and I have been down in the valley, but through it all, I have learned to trust in Jesus. I have proven Him to be true and faithful.



**Kwaziso Bhosha** / Harare, Zimbabwe

**A**lthough I was born into a Christian family, as a young boy I was frustrated and filled with anger. I had no peace; anxiety gripped me because I did not know what the future held for me, and I was afraid of dying. I

also accused and blamed other people for my own faults. Then at age fourteen, as I listened to the Word of God being preached, the Lord showed me that I was a sinner. I humbled myself and confessed my sins, and God forgave me and filled my heart with joy unspeakable! My life was so changed that the problems and endless questions that had haunted me were solved. God answered them all.

As I consecrated my life to God, He also sanctified my heart and gave me perfect peace that is present even when life’s storms come my way. Receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire took a little while because I wanted to understand the experience well, and it evaded my human comprehension. I finally told God I would simply seek His face and endeavor to always please Him. Then in 1984, at an Easter meeting in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, I knelt down to pray with only a desire to thank God for the sweet fellowship and unity of His Spirit that I felt. After a short while, I felt a rushing mighty wind inside the church, and at that moment my prayer of thanksgiving was overtaken and the Holy Spirit spoke through me in another language untaught to me. As the Spirit spoke through me, I marveled!

In time, God gave me a supportive Christian wife and four loving children. Our first child was struck with cancer soon after birth. He was hospitalized for more than six months and experienced much pain as a result of chemotherapy treatments and operations. One day, the doctor phoned me at midnight to advise me of his critical condition. Although I was more than four hundred kilometers away from the child, I knew God was near him. I told God that I felt as if I would die, because I loved my son so much. However, deep in my heart, I believed God was able to heal him, so I told God I would go ahead and sleep. Indeed, I had a peaceful rest and God answered that prayer. When the doctors had given up on our son, Jesus healed him completely. The doctors marveled and called him a miracle baby each time they carried out his medical review.

I will ever be thankful to the great God of Heaven for His help in this and many more challenging situations. He has kept me and provided for my needs through all phases of life. He is my all in all and I want to remain faithful to Him to the end.



# 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, contact us and request the tract entitled "Starting Out."

# WORLD REPORT

*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is  
good; and what doth the Lord require of  
thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy,  
and to walk humbly with thy God?*

– Micah 6:8

# THE WORLDWIDE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

AS MANY CHURCH BUILDINGS ARE LEFT EMPTY, THE CHURCH BODY FINDS NEW WAYS TO CONTINUE ITS MISSION.

**T**he novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had an unprecedented global impact, touching every nation around the world. The congregations in all of our churches are facing challenges; some are health related, some economic, and some due to isolation. In all cases, we are looking to God for solutions. Following are reports of how our churches have responded to the pandemic in each region of our work.

## ASIA & AUSTRALIA

South Korea was one of the first countries to have a severe outbreak of COVID-19 and to implement a widespread national shutdown. At that time, our South Korean churches closed and began tuning in to a livestream service hosted by the headquarters church in Seoul. South Korea was also one of the first countries to reopen, and beginning May 1, the Seoul congregation resumed Sunday morning services with new distancing and hygiene measures in place. At the end of April, South Korea District Superintendent Jeong Min Kim contacted the Portland headquarters to say their congregations were doing well and they were praying for those in the United States, where the disease had spread rapidly.

Our congregations in the Philippines were placed under strict quarantine in April, forcing them to cancel their Easter camp meeting. However, the ministers assigned to preach were able to livestream their sermons, which was a blessing to the local congregations as well as some Filipino expatriates who would not have been able to join services under normal conditions. During the closure, Philippines District Superintendent Joseph Ruiz began livestreaming Sunday morning services from the Bagong Sikat headquarters church, and he hopes to continue doing so even after the quarantine is lifted.

At our church in Kawasaki, Japan, public services were canceled for at least two months, though members were able to meet occasionally in small groups and also developed an online Sunday school option for children. Our two churches in Australia are also faring well despite closures.


The nation of India faced one of the harshest national lockdowns in the world, restricting 1.3 billion residents from leaving their homes between March 25 and May 18, under penalty of up to one year in jail for violation. We have about eighty churches in two Indian states, and during the closure the majority of our church members were unable to work, much less gather for church.

When the lockdown began, Rayudu Raju, the District Superintendent of Andhra Pradesh State, explained that the situation was especially dire for the many widows of the congregations. With a donation from the Portland headquarters church, Reverend



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[<https://freevectormaps.com>]  
Globe from [vecteezy.com](https://vecteezy.com)





Raju was able to buy rice, dal, and oil to distribute to those in need. One of the few exceptions to the lockdown was the transportation of essential goods, so he hired a truck and began delivering the food. At one point he was stopped by police, but when they understood his mission, the officers thanked him fervently and told him he could travel anytime he needs to. They were able to make deliveries to six villages and the recipients were overjoyed.

## EUROPE

In the United Kingdom, for several weeks gatherings were restricted to a maximum of two people. Since our headquarters church in London had already been webcasting services for some time, they initially replayed services from their archives and held call-in prayer meetings. Soon they organized services through a video conferencing platform, with workers webcasting from multiple locations. Western Europe District Superintendent Isaac Adigun reported that though there were severe outbreaks of COVID-19 in Spain and Italy, our saints there have remained healthy.

The Scandinavia camp meeting was canceled as it normally is held during the Easter holiday, but the Scandinavia headquarters church in Stavanger, Norway, has been streaming services twice weekly. Scandinavia District Superintendent LeRoy Tønning said viewers have joined from Tromsø and Bergen, Norway, as well as Denmark and even some places in the United States and Africa.

The majority of our brethren in Romania do not have streaming capabilities, so when churches there closed, pastors encouraged families to have their own times of worship at home. Travel between towns has been strictly prohibited, with large fines for violations, but pastors have been able to stay in contact by phone and have confirmed that all our church members remain healthy. Recently, churches were allowed to begin gathering in groups of up to eight with physical distancing in place. Ted Bora, the Western Romania District Superintendent, said the believers there are doing very well and staying united in prayer.

## AFRICA

Our work in Africa is organized into three districts: West and Central Africa (WECA), where we have over one thousand church locations in seventeen countries; Southern Africa, with about seven hundred churches in nine countries; and Eastern Africa, with about one hundred and seventy churches in six countries.

Adebayo Adeniran, District Superintendent of WECA, reported that their well-organized hierarchy of regions, districts, zones, and neighborhoods has proved beneficial during the forced closures, as it allowed workers to effectively check in with congregation members and make sure they were doing all right. Easter services at the headquarters church in Lagos, Nigeria, were canceled, but food that had been intended for special meals was used instead as relief for church families in need. They were already webcasting services from the Lagos, Nigeria, headquarters church as well as broadcasting the twenty-four-hour Heritage Radio station, which proved an excellent way to continue ministering to the church body. Reverend Adeniran expressed concern for those in Cameroon, where there had been civil disorder prior to the pandemic. He stated, "It's really a challenging time. However, our God has been more than sufficient for all our needs."



In Southern Africa, District Superintendent Oniyas Gumbo said the economic impact of closures will be very challenging in his region, which was already financially distressed. Churches in several of the countries there have been using video conferencing to hold mid-week Bible studies and to livestream Sunday services, though in some areas the technology for meeting online is still not accessible. One such area is Malawi, where Chris Mateyu is the country leader. He noted that most people in Malawi do not have phones, and even fewer have smart phones, so using multimedia platforms for church is not an option for them. However, when Malawi went into a strict lockdown during the Easter holiday, church members were able to use a public address system to preach to the whole community, enabling them to reach hundreds in their homes with the Easter message. Reverend Mateyu has never visited the headquarters church in Portland, but he said he was blessed to be able to join a headquarters Sunday school class on May 10. One challenge the Malawi saints still face is that they had been greatly assisted by Zimbabweans in the past, which is no longer possible as Zimbabwe faces its own restrictions.

Eastern Africa District Superintendent Boniface Banda reported that the April camp meeting held annually in Lusaka, Zambia, had to be indefinitely postponed. However, churches are allowed to gather in groups of up to fifty, which has made it possible to hold services by dividing larger congregations into smaller groups. At the Lusaka headquarters church they formed three groups: two take turns meeting at the church and one meets at the campground.

## THE CARIBBEAN & SOUTH AMERICA

Global travel restrictions had an especially significant impact in the Caribbean islands, which normally receive tens of thousands of tourists daily. Eastern Caribbean District Superintendent Michael Anthony said that in the British Virgin Islands, half of the private sector has lost their jobs and citizens were put in a strict lockdown for several weeks, with only a few days permitted for restocking necessities. The Eastern Caribbean camp meeting was canceled as the churches moved to media platforms, and they were glad to report that a young man was saved after joining a call-in meeting held by our church in Antigua. By mid-May, the Road Town church on the island of Tortola was one of the first to implement necessary health measures and apply with the local government to reopen their building.

In the Dominican Republic, District Superintendent Deivys Pichardo said that local congregations quickly moved to a variety of media platforms for weekly meetings, but for special events like the Easter services, they combine for nationwide services. Jamaica District Superintendent Rohan Clough said our churches in Jamaica had not been webcasting previously, but they were able to watch webcasts of branches in other countries until they could set up their own digital strategy. In Haiti, District Superintendent Rolland Deler related that the saints there have not suffered greatly from the pandemic so far. The Haitian government has implemented fewer closures than most because they do not have resources to survive with a closed economy. Concern for our churches in remains as the nation was in an extremely vulnerable condition prior to the pandemic, and any further distress could be devastating.

Our work in South America includes about twenty-five churches in four countries. The leader of our Sunday school program in Iquitos, Peru, is a nurse and she was hospitalized for six days after contracting COVID-19, but is expected to make a full recovery. Church members in Chile were grateful that they could hold camp meeting this year; it ended on February 16, just weeks before the enforced closures began.

## NORTH AMERICA

The epicenter of the viral outbreak in the United States has been New York City, and we have seven churches in or near that area. Josephine McElveen, the District Superintendent of Southern and Eastern United States, related that the response of our East Coast churches included holding twice daily prayer meetings, with members of several congregations joining together in prayer. The Brooklyn, New York, church was one of the first in the country to organize a week of online-only special meetings, with guest ministers from the East and West Coasts.

The world headquarters church in Portland continued to webcast live services from the church at its regularly scheduled times, but with no audience, minimal workers present, and new health measures in place. Not only the Portland congregation but many others from around the world said they have been blessed by the services and felt the Spirit of God with them as they watched from home. The Portland Sunday school classes were moved to a video conferencing platform, and a class for adults that began in Pullman, Washington, quickly grew to unite some two hundred participants from all of our West Coast branch churches, as well as other regions and countries. For younger ages, Portland Sunday school teachers collaborated to produce a weekly video with singing, a Bible verse, a Bible story, and an object lesson. In addition, many other United States branch churches also hosted online Bible studies, prayer meetings, and services, presenting people with more opportunities to join for church than they could ever attend in person.

In Canada we have about a dozen churches and groups, and they have been able to meet locally on a number of media platforms, as well as join the online services offered from the United States churches. Canada District Superintendent Chris Hewlett said, "I believe God does have the attention of many souls during these uncertain days. May God, by divine inspiration, use this worldwide coronavirus pandemic for good. Let us pray for a harvest of souls." Just a few days later, the pastor of the church in Kitchener, Ontario, reported good news—four individuals had prayed through to salvation since the pandemic began.

We do not yet know what the final outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic will be, but as our people around the world continue looking to God, we trust He will help each congregation with every challenge it faces. We have already seen a variety of creative solutions employed to continue worship from a distance, reaching audiences in ways we had not done before. Though our international

camp meetings and other special events have been canceled, we are encouraged to see many of our saints uniting from all over the world to worship and study God's Word together online. As we thank God for what He has already done, may we have a renewed determination to support each other and hold up one another in prayer. ■



# OUR CLASSICS

*The entry to the current world headquarters campground,  
as it looked at the first camp meeting in 1920.*

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# SEEKING GOD WITH AN HONEST HEART

*This message was given on June 27, 1920,  
at the opening service of the first camp  
meeting on the Duke Street campground.*

THE 1920 SERMON THAT OPENED THE  
FIRST CAMP MEETING ON OUR WORLD  
HEADQUARTERS CAMPGROUND STILL  
RINGS TRUE TODAY.

From a sermon by Florence Crawford

**I**t is wonderful for us who are gathered here from different parts of the United States and many other countries, to know that the Blood of Jesus Christ has made all nations of one blood. We are not here because we were well thought of or because we were not well thought of, but we are here because Jesus loved us and shed His Blood that we might live.

This morning, at the beginning of this camp meeting, if there is anything that God desires to plant in your heart, it is a belief in His Word. Many a man or woman has claimed to know God for years and then come up against the Word of God, and after learning that it must abide in their hearts, have laid down this Book and said, "It is not for me." This morning God wants you to have a heart that will believe His Word.

Some come to this camp meeting from far away, and make many a sacrifice to get here, yet lurking way down in their hearts is a little seed of

unbelief, doubt, or fear. Jesus is here this morning to wipe away every doubt and fear, and put you in a position before God where you can get the very best He has for you. You are not here by chance. The great expense of labor and money that has brought this campground to a condition where it can accommodate you has not been for nothing. It has been brought about because God loves your soul. He has planted a desire in the hearts of Gospel workers to see the old time religion fastened upon human hearts, that each might grow unto a full stature in Christ Jesus, that on the Judgment Day they might be presented unto Him spotless.

This old world today is abounding with false doctrines and crooked and spurious religions to draw men's hearts away from the true Gospel of Christ. But God Almighty is planting in the hearts of men and women in these days a desire to know the truth, and the truth is going to set them free.

There is nothing that will cause you to stand in





these last days but the old time religion. We are just upon the breaking forth of the awful Tribulation, which follows after Jesus comes to catch away His waiting Bride, and God is drawing the hearts of men to Him. God Himself will plant the loyalty in your soul to serve the true and the living God if you will submit to Him with an honest heart.

Many people desire to have the blessings that go with the old time religion, but do not produce an honest heart. Many are looking for healing or the power for service. There was a man named Simon, who saw the miracles Phillip did in Samaria and wanted the power of God on his own life. When Peter and John came and prayed for some who then received the Holy Ghost, Simon dug down in his pocket and offered up his silver so that they might give him that same power. But God rebuked him through the Apostles saying that his soul was “in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity” (Acts 8:23).

God doesn’t want anything that you have, but an honest and a contrite heart. God will not give you power for service until you first furnish Him with an honest heart.

There was a man on this earth whom God loved, named Job. God was not afraid to let this man be tested, because He knew the integrity of his heart. In Job 1:6, we read that there was a day when the sons of God presented themselves to the Lord, and Satan came with them. God asked Satan, “Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?” (Job 1:8). There was something in the heart of Job that God could trust.

How many of us this morning are coveting a heart like Job’s? How many of us are willing to say, “Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reigns and my heart” (Psalm 26:2)? God loves an honest heart. An honest heart will bring the commendation of the Spirit. It will bring forth

faith to let the power of the Blood reach the soul. God longs for each person here to have an honest heart before Him, and He can give it to anyone who will seek for it.

Just as Satan was among the sons of God, he may be sitting near you. He may be telling you it is not necessary to seek God. The Bible tells us the harvest is ripe and the laborers are few. Many in this place desire to go out into the harvest field, and well they should, but God wants men and women who are endued with power from on high. There is nothing short of the power of God that will hold you in the service of the Lord in these days, and God has it for every man, woman, and child that sits under this canopy today.

God tested Job by allowing the enemy of his soul to afflict him. Job’s livestock, and then his children were taken away, but oh, there was something in the heart of this man that made him able to stand! He was not leaning on his livestock; he was not leaning on his children; he was not leaning on anything that he possessed. He was leaning on God, and serving Him from the depths of his heart. There are many souls who would be out of this Gospel today if

they were looking to the things about them, but God’s people are looking to Him, the great God of Heaven.

When Job heard that his children and possessions had been taken away, he did not say, “I will despise the God of Heaven,” but he worshiped and praised God. He said, “The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD” (Job 1:21).

The time came when Job’s body was afflicted also, and wasted. Still, he praised God, because his heart was right in the sight of God. Though afflictions come, though persecutions come, though possessions are lost, people whose hearts are right with God are able to stand true to Him.



**The Bible tells us the harvest is ripe and the laborers are few. Many in this place desire to go out into the harvest field, and well they should, but God wants men and women who are endued with power from on high.**



I wonder how many in this tabernacle could take the place of Job. If your hedge were taken away for a little while, would your experience of salvation begin to weaken? Would you begin to get discouraged? It doesn't take much for some people to give up, but we don't find that man Job doing anything of the kind, because his heart was right in the sight of God. At times, God permits the hedge to be taken away, and old Satan comes in and afflicts, but God allows only what the heart can stand. He tries those who are weak with a little test, and when they start to shake and wobble, He withholds that trial until they grow deeper into Him. If there is some weakness in you this morning, or a place where you are not sure that you can stand, there are altar benches here where you can pray and go deeper with God. He will put something in your heart that will make you able to stand. That is the best part of it.

God will give you old time Bible salvation. That is the greatest thing in the earth today. Lots of people exalt sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and well they should, but these are not greater than salvation. You will need to get the old time salvation before you will be able to receive sanctification or be baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire.

When you start right, you can obtain the experiences that God has for you. God also has power to heal, and if that is what you came for, remember that God loves your soul more than He loves your body. He would rather see your soul saved and your body go to the grave, than see your body healed and your soul lost. If you are here to seek God, He will give you all that He has for you: salvation, sanctification, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Yesterday, after the last thing had been put in place on these grounds—the tents had been set up, the last touches had been given to the restaurant, and everything had been done on this campground to make it as comfortable as possible for the campers—I went to my tent and fell on my face. I said, “Oh God, I thank and praise You that You have provided a place for the children of the Lord to come together where they can worship You in Spirit and in truth, where they can be shielded from crooked doctrine, where they can be shielded

from the indecency that is in the world today,” and I said, “Oh God, just for the Word now, to make it all complete,” and He gave me the last Psalm:

*“Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.” – Psalm 150:1-6*

Many of you are strangers here and do not feel at home, but we want you to feel at home. We want you to feel that this is your camp meeting. We want you to feel that this is God's tabernacle. As we go to prayer, we ask every man, woman, and child to feel free to pour out your souls to God. If you will do it, He will do the rest. ■



*Reverend Florence Crawford was the founder of the Apostolic Faith Church. After being saved as a young mother, she received sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Spirit during the Azusa Revival of 1906 in Los Angeles, California, and then God led her to Portland, Oregon, where she established the Apostolic Faith work.*





# A PASSION AND A PURPOSE

THE FOUNDER OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH WORK IN NIGERIA TELLS HOW GOD MADE A RADICAL CHANGE IN HIS LIFE, WHICH INSPIRED HIS ZEAL TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS.

By Timothy Oshokoya

**M**y heart is grateful for the light that has shone on my life. I was born of parents who were professing Christians, though my grandparents were pagans. My parents were greatly interested in my training, but I was very naughty and rebellious from my youth.

After my schooling was completed, I was sin-bound: a drunkard, a smoker, and a counterfeiter. For many years, I lived without peace, destitute of God. One time, while under detention in an Abeokuta prison, awaiting trial for being in possession of counterfeit coins, the Lord convicted me of my pride and worldly ambition. Alone in the solitary cell I had, as it were, a panorama of my past life, and a heavy remorse came into my heart. I reflected that if my father's plans had been allowed to materialize, I should have completed a theological seminary course and become the pastor of a church. Then, God spoke to me that it was pride that had brought me thus far. I admitted it, and started to plead for forgiveness. I entered into a covenant with God that if in His mercy He

would set me free, without being imprisoned, I would give the honor and glory to Him alone. I would also serve Him faithfully the rest of my life. I promised God I would not engage in the illegal business again, but I would live to tell of His love and mercy.

God answered my prayer and early in 1938, I was acquitted by the court and discharged. Shortly thereafter, whilst praying one day, I had a wonderful experience which flooded my heart with joy that knew no bounds. I felt a great change in me and all about me. I knew I had one special blessing from God. I felt the presence of God with me every time and everywhere. But more than that, God changed my heart. He delivered me from all my sins and other ills. I lost the taste for anything flamboyant. I straightened up my life and gave away all I had to the poor as restitution. Later, when I confessed my counterfeiting to the government, I was freely forgiven.

The experience put so much thirst in me that it prompted me to desire more of God and prayer.



I came in contact with a church that was very popular throughout Nigeria. There I became a preacher, preaching holiness without practicing it, and teaching others to receive a fleshly experience. I carried this false doctrine for several years.

About that time, I received an *Apostolic Faith* paper. I shall never forget how my heart thrilled when I read the true teachings of our Lord Jesus. I knew I needed something more than I had, so in 1942, I wrote to the Apostolic Faith Church in Portland, Oregon, for more tracts and papers. One day, the testimony of one who had been saved and sanctified caught my eye. I read tracts on sanctification and realized that the experience of sanctification was what I needed. I wanted to travel to Portland because nowhere in Nigeria was there an Apostolic Faith Church, and I hungered to worship and be sanctified and filled with the true Spirit of God.

I tried to join the cleaning crew on an American boat in order to go to America, but that was not possible. So I started to pray with a group of four men, and we resigned from the church we were connected with. We began following the teachings I read about in the *Apostolic Faith* papers. God then sanctified and filled us with the Holy Spirit. It is wonderful to look back and see how God led us. Though we had no leader, He taught us, for we were willing to learn and to receive His blessings. This glorious Gospel taught us that we could live a life of victory over sin, and what a change it made in our lives! We were able to live overcoming lives!

After receiving my experiences, I had a burden to preach the true Gospel. God moved upon the hearts of the ministers in Portland and they sent us a missionary, George Hughes. What rejoicing that brought to our souls! He was able to show us more Gospel truths and teach us by example.

In the years since then, God has led and directed in every area of my life. His protecting hand has been over me through the years. He has kept me

under His wings as I journeyed through many African countries. There have been times when I faced ghastly and near-fatal motor accidents, but God miraculously spared my life. By His stripes I have been healed of many illnesses. And for well over a quarter of a century, I have been able to preach the Gospel.

I cannot praise the Lord enough for His goodness and mercy. I lay my life down at His feet

so that He can purge me and mold me into His image. I, along with my African family in the Lord, want to be among the redeemed who will meet Him in the Rapture.

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*The life of Timothy Oshokoya cannot be separated from the*

*growth and progress of the Apostolic Faith work in West and Central Africa. By the year 1944, the work in Lagos was born as he started holding meetings in his home. Tracts and magazines arrived regularly from the Portland headquarters and were faithfully distributed. He traveled far and wide with the Good News, and the Gospel soon spread to various parts of Nigeria, and then throughout western and central Africa, and even beyond.*

*In 1951 and again in 1956, Reverend Oshokoya attended camp meeting at the Portland headquarters church and was greatly impacted by these visits. As a result, in July 1949, he organized the first camp meeting in Lagos with delegates coming from Ghana, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, the Republic of Benin, and all parts of Nigeria. Later in Lagos an orchestra was formed, a printing plant was established, and construction of a tabernacle was begun.*

*Reverend Oshokoya's missionary undertakings, his fortitude through all types of circumstances, and his exemplary personal life were inspiring to all who came in contact with him. He went to his reward in Heaven on November 16, 1983. ■*

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**It is wonderful to look back and see how God led us. Though we had no leader, He taught us, for we were willing to learn and to receive His blessings.**



# AN INFIDEL AND A SCOFFER SOLD OUT FOR GOD

THE MAN WHO ENGINEERED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TABERNACLE ON THE APOSTOLIC FAITH WORLD HEADQUARTERS CAMPGROUND TELLS HOW GOD GOT AHOLD OF HIS LIFE.

**I** thank God for the Name of Jesus—the Name I used disparagingly on my lips for years. It is the sweetest Name on earth to me today because it is through that Name that my life has been transformed. I was a prosperous North Dakota farmer who started out with a large farm when only seventeen years of age. While still a lad, I went to the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities and took up mechanical engineering, and later graduated from North Dakota State College as a civil engineer.

After I spent seven years in college, I came out a believer in the Darwinian Theory, and was nothing but an infidel and a scoffer against God. I did not believe in God or the hereafter, and tried to prove there was no God, yet I'm thankful that underneath it all, I feared Him in my heart.

Everything I put my hand to prospered. I made money, as the saying goes, "hand over fist." I had everything I could wish for in this world—a beautiful country home, an eight-hundred-acre farm, and considerable city property. Those were the idols of my heart. I was entirely wrapped up in the world and in piling up wealth: a slave to the almighty dollar. Money was my god. I was also a slave to my fellowman's



opinions, and prided myself on the success of my business. Yet, there was an aching void in my heart, and I used to say, "What good will all this stuff do me when I am dead and gone?" At age thirty-eight I began to think my life was a miserable failure.

One day, while in my garage, God spoke to my soul, and tears started to flow from my eyes. From that moment, I didn't care whether I made another dollar. I had bought my first Cadillac—about the first car that came out with an electric starter—and it had a beautiful

motor with copper-jacketed cylinders. I started out touring the country. In those days traveling wasn't as easy as it is today. We didn't have road maps, and I got lost; but God had His hand in that. I stopped at a little railway station to inquire about the road. The young depot agent told me which way to go, and he said, "Here, take this paper along.

It will do you good. I just came from Portland, Oregon, from a wonderful camp meeting!"

I didn't think much more of it, but when I stopped that night I began to read that Apostolic Faith paper. As I read those testimonies, my heart began to melt, and I longed to see the people who could get such results out of the Bible. I had been looking for a people who had the truth, lived it, and held the standard where it belonged. For years I had tried to overthrow the faith of my fellowman and was one of those infidels who would argue and argue, but you can't tamper with the Bible without getting under conviction if you have any honesty at all.

Finally I said, "I'm going to Portland to find out if these people have what they are talking about!" In 1916, I drove 1800 miles to investigate this work. As I sat in their meeting hall, I looked on the faces of several hundred of the happiest people I had ever seen, and I coveted what they

had. I heard the ex-drunkard get up and shout the victory, and tell what God had done for him. I had never heard such testimonies before. I saw the shine of Heaven on the faces of those people. When I heard there was power in the Blood of Jesus to keep a man living without sin, I could hardly believe it. I knew it would be wonderful if God could enable a man to live that way.

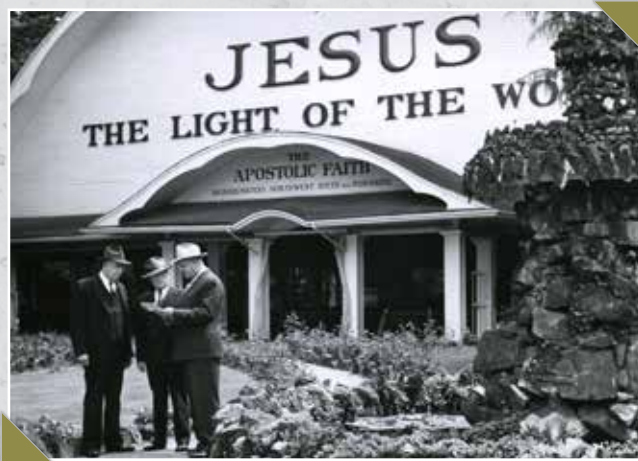
As I listened to those testimonies, I saw my own fallen state. I saw that I had never met God's conditions: I had never repented with godly

sorrow for my sin. The Lord showed me how proud and sinful my heart was, even with all my sincerity and so-called morality, and that I was still just a sinner on my way to Hell. My sins came before me. The Lord showed me my past life like a great panorama. There I was, supposed to be a moral, upright, honorable man! My word was as good as gold. I could go into any one of a half-a-dozen banks in

North Dakota, and borrow the limit without a promissory note. No one would have dreamed that I could turn some of the underhanded deals I did.

But God keeps books. He showed me those cunning, underhanded business deals. He showed me the men I had in my employ that I had underpaid. God showed me the padded invoices, and all the rest of it. He let me see I was lost and undone and needed His power to take sin out of my life. All my "morality" was as filthy rags in His sight.

I thought it would be hard for me to write letters of confession back to the state where I was well known, but God told me, "There is a way out—pay the price!" I backed off for a time, took out the Bible to see whether a man could really live without sin as those people had testified, and I found that their message agreed with the Word of God exactly. All through the Bible, I found that we must live a life without sin—a holy life every day.



(Left to right) Reverend Jack Robbins, George Hughes, and Reverend Ray Crawford in front of the campground tabernacle George helped design and build.



I would go and stand out in front of the Apostolic Faith Mission in the evenings when they loaded the Gospel cars for street meetings, and think that was a wonderful thing. Those people all looked like hard-working people, yet they came out in the evenings with earnestness and zeal to tell others what God had done. They had something real to bring them out after a hard day's work.

Finally, I went back to the Mission, and meant business.

I walked down the aisle to the altar after the service was over, got on my knees, and cried to God for mercy. I opened up to God,

saying, "Lord, if You will give me victory over the powers of Hell that have ruled my heart for years and years, make salvation real to me, deliver me from my sins, and give me peace, faith, and power to live right, I will give You my life and straighten it out. I will begin tomorrow to make the confessions and restitutions."

Those Christian people gathered about me and prayed for me, and when I was willing to pay the price of the Gospel, God saved me. I felt the powers of darkness leave; I felt the chains snap, and I was set free. Why, the price was nothing but to forsake my old sins and make my back life straight! When God saved me, this infidel became a believer. The purity and peace of Heaven came down in my soul. My heart was filled with faith and the joy of the Lord, and I walked up and down the aisles praising the living God. Old things had passed away and all things had become new. I was a new creature in Christ Jesus. The power of God was in my soul to live a life that I had never thought could be lived.

I didn't sleep much that night. I was up early the next day, and began to write letters. The Lord was right there to remind me of every crooked deal; they came before me as though I had committed them the day before. I told the people just what had happened, and I didn't make excuses. One

letter was to a college I had attended for five years. It was mighty hard for me to confess that, among other things, I stole items out of the laboratories. I spent nearly the whole day writing letters of restitution and enclosing the checks to cover the wrongs. My restitutions cost me a great deal of money, but I was so happy to get that life cleaned up that I couldn't contain myself. It brought faith to my heart. Thank God I straightened out that

old life, and today I have a conscience void of offence toward God and man.

I told the leaders of this organization I wanted to put some money into the work. They said, "The Lord doesn't need money. He needs lives." So I consecrated my whole life

to Him. What the world could not give me, I found at the foot of the Cross. I have been happy since, because God changed my life.

God also healed my body. For many years I had suffered with asthma. At times, I was awake all night and couldn't even lie down, but God healed me and I am delivered.

These past fifty years prove that the Bible is true. It is a wonderful Book to me. It means my very life. The peace and reality I found in the blessed old Bible, tongue can never tell. I praise God He ever gave me an honest heart. He brought me to His own people and revealed this mighty Gospel to me. He flooded my soul with joy from Heaven, and today I am a child of the King, saved through the Blood of Jesus Christ. This wonderful Gospel has filled my soul and life with something that I wouldn't exchange for the wealth of the whole round world.

*William Paulson attended the Apostolic Faith Church in Portland, Oregon, and also served for many years as secretary-treasurer of the organization. He negotiated the purchase of the Portland campground and also engineered the construction of the tabernacle. In addition, he helped with the construction of several Apostolic Faith churches in North America. He died November 11, 1966, at the age of 89.*

**...when I was willing to pay the price of the Gospel, God saved me. I felt the powers of darkness leave; I felt the chains snap, and I was set free.**



# 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](http://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*  
THE LIGHT *of* THE WORLD