

THE Apostolic Faith

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021



Look to
Jesus

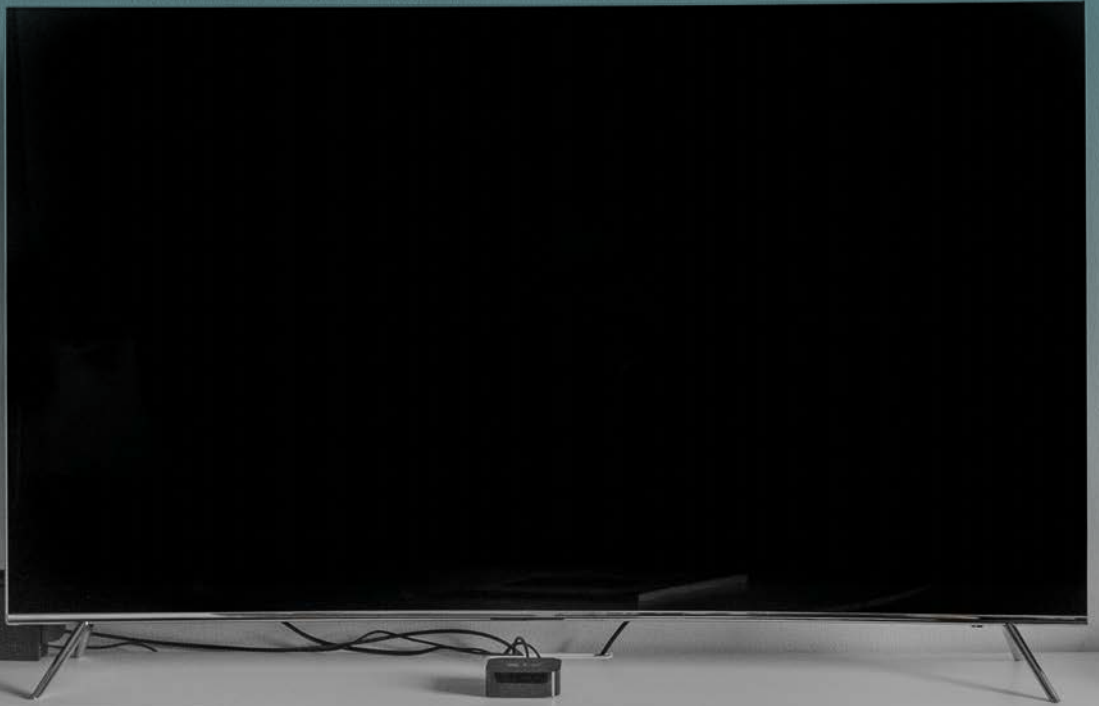
COVER STORY

6

When the news
and the noise
of the world is
troubling . . .

LOOK TO JESUS

FROM THE WORD



DEPARTMENTS

- 4 VIEWPOINT
- 5 FROM THE WORD
- 22 WITNESS
- 37 WORLD REPORT
- 40 OUR CLASSICS



FROM THE WORD

11 A BIBLICAL FORMULA FOR HAPPINESS

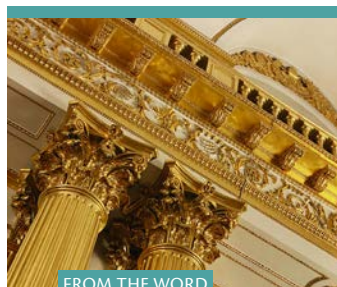
Academics have failed to pinpoint the source of true happiness, but God's Word reveals it.



FROM THE WORD

14 DON'T FAINT!

Fainting goats may be comical, but fainting Christians are no laughing matter.



FROM THE WORD

18 MORE THAN EXPECTED

A curious queen's journey parallels what happens when a person investigates the Gospel.



WITNESS

23 OUT OF DARKNESS INTO THE LIGHT

Agustin was set free from witchcraft and now lives to see others find freedom in Christ.



WITNESS

27 COMMAS, CRITIQUES . . . AND A CHANCE TO LEARN!

Do we cringe at correction, or view it as an opportunity to improve?



WITNESS

31 PROVING THE VALUE OF PRAYER

Edis found everything she wanted and needed in Jesus.



38 SHORT TAKES

FRANCE

+ Audio Version of Our Daily Devotionals in French

UNITED STATES

+ Answer Curriculum Redesign

ZAMBIA

+ Zambia Meetings Yield Many Blessings

TANZANIA

+ First Water Baptism in Kasulu, Tanzania



WORLD REPORT



OUR CLASSICS

41 FACING GIANTS

If you're feeling like the problems in your life are towering over you, read how you can become a giant slayer!



OUR CLASSICS

STEPS TO SALVATION

33 WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

To receive salvation from God, we must acknowledge, confess, repent, forsake, and believe.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

47 A STATEMENT OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

We believe in the divine inspiration of the Bible, and endorse all the teachings contained in it.

44 LED TO THE TRUTH

Her father's move from Hungary to Canada began a series of events which resulted in her salvation.

VIEWPOINT

By Darrel Lee, Superintendent General



EVEN IN A GOD-FEARING NATION, EXPERIENCING THE BLESSINGS OF THE GOSPEL REMAINS AN INDIVIDUAL CHOICE.

Does God have a place in American history? A recent visit to Washington D.C. reminded Debbie and me that the Founding Fathers believed so. Evidence of their God-fearing attitudes still exists. While many in our current culture attempt to remove God from America's past, they face a literally monumental task in their efforts to do so. Eliminating God from our founding will require tearing down one Washington Mall monument, memorial, and museum after another.

"Laus Deo" are the Latin words inscribed on the cap of the 555-foot Washington Monument. The English translation is, "Praise be to God." At the first inaugural address of this new country, President George Washington declared, "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States." In the National Archives Museum, an image of the Ten Commandments is engraved on the floor of its entrance. Displayed inside that museum is the Declaration of Independence, the signers of which recognized God's beneficence with the words, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Our historical buildings and documents are replete with imagery and direct Scriptural references that bear out the truth that American history cannot be accurately understood when it ignores our Maker. Yet, we cannot declare that all our Founders were Christians, especially not in the sense we expect of holiness people. This is proof that a culture rooted in Judeo-Christian



values does not liberate people from the condition of carnality. A group of Jews once exclaimed to Jesus, "We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man" (John 8:33), but those same individuals were servants of sin. Jesus proclaimed that the freedom which matters most could only be found in Him. Each person must experience a life-changing, crisis encounter with Jesus that gives the assurance of sins forgiven. That was true at the founding of this nation and it remains the case in our day as well.

Whether good or bad, a national heritage does not grant us greater or lesser standing before God. This reality is seen in the testimonies in this magazine, including a troubled young Peruvian who was rescued by God from the darkness of witchcraft (see page 23) and a Zimbabwean woman who was taught to worship ancestral spirits before learning of God's plan of salvation (see page 31). May this edition of *The Apostolic Faith* remind us that God is interested in saving sinners of all nationalities and backgrounds. Therefore, a more important question than asking if God has a place in our nation's history is this: Does He have a place in your personal history?

Darrel D Lee

O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

— Psalm 119:5-6

From **THE WORD**

6 LOOK TO JESUS

11 A BIBLICAL FORMULA FOR HAPPINESS

14 DON'T FAINT!

18 MORE THAN EXPECTED

WHEN THE NEWS AND THE
NOISE OF THE WORLD IS
TROUBLING . . .

LOOK TO JESUS



By
Gary Riler

When we look around at the world today and see situations and circumstances that are troubling, it is easy to fall into the trap of trying to figure out a solution. We want to determine what is right and what is wrong, what is true and what is not. We listen to the news and want to do something about the problems taking place, but instead may just end up frustrated or confused. Worse yet, we could be tempted to burden each other with our opinions and complaints. None of this leaves us or our friends feeling very good, because confusion and complaints are tools of the devil. The Word of God does not direct us to do any of these things in response to the problems around us. It says to look to Jesus, “the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2). This world needs Jesus! We have loved ones, friends, co-workers, and classmates who need Jesus. That is at the heart of every problem, and He is the solution.

We cannot change the world, but by looking to Jesus for a personal change of heart or a closer



walk with Him, we can experience peace within and have an impact on our community.

HUMBLE YOURSELF AND ANSWER GOD'S CALL

Looking to Jesus starts with humbling ourselves. We read in 1 Peter 5:6, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time." Humbling ourselves before God includes placing ourselves under His mighty hand—being obedient to His call. There are many examples in the Bible of people who humbled themselves, submitted to God's will, and experienced a change of heart that also impacted the people around them.

One example is Zacchaeus, whose account is given in Luke 19. He was a wealthy tax collector who was hated by many for exacting too much tax and keeping the extra. When Jesus came to his town, Zacchaeus was curious to see who He was. However, being short of stature, his view was blocked by the crowd. Determined to see Jesus, he

climbed up into a tree. When Jesus passed by, He looked up and told Zacchaeus to prepare to receive Him as a guest in his house. Zacchaeus hurriedly obeyed the Lord's command, and hosted Him. Then he made a full surrender, repenting of his sin. As a result, his life and his community were changed. He pledged to give half of his goods to the poor and restore fourfold what he had stolen.

We read about Saul of Tarsus in Acts, chapter 9. He was a religious zealot who persecuted disciples of Jesus, seeking to have them bound, brought to Jerusalem, and killed. He was sure he was doing right until the Lord stopped him in his tracks. As he was traveling on the road to Damascus, a bright light brought him to his knees, and he had an encounter with Jesus. In the days following, God revealed to him the sufferings he would endure for the Gospel. He submitted to God's authority, and became Paul the Apostle, preaching Christ rather than persecuting His followers.

When the Lord calls someone, it is very effective. When we feel God speaking to our hearts, there is no denying it. In high school, I had a friend who started talking to me about things in the Book of Revelation. I had no idea what he was talking about, but I wanted to appear like I did, so I started reading Revelation. Then one night, I went to bed and felt something in my spirit. Looking back on it now, I know the Lord was speaking to my heart. When we seek the Lord by looking into His Word, He will take that opportunity to communicate with us. He will call after our hearts. I had never experienced anything like that before, and I did not want to again. I did not respond in the way that I should have, and God did not trouble my heart again for a long time.

Zacchaeus and the Apostle Paul did respond to God's call. They humbled themselves and obeyed, and their lives were changed, along with the lives of those around them.

SEEK GOD FOR A CLOSER WALK

When we look to the Lord, it should be intentional, with a purpose to seek a closer walk with Him. In Jeremiah 29:13 we read, "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Seeking to draw closer to God is not something to do incidentally; it needs to be deliberate. It is not something we just think about

doing, but we must put forth effort and carve out time for earnest prayer. When we go about it this way, we are promised results.

Looking into chapter 6 of Isaiah, verses 1-8, we find the prophet in prayer. King Uzziah had just died, and with change comes uncertainty—especially when the change is in leadership. Isaiah was seeking the Lord, and he saw quite a scene. God was “sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.” Above Him were angels proclaiming, “Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.” In drawing closer to God, and seeing who He is, Isaiah realized there was something lacking within himself; he realized his need to be purified. Overwhelmed, he said, “Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips.” There was nothing Isaiah could do about his condition except acknowledge his need and look Heavenward. As he did, an angel took a live coal from off the altar and touched it to his lips, purging his sin and cleansing him. Then this question came from the Lord, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Isaiah responded, “Here am I; send me.”

When we look to the Lord with purpose, seeking to draw closer to Him, He will reveal where we are lacking. As we surrender these areas to Him, He will enable us to do His will and to minister to those around us.

CAST YOUR CARES UPON HIM

Part of looking to Jesus is giving our burdens to Him. Returning to 1 Peter, chapter 5, we see that after we have humbled ourselves and submitted to God’s authority, the next step is “casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (verse 7).

King Hezekiah is one who humbled himself and sought God, casting all his cares upon Him, and found a solution to the problem he and his people were facing. The account is given in 2 Kings 18:17-37; 19:1-36. The king of Assyria, after conquering all of the neighboring nations, was ready to take Judah, beginning with the city of Jerusalem. Part of his process was to intimidate those who lived there into simply surrendering. He sent representatives

backed by a great army to declare to the people that trusting in their king and in God would not save them. After all, many other nations had trusted in kings and gods, and they had been destroyed.

When the people did not surrender, the Assyrian king sent a letter to Hezekiah stating, “Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee, saying,

Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria” (2 Kings

19:10). King Hezekiah took the letter,

along with the cares that were burdening him, spread them out before the Lord, and prayed. He did not try to figure out a solution himself. He did not say, “They are speaking lies about my God, and

I am going to do something about

that.” He took everything to the Lord,

and his attitude was, “The battle is Yours.”

As a result, God delivered him and his people.

Another man who cast his cares upon the Lord had a son who was possessed with an evil spirit. In Mark 9:16-29, we read that the spirit tormented and tortured the boy, causing him to foam at the mouth and fall into fires. The father went to the disciples first, but they could not help him. Then, he turned to the Lord with his plight. Jesus said, “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” The man replied with tears, “Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief,” and Jesus healed his son.

When we look to Jesus, casting all our concerns upon Him, we will find the solution to our problems. He will help us.

KNOW GOD’S WORD

Prayer is one way in which we can look to our Savior for guidance and help in troubling times. Another way is to turn to the Bible. We find in Romans 10:17 that “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Especially when problems arise, it is important that we know and understand God’s Word so we can respond in accordance with His will. In every situation, however, we need that foundation of truth in our hearts so all our actions will glorify God and His blessing will be on our lives. We are told in James 1:25 that “whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he



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being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

One time, I attended a church service where at the close just the Christians were asked to stand. At that point in my life, I had not read the Bible much, and did not understand salvation. However, I had gone to church almost my whole life, so I stood up. Within about ten seconds, I began to tremble and could not stop. I did not know why this was happening, but in looking back now I can see that the Lord was being faithful to speak to my heart. He was letting me know that there is more to being a Christian than what I had thought. We need to know the Word of God so we can act according to His will and not our own ideas.

We also need to be able to recognize and discern when we hear something that doesn't align with God's will. We read in Hebrews 12:15, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." In his commentary on this verse, theologian Adam Clark explained, "A root of bitterness signifies a poisonous plant." He went on to say, "The root of bitterness is here used metaphorically for a bad man, or a man holding unsound doctrines, and endeavoring to spread them in the Church." We need to look diligently into the Word of God. When our faith is grounded in God's Word, we will not be swayed by what others are doing or saying.

THE RESULT IS FELLOWSHIP

People can be very persuasive. We live in a society when differing points of view are strongly felt. In Matthew 24:10, Jesus was speaking to His disciples about the signs that would precede His return and said, "Then shall many be offended . . ." This is true today. So many people have such strong opinions about matters that it doesn't take much to offend someone. There is nothing wrong with having differing convictions. However, the verse continues, ". . . and [many] shall betray one another, and shall hate one another." We also see this happening in the world today, and we don't want such division to get into the church. It will not if we all look to Jesus. In a world that is divided, looking to the Lord will not only result in a closer fellowship with Him, but also with other believers.



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yourself
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When my wife and I were preparing to marry, we learned about the marriage triangle. This is an illustration of a triangle with God positioned at the top point, and each spouse at one of the two base points. It is used to demonstrate that as the spouses draw closer to God individually, they become closer to each other.

This concept applies to congregations as well. In his book "The Pursuit of God," A. W. Tozer uses the example of a tuning fork to explain. A tuning fork is a tool that resonates at a specific pitch when struck, and is used to tune musical instruments. An excerpt from the book says, "Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers meeting together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship."

We will maintain a close fellowship with each other if we will first look to the Lord and draw near to Him.

LOOK UP TO JESUS!

Are you disturbed by the events going on in the world today? Do you find yourself becoming frustrated and discouraged by the problems you see all around you? When that happens, look up to Jesus! He is the solution.

It starts with humbling yourself and surrendering your life to Him, along with your burdens. If you will do this much, the Lord will help you. He will "make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you" (1 Peter 5:10). He will give you peace in these unsettling times.

Where are you looking today? Look up! ■

Reverend Gary Riler is a minister and the Music Director for the headquarters Apostolic Faith Church in Portland, Oregon.

¹ Clarke, Adam, *The Adam Clarke Commentary*, Public Domain.

² Tozer, A.W., *The Pursuit of God* (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2015), p100.

A BIBLICAL FORMULA FOR HAPPINESS



ACADEMICS HAVE FAILED TO PINPOINT THE SOURCE OF TRUE HAPPINESS, BUT GOD'S WORD REVEALS IT.



By Gabriel Ajayi

Without exception, human beings are always in pursuit of happiness. At an international conference in 1972, the king of Bhutan introduced the concept of Gross National Happiness, which brought increased attention to the new field of “the science of happiness.” Since then, academics have continued trying to identify factors that bring lasting satisfaction and joy. Hundreds of books have been written, and scores of conferences have been held on the topic. Despite all these efforts, we can see that the experts have not succeeded. However, what remains elusive to them—the source of true happiness—is explained plainly in the Word of God.

In John 13:17 we find the principle that so many are seeking: “If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.” Put simply, this verse means that we will be happy if we know the will of God and then do it. This is essentially a Biblical formula for happiness.

A mathematician might state it this way: “happiness equals knowledge plus obedience.” Let’s take a closer look at each component of this formula to help us better understand the source of true happiness.

HAPPINESS

It is important to begin with a right understanding of what happiness is. The word *happy* in John 13:17 means “supremely blessed.” This word does not imply an absence of earthly sorrows; if that were part of the definition, then no one could be happy, because sorrows are impossible to escape in this world. Rather, the state that is referred to in this verse is a favor which only comes from God. It begins when we are reconciled to Him at salvation, and His blessing remains upon us as long as we stay faithful to Him. God is the source of true happiness, and it cannot be found apart from Him.

We read in Ecclesiastes 5:10, “He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.” Happiness does not come from possessions, wealth, or power. Nor can sin satisfy, and it leaves a bitter aftertaste. It is certain that those who seek happiness in temporal things will never be satisfied. They may experience a measure of joy from certain events or amusements, but it cannot last long because it is dependent on circumstances, which are always changing. On the other hand, the happiness we experience when God’s blessing rests upon our lives is unchanging. It triumphs over earthly sorrows and disappointments.

FROM THE WORD

Recently we heard testimonies from some of our brethren who are unable to walk because of physical disabilities. Yet in spite of their challenges, they were praising God for their salvation. The joy of God radiated from their lives! What a reminder that no matter what our circumstances, we can all experience the joy of the Lord.

Conversely, consider the example of the Children of Israel in Exodus 15. After God set them free from bondage in Egypt, He used Moses to lead them through the wilderness. However, after going three days without finding water, they began to murmur against Moses. They failed to have faith in God. They had been miraculously freed from slavery, yet they were unhappy because of a lack of water!

This account represents a typical attitude of mankind. Oftentimes, no matter how much people have, they want more. One man who has healthy feet will complain that he has no shoes to wear, while another man who has disabled feet praises God for his life! The difference between people like the Israelites who complained and our disabled brethren who expressed the goodness of God, was their own choice to be grateful for their greatest blessing—knowing God and experiencing His favor. That is why our brethren have “joy unspeakable and full of glory.” That is the true happiness that is available to all of us today.

KNOWLEDGE

The first requirement in the Biblical formula for happiness is “If ye know these things . . .” If we do not know what God would have us to do, then we certainly will not be able to do it. Knowing is a requirement for doing the will of God, so we are enjoined to learn the Word of God.

Scripture itself teaches us the importance of studying God’s Word. Paul advised Timothy, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). Christ Himself said, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls” (Matthew 11:29). God told Joshua, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then



God has happiness for us,
but we have a part to play:
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thou shalt have good success” (Joshua 1:8). The truth leads to eternal life, while falsehood leads to sin and Hell. If we want true happiness, it is imperative that we know the truth.

Regardless of how long we have been saved, our desire should be to know more and more about God and His Word. We can never know enough about God. Even Moses, after he had been walking with God for many years, prayed, “Show me thy way, that I may know thee” (Exodus 33:13). Later we read how God answered Moses’ prayer and allowed him to see part of Himself. The man who was closest to God desired to draw closer still, and God granted his request. We all have so much yet to learn about God; may He give us the desire to know Him more.

OBEDIENCE

Christianity is a practical religion. It is not just something to study and talk about; the Word of God is meant to be lived. We understand that knowledge is important, yet even more important is what we do with the knowledge we gain from Scripture. It is wasted if we do not apply it to our lives and put it into practice, and we will never experience the true happiness that comes from God without obedience.

Our Lord epitomized practical Christianity. He taught not only with words but also through His life and actions. A true disciple of Christ is not only acquainted with what He taught but actually follows His example. Jesus said in John 15:14, “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command

you.” May God help us to be doers of His Word!

If we were merely professing, preaching, and teaching the Word, but not practicing it, then we would be hypocrites. A religion like that is worthless; it will not bring happiness and will not satisfy the soul. I know this because I was raised in that type of religion, and as a result I decided to stop attending church. Thank God, in 1966 at the University of Ibadan, I met a Christian man. I told him my situation, and he brought me to an Apostolic Faith Church where I learned of the transforming power in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and there I found happiness. That was over fifty years ago, and my soul is still satisfied!

God has happiness for us, but we have a part to play: we must obey God’s Word. We must do what we have learned. We must practice what we know!

PROVING THE FORMULA

Some may question how God can give happiness in the midst of great trials. We may go through experiences that cause us to doubt if it can be true, but we have a promise that “weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning” (Psalm 30:5). Where there is obedience to the will of God, the joy will be there. This is God’s promise to us.

Think of Abraham, who waited so many years for his promised son, and then God told him to sacrifice that son. Genesis 22:2 records that God said to him, “Take now thy son, thine only

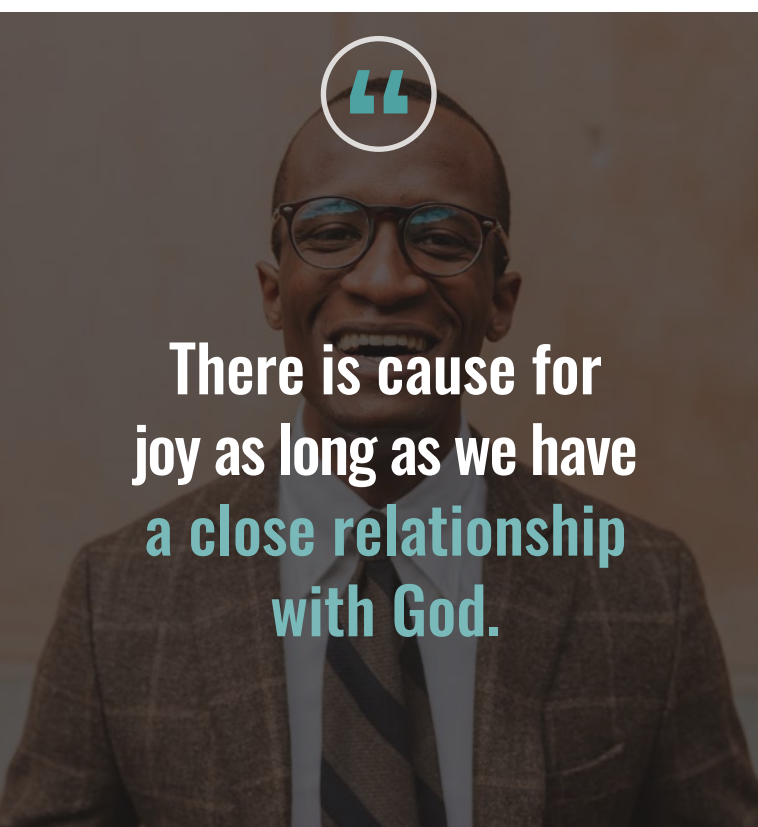
son Isaac, whom thou lovest . . .” Abraham *did* love Isaac, but not more than he loved God. If he had loved Isaac more, that would have been the end of his close relationship with God. While God ultimately provided a substitute for Isaac, Abraham put his faith into practice by his willingness to obey. When our faith is tested, God will also give us the grace to pass the test. Abraham proved the formula—he knew God’s will, he obeyed, and he received God’s blessing on his life. And we can learn from his example.

Job is another example. God Himself testified of Job that he was perfect, upright, feared God, and eschewed evil. Yet, he was tried. He lost everything he had, including his ten children. If he had loved his family more than God, that would have severed his relationship with God. But what did he do? He said, “Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD” (Job 1:21). He did not let that painful situation cause him to disobey God or lose confidence in Him. Later Job also said, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him” (Job 13:15). What a life of surrender! Job’s faith was not merely words, but it was practical.

Job went through more suffering than most, but he triumphed. In the end, God’s name was glorified and Job drew closer to God. We read in Job 42:5 where he said, “I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.”

No matter the difficulties we may experience in life, there is cause for joy as long as we have a close relationship with God. We simply must not let our happiness depend on something we can lose. It cannot depend on any earthly thing, and we must not forsake God if He allows some earthly blessing to be taken away. All of us go through trials in this life, but our constant guarantee is that God is always there for His people. He will never leave us nor forsake us, and He will never forget His own. When we know the will of God and do it, we will have God’s divine favor on our lives and happiness will follow. Moreover, our happiness will not end here on earth but will go with us into Heaven. May God help us to fix our love on Him alone, our source of true happiness. ■

Reverend Gabriel Kayode Ajayi is the Apostolic Faith District Superintendent of West and Central Africa.



DON'T

**FAINTING GOATS
MAY BE COMICAL,
BUT FAINTING
CHRISTIANS ARE
NO LAUGHING
MATTER.**



By Rebekah Ashe

FAINT!



In the hills of Tennessee, there is a breed of goats known as "fainting goats." They have a genetic condition called *myotonia congenita* that causes them to occasionally fall over as if they are dead—just suddenly drop right where they are, with their legs stiff and sticking straight out. Despite their name, they are not really fainting. They are fully conscious when it happens. In fact, they are not hurt at all, and in only a few seconds, they are able to get up and continue on with their lives.

The goats' condition is at times comical because of what causes them to faint. It can happen over the slightest thing. I watched a compilation video of them, and in one of the clips, a baby goat fainted when he got too excited on his way to the feeding trough. In another clip, an owner was standing in front of five or six goats and made a sudden movement with his hands—and they all fell over! It was hilarious.

Today I would like us to consider a condition that could be called "fainting Christians." When the word *faint* is used in the Bible, it denotes a state of exhaustion, one who has grown too weary to continue, or one who has become paralyzed with fear. It is usually describing a physical state, but there is a clear spiritual parallel. In the spiritual sense, fainting refers to one who has grown weary of life, perhaps discouraged, and lacks the strength to take even one more step forward in faith. This is not a spiritual *death*, which would be caused by rebelling against God. Most of the time, Christians who have fainted will eventually recover and continue on. However, that state of extreme weakness leaves one vulnerable to attack, and for that reason it is dangerous.

As I was watching the Tennessee goats, I wondered how God sees Christians when we are

fainting. What does He think about situations that we find overwhelming? Of course, the causes are different for every person, and some are more serious than others, but none of our problems are overwhelming to God. Sometimes, it seems that if the devil just waves his hand at us, we faint! While fainting goats may be funny, it is not funny when a Christian faints. Thankfully, the Bible gives us both the diagnosis and the cure for fainting Christians, so we do not have to live with this condition forever.

THE DIAGNOSIS AND THE CURE

Why do believers faint? It is not because of *myotonia congenita*, but it is a real condition and the diagnosis is given in Proverbs 24:10, "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small." The problem is not that our trials are too big, but that our strength is too small.

Now that we have a diagnosis, we can look to God's Word for the cure, which we find in Isaiah 40:31, "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." If we are fainting, we need to wait on the Lord. When we do that, He has promised that our strength will be renewed and we will no longer be weary.

Waiting on the Lord means keeping our faith in Him when something we desire is withheld or delayed, including the resolution of a trial. This is not a simple skill that we can learn in a single Bible study session or even a single experience. It is a multi-faceted skill that God teaches us over time. It involves exercising the faith that He gave us at salvation. Just like muscles have to be used and exercised in order to grow, our faith must be

challenged in order for it to grow, and God allows situations for that purpose. As our faith increases, we can wait on Him for longer periods of time.

It is important to understand that we cannot wait for our trials to end in order to find rest and be renewed. Rather, we are waiting on God to give us supernatural strength while He uses life's trials to accomplish His purposes in His time. The length of our trials will not matter if God's limitless power sustains us. So when challenges come, we cannot focus on the difficulties, the losses, or the sacrifices. We must turn our faces to God alone. Fainting does not happen when we are feeling strong and everything is going great, but in the moments when we are at our weakest. There may be tears of sorrow streaming down our faces. There may be no one to support us. Perhaps people will even try to deter us. None of this will change the outcome as long as we are waiting on God and looking to Him. He will supply as much strength as we need.

Individuals who do not wait on the Lord are those who choose to move forward with their own plans, their own wisdom, and ultimately their own strength. They will soon find out that their strength is limited, and it is only a matter of time before they faint spiritually. They may give up on church, blame fellow believers, question God—these are all the signs of a fainting spell. But anyone can break free from the cycle of fainting through the cure found in God's Word.

Perhaps the most important thing to know about this cure is that it is in our own power to use it when we need it. As with medicine to treat a physical condition, just knowing about it, or even buying it, will not accomplish anything if we do not administer it. The cure for fainting Christians will work for any situation that could cause one to faint, but we must follow through and actually wait on God. When this becomes difficult, the cry of our hearts must become, "Teach me, Lord, to wait!" If we are deeply committed to learning, God will help us. Then we will truly be able to run and not grow weary, through every wind of adversity.

WAITING IN CONSTANT PRAYER

If we find ourselves fainting spiritually, we must check our prayer life, because prayer and

communion with God is a source of strength for us. Even though God knows all things, He wants us to tell Him our needs, our requests, our thanks, our praises, and all of our concerns. Times of communion with Him become an opportunity for Him to teach us and change our perspective in ways that will help us through difficulties. Discouraging situations will not bring us down if we take them to the Lord in prayer.



**THE MORE
WE TALK TO
GOD AND
LISTEN TO HIM,
THE LONGER
WE CAN WAIT
PATIENTLY
ON THE
LORD.**

This communication with God must be a daily practice. We are strengthened by a good prayer meeting, but without continued prayer, how long does that strength last? For a month? A week? A day? Eventually, it wears off. Our sense of peace that came from resting in Him diminishes, and our focus on the things of God wanes. All the while, life is still coming at us in full force! This is why we must maintain a spirit of prayer throughout the day. Luke 18:1 says, "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." This verse confirms that all God's people should be praying people, and speaking to God must be our constant daily habit.

The more we talk to God and listen to Him, the longer we can wait patiently on the Lord. We learn to be patient because God is patient. He is never in a hurry and never acts out of frustration. When we go to Him feeling overwhelmed, He is there for us, and often tells us things like, “Don’t worry, child. I’ve got this. Don’t be troubled by what others do, and don’t retaliate against attacks. Be still.”



... for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:9

Another benefit of regular communication with God is that we won’t be blindsided by trials. Unexpected events will still happen, but if we were talking to God moments before, He could prepare us so that we are not caught off guard. God can give us the assurance that He is in control and is working all things together for good in our lives.

We will not seek God’s face in vain. He is going to show up every time that we call on Him. Through prayer, God will settle and strengthen our spirits. Then, when the expected or the unexpected happens, we will continue to wait on Him and we will not faint.

IN DUE SEASON, WE SHALL REAP

God has a reward for those who do not faint. Galatians 6:9 says, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” In this verse, “well doing” includes all types of obedience to God’s commands. The two greatest commandments that Jesus identified are to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves (see Matthew 22:37-41). Considering this, we understand that “well doing” could be spending time with God in His Word, attending church, assisting with church services, helping someone in need, sharing the Gospel with others—the list could go on and on. Loving our neighbors is a lot more than just being nice or praying for someone occasionally. It may require our time, it may cost us money, and it may make us uncomfortable. Sometimes, we may not want to do what God prompts us to do. However, it is important that we do not give up, because “in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

How will we find the strength to continue in well doing? By waiting on the Lord. The key is to trust in His Word and maintain that constant communication with Him through prayer. If we do that, He has promised that we shall reap. The reward may come quickly or it may come later; that is not our concern because we are not waiting for rewards. We are waiting on God, and the reward will come “in due season” as long as we do not faint.

Imagine being able to run through our spiritual goals without growing weary—pressing on to our deeper experiences, serving God and ministering to others, and seeking His face continually. Fainting is a common problem for mankind, but today we have the cure. If we learn to wait on God, we will be able to keep going for months, years, and decades without tiring along the way. This is what God wants for us, and He will help us if we will follow the instructions He has given. When we are committed to learning to wait on Him, we will find ourselves running without growing weary, and walking without fainting. ■

Rebekah Ashe is the leader of the Apostolic Faith group in Key West, Florida.

MORE THAN EXPECTED



By Darrel Lee

**A CURIOUS QUEEN'S
JOURNEY PARALLELS
WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN A PERSON
INVESTIGATES THE
GOSPEL.**

Have you ever seen something you had previously heard a great

deal about, and found it beyond what you imagined? The Book of 1 Kings describes a time when the Queen of Sheba traveled to visit Israel's King Solomon, the wisest man in the world. She wanted to see for herself if what she had heard about him was true—and what she observed was far more than she had expected.

In 1 Kings 10:4-5 we read, "And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her."

The queen's visit can be summarized in a few simple facts: she heard, she came, she saw, she experienced, and she returned again to her home.

SHE HEARD

The Queen of Sheba had heard about Solomon. The world of that day had heard about Solomon—his greatness was undisputed. The expanse and peace of his kingdom were well known. In 1 Kings 4:20, we read that "Judah and Israel were many, as the sand which is by the sea in multitude." Solomon's kingdom extended from the Euphrates River in modern day Iraq to Egypt, perhaps even as far south as the Nile River. And the people lived in peace; they "dwelt safely . . . from Dan even to Beer-sheba," implying the extent of the kingdom from north to south. The Queen of Sheba heard that.

She heard of Solomon's wealth, because the kingdom was very prosperous. Solomon had two hundred targets of gold. We are told that "He made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three pound of gold went to one

shield" (1 Kings 10:17). Figuring the value of gold at today's average price of \$1,700 per ounce, each shield would have been worth \$82,000! Those three hundred shields were kept in his house in the forest in Lebanon. We are not told how many shields he had in his palace in Jerusalem, but three hundred were in his "vacation home." His drinking vessels there were also of gold. And, he had silver so abundant that "it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon" (1 Kings 10:21). There was plenty! Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and thousands of horsemen as well. Just these few details give us a glimpse into what the Queen of Sheba would have heard about his wealth.

She heard that Solomon had a navy. In 1 Kings 10:22, we learn that those employed in it served in a three-year circuit, and brought back gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks from the lands they visited.

The queen heard of Solomon's knowledge and creativity as well. He wrote three thousand proverbs, and his songs numbered over a thousand. He was knowledgeable about the natural world; in 1 Kings 4:33 we read, "And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes." Some people claim to know just about everything, but Solomon *did* know just about everything! We read in 1 Kings 10:23 that he exceeded all the kingdoms of the earth for riches and wisdom.

SHE CAME

The Queen of Sheba wanted to investigate what she had heard, and she traveled from a great distance to do so. When Jesus spoke of her visit to Solomon, He said that the Queen of the South came "from the uttermost part of the earth." Some think that may indicate south of Saudi Arabia—perhaps from Yemen or across the Red Sea from the area of Ethiopia. Whatever the location of her homeland, it seems she traveled hundreds and hundreds of miles. A distance that great would have taken weeks and possibly even months in her day.

She made the long, hazardous journey to Jerusalem accompanied by a great entourage, but without any of the comforts afforded travelers of our day. She was determined to visit King Solomon

no matter what effort was required, so she could find out if what she had heard about him was true.

SHE SAW

After she came, she saw. It is one thing to hear about something and another thing to see it with our own eyes. What we hear may not be an accurate assessment of what really exists. However, what the Queen of Sheba saw exceeded her expectations.

She saw dinner—elaborate meals! According to 1 Kings 4:22-23, Solomon's provision for one day was ten fat oxen and twenty oxen out of the pastures. Provisions at a single meal included one hundred sheep, as well as harts and roebucks, fallow deer, and fatted fowl—what we would describe today as deer and elk and buffalo and turkey and duck and chickens. Clearly, she saw a feast. It would have taken hundreds of servants to serve the hundreds of guests who were present.



She saw the king hold court while seated on a throne of ivory overlaid with gold. In verse 19 we find a description: "The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind: and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays. And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like made in any kingdom." It was an impressive sight.

This reminds me of a time I visited a court in Nigeria. Since I do not normally associate with royalty, I was unsure of what to expect as we

entered. A good deal of pomp and circumstance was going on—often a trumpet would sound, flags were flying, and heralds were making pronouncements. There were three thrones on a raised platform, and behind it was a large artistic depiction of a lion. I was escorted to a small throne next to the central throne. After a bit, the king's assistant entered and sat on the other side. Then trumpets sounded and the king entered and sat down between us.

As I was sitting there, wondering and watching, there was a lull in the activity. Though English is the official language of Nigeria, the proceedings were in one or more of their native languages. But after a bit, the king turned to me and casually inquired in English, "So, how's it going?" I did not know kings talked like that! My short conversation with him was memorable, partly for its brevity.

SHE EXPERIENCED

We are not told the subject matter or scope of the conversations that took place between

would have explained that, years before, he had experienced a personal encounter with God. He would have described how God had allowed him to ask for anything he wanted. Rather than requesting personal riches or fame, Solomon had asked for wisdom and discernment to rule God's people. We read in 1 Kings 3:11-13 that God was pleased with that request. He responded that He would not only give Solomon wisdom, but He would bless him with prosperity as well. And God had done so. To each of the hard questions the Queen of Sheba asked, she received entirely satisfactory answers.

SHE RETURNED HOME

She came; she heard; she experienced. Then she returned home, taking with her far more than what she had brought to Solomon's court. She had come with a train of camels bearing spices and gold and silver and precious gifts, but she left with more than what she had come with. She came with expectations, and those expectations were more

“ Behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard. ”

King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, but we do know that she “came to prove him with hard questions” (1 Kings 10:1). Maybe she brought some of her civic challenges to Solomon. We can imagine her describing a legal problem back in her homeland, hoping that in his well-known wisdom, he would be able to suggest a solution. She may have heard about the time when two women were fighting over one baby, each claiming the child to be their own. Solomon had asked for a sword to be brought to him, and proposed that the baby be divided and one half given to each woman. The women's reactions clearly revealed which one was the real mother. Since Solomon had resolved that situation so wisely, the queen may have hoped he would advise her about a difficult situation needing her decision.

Perhaps she wondered how Solomon had acquired such amazing wisdom. If she asked, Solomon

than fulfilled. She said, “Behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard” (1 Kings 10:7).

A PARALLEL

The account of the Queen of Sheba coming to King Solomon can be paralleled to what happens when an individual comes to investigate the Gospel of Jesus Christ. My own experience illustrates that.

I heard. After I came into the Apostolic Faith Church and was saved, I heard the people in our Roseburg, Oregon, church talk about “camp meeting.” I did not know what a camp meeting was. Would they build a bonfire and have everyone sit around it and sing, “Kum-Ba-Ya”? Would they roast marshmallows and hot dogs? I assumed that must be what camp meeting was. But I was told, “No, it is not at all like that. It is in-depth Bible

study. It is a time to learn more of the Word of God.” They invited me to come and see for myself.

I came. I will admit to being nervous at my first camp meeting. I only knew a few people on the campground and was not sure how to conduct myself. My pastor suggested that I sing in the young people’s choir. I did not have a tie, so one of the young men from the Roseburg church, Jack Chasteen, loaned me one and taught me how to tie it. Then he sat with me on the platform during the youth meeting. When the youth choir got up to sing, I mostly just mouthed the words so as not to destroy the sound!



I saw. What I saw was well-groomed young men in the days of hippies, and modest young ladies in the days of immodesty. I saw a choir, an orchestra, singing, preaching, and praying. And my reaction was much the same as the Queen of Sheba’s—I was amazed!

I asked questions. I remember inquiring about those who testified in the services, “Are they appointed to speak?” The response was no, it was spontaneous. I wondered about the musicians and asked if they were on the church payroll. I was told that no, the musicians were volunteers. So I questioned, “How is the work supported?” I

was told that it is financed by free-will tithes and offerings—that there was a small, inconspicuous box in the entry of the church where people placed their tithes and offerings as they felt led. They told me there was no solicitation of funds or pleading for money in church services, nor had there been since the organization began.

I returned home. I left that camp meeting a different person than when I came. I never anticipated that my life would be on a different trajectory after I was introduced to the Gospel. It was in this church that I met my future wife. Today, we have two children and eight grandchildren, and we participate together in the service of the Lord. That is what the Gospel does. It exceeds expectations! And it all begins when we come to investigate for ourselves.

EXPERIENCE IT FOR YOURSELF!

After the Queen of Sheba returned home, there is no further mention of her in Scripture until Jesus Christ came to this world. He told a crowd gathered around Him, “The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here” (Matthew 12:42).

The One who is “greater than Solomon” is Jesus Christ, and you can experience Him for yourself today. You can hear about what Christ offers, you can come to a church service, you can see evidence of His power, and you can ask questions . . . but that is not enough. You must experience Christ for yourself!

Today, if you do not know that your sins have been forgiven, look Heaven’s way in repentance and faith. Ask to receive what you have seen and heard about. Once you do, you will be a different person than you were before. There will be an assurance that your sins have been forgiven. And you will find that a personal relationship with Jesus Christ will exceed your expectations! ■

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

WITNESS

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. – Ephesians 4:29

23 OUT OF DARKNESS, INTO THE LIGHT

27 COMMAS, CRITQUES . . . AND A CHANCE TO LEARN!

31 PROVING THE VALUE OF PRAYER

34 EVIDENCE

OUT OF DARKNESS

INTO THE LIGHT

AFTER BEING SET FREE FROM WITCHCRAFT, IDOLATRY, AND ALCOHOLISM, AGUSTIN NOW LIVES TO SEE OTHERS FIND FREEDOM IN CHRIST.



By
Agustín
Cueva Quiroz

The family I was born into was Protestant Christian. My parents and grandparents were all believers, and my father was a pastor who founded our local church. We lived in a small village in the northern Andes Mountains of Peru, at a time when Protestantism was not accepted. Only the Catholic religion was protected by the state, and evangelicals were considered heretics.

Witchcraft was also practiced in our region, and when I was seven, an aunt took me to my first spiritualism session. When the man leading the session saw me, he called me to his side and said, "This will be a great man. No one will overturn him and he will have power over all the spirits." I did not understand what was going on, but my aunt began taking me to these sessions frequently and my understanding grew.

ABANDONING HOME

At age thirteen, I decided to leave home. My father tried to dissuade me, but I was determined. With

no real plan of what to do, I went to some nearby cities looking for work. Most would not hire me because of my age, but a man in a coastal town took me in to work on his ranch.

There, I began to expand my understanding of the art of witchcraft, working with at least five different occult teachers. There was a restlessness inside that drove me, and I studied several different types of magic. I was trained to use local herbs and a variety of instruments to make concoctions for rituals, and learned incantations that summoned spirits.

Six years later, in August of 1953, I returned home to see a cousin, and she told me that a group was planning to hold a session that night to cast out a spirit from one of our aunts. Since I knew what to do, I went to assist. The witch who was leading the session was a well-known medium. She did not know who I was, but she called me over and was able to tell me about my past. Then she called my cousin, and told her that her uncle and aunt (who were my parents) had been harming her. This upset me because I knew she was lying; my parents were honest, upright people. Indignant, I took her own instruments and used them against her to call for her death. She immediately fell ill and quickly died.

Sadly, this was only the first time that I would use spiritualism to bring about another person's demise, and it was certainly not the last. Looking back now, it is painful to recall my evil deeds and to know that I was a tool of Satan. But thank God, He did not give up on me.

As time went on, my life became totally reckless. I was an alcoholic and a fraud. Friends abandoned me because I used illegitimate money, and I became enveloped in debts I could not pay. My employer discovered that I had defrauded him of a large sum of money and began to pursue me for what I owed. To top it off, my occult books, which I considered valuable, were lost in a house fire.

Around that time, my father sent me a letter that impacted me deeply. It included these Bible verses: “But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat” (1 Corinthians 5:11) and, “For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie” (Revelation 22:15). Those words pierced my heart. I said to myself, “Agustin, stop and consider! You are one of those!” I felt so badly.



**I REALIZED THAT
HAPPINESS COULD
NOT COME FROM
WORK, MONEY, OR
FRIENDS.**

My father said he suffered to see what I had become. Yet, my family could not turn me to the true path. Satan had captured my mind, and darkness covered me. I sought refuge in the mountains, at the coast, and in the jungle, but everywhere I went, my reputation preceded me and I found no place to hide.

A DECISIVE NIGHT

Eventually I was sent to jail in the city of Cajamarca on charges of fraud. A friend who was a lawyer helped arrange for me to work off my penalty. The deal allowed me to work during the day as a custodian at a parish, and in the evenings I returned to a jail cell.

One day, I happened to notice a flyer in a waste bin. The subtitle asked, “Are You Happy?” and that question resonated in my ears from 3:00 in the afternoon until 10:00 at night. I was not happy. There in my cell, I finally began to pray. My father had said that God was powerful, and I told God that if my father was right, then I would serve Him and suffer for His cause. That night, I was born again! My debt of sin was truly more than I ever could have repaid, but Jesus paid the penalty of my sins on the Cross, and He forgave me of all. The Lord freed me from witchcraft, idolatry, alcoholism, and so many other vanities. My spiritual chains were broken by the power of Jesus Christ!

When the sun came up the next day, I had a new mind. I was a new creature, a new man! I realized that happiness could not come from work, money, or friends; only Christ satisfies, when He reigns in our hearts. The darkness in my life had disappeared and God’s light was shining. It was thrilling!

Miraculously, only two days later I was granted an early release from my jail sentence. I arrived back home on April 1, a different man than when I had left. My old friends thought the change wouldn’t last more than a week, but months passed and I never went back. Christ had made a change that neither my father nor the pastors who visited our village could make. Christ transformed my whole being!

GOD HAS NOT CHANGED

A few years later, I felt led to move to the town of Bagua Chica. I was offered a place to rent in a home where the current tenants were being evicted for not paying their rent. When I visited the home, the old tenant served lunch to the landlord and me. However, the food tasted strange and I could not finish eating it. Immediately I felt sick and excused myself to get some fresh air. I walked a ways and then collapsed under the shade of a tree, and for four hours I suffered there, thinking I might die. When I was finally well enough to walk back, I found the landlord and told him what had happened. He explained that the man’s wife was a witch. She had poisoned me out of spite.

The whole next week, I continued to feel unwell and could not attend church services. Finally, I asked my pastor to pray that God would show me what was going on. I did not pray for healing because at

that time I thought divine healing had only been a sign for the Apostles. Well, I was very mistaken. That night, I had a dream that God healed me, and when I woke in the morning, my body was whole! God convinced me that divine healing was for yesterday, it is for today, and it will be for tomorrow. God is the same and He has not changed.

DOORS OPENED

After that healing, something arose in my soul that I could not keep quiet. I wanted to go tell everyone in every place what Christ had done for me. I had no money for transportation, but Christ was by my side as I traveled by foot to hundreds of villages, entering homes and sharing my testimony. God also confirmed His Word; through prayer, many sick individuals were healed, souls were converted, and lives were transformed.

At age twenty-seven, I married a young lady named Maria Lastenia, and together we had seven children. I found Maria to be a person given to prayer, and to caring for our children and the brethren who would visit us. She became a great help to me as I continued sharing the Gospel in the villages of Peru.

After we married, we lived near the coast in Monteseco. That town was known for people who lived on the margins of the law. The major employers there bribed the police to stay away so that criminals could work without fear. I had also lived there during my most reckless years, and when I returned as a Christian, they resented and persecuted me. They would wait at night to try to attack and kill me. That was a very difficult time and could have been disheartening if God hadn't protected and encouraged me.

We started a church in a small room in our home, and in two years' time, we had opened three more

churches in other villages. Though I had never been to seminary, truly I had the best Teacher—the Holy Spirit. We encouraged evangelism following the pattern of Biblical examples, and the work expanded rapidly. We especially utilized printed literature in the form of tracts, and saw Isaiah 55:11 fulfilled: "So shall my word be that goeth

forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Some villages were opposed to hearing the message of the Gospel, but I had no fear to preach in those places. Where pastors had been rejected in the past, the

Lord opened doors

for us. One time, villagers rose up to kill me, but in a miraculous way God caused some of the most feared men of the village to come to my defense, and no

one touched me. In the hardest places, God was glorified.

In one home, a child had fallen sick with a deadly disease. The parents had no hope; they expected he would die within a day. After prayer, God healed him, and then with tears his parents gave their lives to Jesus. That miracle affected the whole village, and soon a church was established there.

On another occasion, I was bitten by a snake and in moments my hand and arm swelled. Pain shot through my arm. I rushed to the hospital, but the doctor would not help me. He said, "Let your God heal you." I left his office and in the waiting room encountered a couple whose child was hospitalized because of a bullet wound from a hunting accident. I shared with them the love of God, and as I spoke, I felt my arm and fingers loosening. The swelling disappeared. God healed me right there in front of them! I told them, "Christ did this in your presence so you would believe." Weeping, the parents and



(Above) Agustin and Maria with five of their children, one grandchild, and her brother Julio in the early 1980s. (Right) The Quirozses in 2021.



the son all asked Jesus to be their Savior and Healer. Truly, God uses diverse circumstances to show His love.

My desire to see God's kingdom expand only grew, and the Holy Spirit continued urging my life more every day. In 1970, I talked to my wife about dedicating myself to full-time evangelistic work. She agreed to it, so we closed our business, cancelled our accounts, paid off our debts, and acquired a stock of Bibles and Gospel literature.

Only three months later, I made a huge mistake that nearly stopped me in my tracks. At the start of a ministry trip, I left my belongings in a hotel room while I went to breakfast. In that short time, someone entered my room and stole all of my money. I was devastated and had to borrow money just to get to my destination. However, once I arrived, a young boy greeted me and shook my hand. He said he had to leave right away, but in the handshake he had given me something—it was the money I had borrowed, plus what I had spent since leaving home. I asked around who the boy was, but no one seemed to know him. I learned that Jesus knows our needs and He supplies them.

A NEW HOME

When I was forty-five years old, my life changed paths again. My desire was to support the Gospel work in the native communities in the Amazon jungle, so our family relocated from the coast to the jungle. Those communities were largely overlooked by society. The living conditions there were extremely primitive, but I did not mind because my dream to reach these distant areas had come true. God opened doors there as well, and we saw the Gospel message transform lives.

A little over a year after we moved, I was in a traffic accident that fractured my left leg in multiple places and nearly severed my foot. Doctors felt it

was impossible for me to regain the use of my foot and scheduled an amputation. Then, on the day of the surgery, after removing my bandages the doctor was surprised to see that the flesh had finally started to heal. The amputation was cancelled.

A few months later, I received an invitation to preach at some special services. The church members who invited me did not realize how poor my condition was. Though still dependent on crutches, I agreed to go.

For the first service, I preached seated from a chair. At the next service, I preached standing, and

I was able to stand for all of the rest. The following day we had a water baptism service, and I was the only minister who was able to attend. I rode on a mule to the site and a brother helped me get into the water. I was able to baptize twenty-five candidates on my own, and while in the water, I felt that

my bones were being rejoined. By the time I arrived back home to my wife and children, my foot was no longer crippled. Christ had healed me again!

These are only some of the marvelous things God has done in my life. At one point I was used by Satan for evil purposes, but Christ forgave me, and today I am His servant. I am a witness that Christ is greater than any idol, more powerful than any principality, and He is Lord of all. God convinced me of these things, and my life is a testimony of His power. ■

Agustin Cueva Quiroz is the Apostolic Faith District Superintendent of Peru. He was born in 1934 and saved in 1955. For many decades, he distributed Apostolic Faith literature across Peru before we had churches in that country. When the Apostolic Faith work in Peru was established in 2012, he embraced it wholeheartedly. Today, at age eighty-seven, he still travels as often as possible to evangelize and encourage those in the coasts, the mountains, and the jungles of Peru.



Special meetings at Espina Amarilla, Peru, in 2014.

COMMAS, CRITIQUES... AND A CHANCE TO LEARN!



DO WE CRINGE AT CORRECTION, OR VIEW IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE?

When I first joined the editorial team at the headquarters church office, I had no idea how much I didn't know about writing. The first step was learning proper grammar, and to aid that process, I was given a volume titled *Chicago Manual of Style*. In 956 pages, it describes when to use commas, hyphens, capitalization, long dashes—every type of punctuation and more, as well as instances when grammar rules may be broken.

There was also much to learn about the importance of word choice, tone, accuracy, and overall style. This part was not taught in a manual, but came as feedback from other editors. Each article is read by many people before it is published, and they make suggestions such as: "Sounds harsh; soften." Another popular comment is: "Redundant; delete." And then there's the unfortunate comment: "Huh? Not clear."

I have to admit, when I submitted my first articles to the editorial team for review, I did not fully appreciate all the feedback that was given. Sometimes an article would be returned to me covered in markings, and it felt like my work was being torn apart. I wondered, *Is all of this truly necessary? Was the article so terrible that it needed all of these changes?*



By Catey Hinkle

Thankfully, it was not long before I saw the value of critical feedback. I began to realize that a diverse audience can receive a single message in many different ways, and seemingly simple statements can have unintended doctrinal implications. In short, I felt that attempting to write something for the Lord's work was way over my head, and that the editorial team was providing me with invaluable assistance. The initial feeling that my work was being torn apart changed to the realization that it was being built up. I became grateful for critiques and welcomed their feedback.

Having worked at the office for over a decade, I had mostly forgotten about my initial aversion to being edited by others, but a couple years ago I had an experience that brought back those memories. I had gone to a family gathering and made some jokes about a certain situation. I had no ill intent in what I said, but later, when I was back at my house, I felt heavy conviction for my words. God made it clear to me that my comments were not edifying, were not helpful in any way, and should not have been said. I was sick over what I had said. I felt like an utter failure.

Part of me wondered why I felt so badly when my error seemed relatively small. Yet, all I could do was get on my knees and pray, "God, I'm so sorry if my words hurt You or anyone else. I'd rather never speak again than say something displeasing to You." I meant what I said; the chastisement from God was so strong that I truly would rather live the rest of my life in silence than feel His displeasure in that way again. Once I had consecrated all my words to God, I had peace in my heart. From then on, I made a deliberate effort to be more cautious with my conversations, even in seemingly lighthearted comments.

A few weeks later, I found myself in a difficult situation that involved several other people, and I had a strong sense that I needed to keep my opinions to myself. Considering my recent prayer,

that was very easy to do. Despite the normal human tendency to want to "fix" such problems, I actually had no desire to voice my thoughts or speak up for myself. And as that situation continued to unfold, it became clear that things were much more complicated than I had initially perceived. If I had attempted to intervene, I most certainly would have failed, and would have looked very foolish doing so. Suddenly, I felt deeply grateful that the Lord had corrected my comments so sternly weeks before. My perspective of that incident shifted, and I could see that the correction was not meant to tear me down, but to refine my character and to stop me from making a bigger mistake later on.

Following these events, I found myself praying, "God, I *welcome* your correction in my life." I was surprised to hear myself say that, but I meant those words too. It is much more preferable to learn a spiritual lesson *before* a trial comes, rather than *after*. I've read Hebrews 12:6 and 11 plenty of times in the past, but now they resonate with me more than ever before: "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth . . . Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." The correction certainly felt grievous, but it was truly done in love and brought righteousness in my life, for which I am so grateful.

God's correction in this situation reminded me of the correction from the office editorial team. We call our editors a "team" because we are working together for a common goal. In a similar way, we can think of the Holy Spirit as being on our team, like a personal editor guiding us toward spiritual success. His feedback is constructive, and to ignore or resent it is to our own harm. Instead, we want to accept His input in our lives for what it is—the very best advice we could ever receive.



Following are a few more points about a proper perspective on the corrections we receive from God.



The Bible is our manual. The first thing the editorial team did for me was hand me a grammar manual. For those who are willing to take the time to consult it, hundreds upon hundreds of questions are plainly answered in that book. In life, the Bible is our manual. If we want to live successfully, it is to our own advantage to study God's Word. That alone will do wonders in terms of answering our questions about the best way to live, thereby saving us a great deal of unnecessary heartache.

Prior to coming to work here, I thought I had pretty good instincts for grammar rules just from reading and speaking English my whole life. It turns out, I did not. When I go back and read my college essays, I cringe at my inconsistency and mistakes. The same problem will occur if we rely on our instincts and feelings to guide the way we live—there will be inconsistency in our conduct and more mistakes that we will have to go back and make right. Doing the right thing will not always “feel” right, so it's important that we find out from God Himself how we are supposed to live, and He has provided that instruction in His holy Word.



God's feedback to me is for me. As an editor, it's sometimes hard to “turn off” the editor in my brain. I've been trained to look for typos, and as a consequence, I often notice them even when I'm not proofreading. A few times, I've interrupted friends and family and corrected them without thinking, and it is so embarrassing when that happens. All I can do is apologize.

As we continue studying God's Word and allowing Him to correct us, we may notice similar spiritual corrections that we feel are needed in someone else's life. However, when God chastens us, that instruction is only for us. The teachings of the Bible are meant for us to apply to our own lives, not to others. The Holy Spirit is the best “editor” because He knows us better than anyone and He sees what challenges await us in the future. So unless someone specifically asks for our

input or is in some way under our spiritual care, it is not our place to tell others our views of their spiritual walk. The Holy Spirit knows what corrections will benefit each one the most, and He is faithful to reveal them in the right way and time.



God's feedback is personalized.

The rules in a grammar manual are extensive, yet some important stipulations cannot be written in a manual because they depend on variable factors. How long should an article be? How formal should it sound? Which literary devices should be used? Answers to these questions depend on the objective of each piece.

In a similar way, some of the input God gives me is designed uniquely for my life and the plan He has for me. That means He may require something of me that He does not require of others, and vice versa. How much of my budget should I give for the Lord's work? How much time should I spend reading and praying each day? Which areas of Gospel work should I serve in? I know what God has laid on *my* heart in each of these areas, but I don't assume others will have the same convictions because these all depend on what God has planned for my life. When it comes to instructions that fall outside of our manual, the Bible, it's important to listen closely for what God is speaking to us specifically, and not be distracted by what He may or may not ask of someone else.



There's always room for improvement.

In addition to being an editor, I am also a tutor for English language learners. That means I see the full spectrum of writing skills, from beginner to professional. In every case, my role is to help each written piece progress to the next level. For beginners, we work on basic grammar and spelling. For more advanced English students, we try to expand vocabulary and use more complex sentence structures. At the church office, we do even more fine tuning. In all my years at the office, I have never seen an article come out of the editing loop without any comments—there is always room for improvement!



**IF WE COME
TO GOD WITH
A HUMBLE
ATTITUDE
HE WILL SHOW
US WHERE
WE CAN
IMPROVE.**

If a skill like writing can always be improved, then certainly there will always be room for improvement when it comes to glorifying God with our lives. It's expected that new converts and young Christians will not have the same wisdom and maturity as those who have been walking with the Lord a long time. But even for veterans of the Gospel, there is always more to learn. Just as a new English speaker will get different editorial feedback than an advanced writer, the Holy Spirit will correct a new Christian in different areas than He does a seasoned believer. In every case, if we come to God with a humble attitude and a determination to keep growing spiritually, He will show us where we can improve.

OUR "EDITOR" FOR LIFE

Thank God that we have the Holy Spirit as a personal Editor in our lives. Constructive criticism may be hard to take, but when it comes from God, we can be sure that it is in our own best interests. His correction in our lives is truly priceless. If we receive it with an obedient spirit, we will be so glad for the peaceable fruit of righteousness that follows. ■

Catey Hinkle is the managing editor at the Apostolic Faith World Headquarters office in Portland, Oregon.

PROVING THE VALUE OF PRAYER

EDIS FOUND EVERYTHING SHE WANTED AND NEEDED IN JESUS.

By Edis Bhosha



God has proved His love to me repeatedly, and I am grateful. When I was growing up, our family did not know the truth of God, and we worshipped ancestral spirits. Yet God loved me and allowed me to hear about salvation through my uncle who was a Christian. My parents lived in a rural area, and I went to stay with this uncle to pursue my education. When I learned about God, strong conviction came upon me. One day when I was praying alone, I asked for forgiveness of my sins, and God through His mercy forgave me. I did not know what to expect, but He filled me with great joy.

When God changed my heart, He helped me to make restitutions. I returned school books I had taken from the secondary school I had attended. Also, I apologized to my father and my uncle whom I had wronged.

A while after that, the Spirit of God moved me to pray while I was studying in a college library, and there God sanctified me. He gave me such peace that I wished everyone could receive the same experience. That peace remains with me always. I have faced many challenges in life, but God's peace comforts me.

One night as I was praying alone in my uncle's house, the Lord filled me with the Holy Ghost and fire. Without my effort, praises flowed out of my mouth in a language that was not my own. The church I attended while in college had taught people how to "speak in tongues," but God gave me the true experience. This gave me power to testify about Jesus.

God has been so faithful to lead and help in every situation of life. When I did not have money to continue with my education, God provided. After I finished my degree program, He miraculously gave me a job, though it was not easy to obtain employment so quickly.

One of my prayers was that God would bless me with a Christian husband, rather than one who might lead me back into worshipping ancestral spirits. God answered my request and gave me a godly husband who supports me spiritually and materially. The Lord has given us peace in our home, and has blessed us with four children who are all in the Gospel.

Our family is a living testimony that God heals, provides, and keeps. When our first child was less than three months old, he was diagnosed with

cancer. Although he was getting the best medical treatment available, the cancer was destroying his white blood cells. It seemed that if he survived, he would permanently be in a wheelchair.

During this illness, God put so much peace in my heart. When the doctors described the serious condition our child was in, they thought I did not understand and needed an interpreter. But the peace was because the Lord Jesus carried the burden for me and gave me His lighter yoke.

All earthly hope was gone, but a prayer request was made. The people of God prayed, and God miraculously delivered our son from that desperate condition and restored his health. It was such a miracle that even the doctors who were attending him were surprised. Later, when he was in school, he was able to play rugby. He went to a university outside our country, and God kept him by His grace. He is now working and is in good health.

God has helped our other children as well. Our second child had asthma when she was in primary school, but God healed her completely. When one daughter was attending the university, she shared



OVER THE YEARS, GOD HAS PROVIDED FOR US.



Edis with her husband, Kwaziso, at camp meeting in Portland, Oregon, in 2017.

a room with someone who had tuberculosis, and she contracted the disease. Prayer was made, and God healed her. He helped us to learn the value of prayer concerning every need. The Lord caused all our children to survive, and they are grown now.

Over the years, God has provided for us. When our children were still very young, we moved from the small city of Gweru to Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe. We did not have our own house, so

with our children, we prayed for a house which would be situated near our church, a school, a clinic, a hospital, and a preschool, and also where

transport was easily available. In a wonderful way, God gave us such a place. The people who sold us the house accommodated us as if we had been their relatives. Later, God gave us a bigger home in an even better place, and that is where we are living still. God's mercies never end!

When our first two children had just started secondary education, my husband and I both lost our jobs. We did not know whether the children would be able to continue with their education, but God provided a way for them to attend good schools, even though the fees were expensive.

At another time when our children were young, my job was so demanding that I had no time with them. I gave up the job in order to look after them, and this gave me an opportunity to read God's Word and pray with them. When they were older, I asked the Lord to help me get back into employment circulation. Although there were economic hardships in the country at the time, He did it for me. I did not formally train for the job that I am doing now, but God has helped me. Now my husband spends more time in the Lord's work, but God provides the means to support our family. The Lord has taught me that it is His provision that matters, not our education, savings, or effort.

God has also protected us. In 2000, we were nearly in a head-on collision. While trying to avoid an oncoming vehicle, our car skidded and went off the road. Eight of us were in the car, and it happened so fast that I believed we were all going to die. We landed upside down over a fence, but God spared our lives.

In mercy God reached out and saved my parents before they passed away. We stayed with each of them toward the end of their lives, and we saw them receive salvation and live a new life. How we thank God!

Jesus is everything to us! We look up to Him in every situation. He has given me many great privileges, and I do not deserve all His favor, love, and blessings. I am happy in the Lord, and my prayer is to make Heaven my home. ■

Edis Bhosha attends the Hatcliffe Apostolic Faith Church in Harare, Zimbabwe, where her husband, Kwaziso, is the pastor and also a member of the Board of Directors for Zimbabwe.

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."

EVIDENCE

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES OF VICTORY

Let your **LIGHT** so **SHINE** before men,
that they may see your **GOOD** works,
and **GLORIFY** your **FATHER**
which is in heaven. - Matthew 5:16



TOLU ADESOPE

Pullman, Washington | USA



This is a glorious Gospel, and I thank God for the good

heritage that I have in it. My parents were invited to an Apostolic Faith meeting about forty-three years ago when I was three years old. I am thankful that they heeded the invitation. They attended and prayed, and the Lord saved their souls, sanctified them, and baptized them with the Holy Ghost and fire. Since then, they have been coming to this church, and are still Gospel workers in Nigeria.

When I was young, my parents always took my siblings and me to the church services. We went to the Sunday morning and evening meetings, mid-week services, prayer meetings, and Bible studies, and we all enjoyed going. I really thank God for that opportunity, because while I was still a child, I prayed and the Lord saved my soul. He also sanctified me and baptized me with the Holy Ghost, and He kept me through elementary school, high school, and college.

When it was time for me to get married, I prayed and the Lord gave me a husband who is a wonderful Christian man of faith. As of last December, we have been married and serving the Lord together for twenty years.

A few months after we married, the Lord opened a way for us to relocate to the United States. When we arrived, we met with the people of God and found that no matter where one goes, this Gospel is the same. Whether in Nigeria or the United States or Canada, the people of God are wonderful! We are thankful for the family of God in Pullman, Washington. We could not ask for better people. The Lord is helping all of us spread the Gospel message there.

My husband and I have been blessed with three beautiful children who serve the Lord with us. We have also been blessed to attend camp meeting in Portland for the past sixteen years. Over that time, the Lord has answered so many of our prayer requests made in the tabernacle. I thank God for His goodness, His faithfulness, and His provisions.

Pray for us in Pullman that God will continue to help us brighten the corner where we find ourselves, and then take our souls to Heaven at last. ■



STEVE HOPPER

Woodlake, California | USA

The Lord has been merciful to me since I was a child. When I was nine years old, trouble came into our home, and we had to leave that abusive situation. I was without a father, but the Lord became my Father, and He put men in my life to help and guide me. He also put a song in my heart and gave me a desire for the Gospel.

As I got older, I wanted both the world and Christ, and the two did not mix. I am so thankful for the day the Lord wonderfully saved me as I was driving down a country road. I don't take it for granted, and can take you to the very spot. A short time later, God sanctified me with a very real experience, and then gave me the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

God has placed me in a position as a public school teacher, and I consider this my ministry. I

love music—it is a privilege that I enjoy—but my heart is in teaching high school students. In my advanced placement class, we open every session with random questions. During that time, we talk about everything from politics to sports—whatever topics interest the students. From time to time, they want to talk about religion. One girl asked if I was a Christian, and that gave me the opportunity to tell them I am a Christian and not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many of the students came to our Christmas program and then wrote a review on it. Reading those reviews brought tears to my eyes, because they had no idea what was going on. The papers, and also the questions asked by the students, revealed that they do not know the basic Sunday school stories that I grew up with, and they do not know Jesus. I am thankful God has opened doors for me to talk to them about the Gospel. ■



CHRISTOPHER KABUNDA

Lusaka | Zambia

Though I was raised in this Gospel, I did not have a personal relationship with Jesus. I started my walk with God as a young man in 1998 when God saved and sanctified me. Two years later, He baptized me with the Holy Ghost and fire.

God has helped and kept me through the years. Between 2006 and 2012, I worked in an area of the Central Province of Zambia where there were no Apostolic Faith churches, and God kept me. Sometimes, I would be there for a month

without fellowship, but God was faithful during those times.

In 2012, God blessed me with a wife, and in the following year, He blessed us with a son. Four years later, my wife suffered a miscarriage, and God helped us through that traumatic experience. Then in 2019 God blessed us with another son.

God has also been faithful to provide for our family every day. I do not have a professional degree; all I have attained is because of God. He helps me learn skills quickly and has given me the privilege of working in several companies. Through this, I have been able to acquire work experience and skills in various trades, and this has sometimes led to sizeable contracts. I see God's hand at work in all of this.

I thank God for giving me and my wife the opportunity to serve Him in this Gospel. ■



IOSH DEBUSK

Chehalis, Washington | USA

First of all, I am thankful that God

saved and sanctified me, but also that He has taken such good care of my family. Today,

I was thinking of a prayer He answered for us several years ago

when my wife was pregnant with our youngest. We had an ultrasound done, and it showed that the baby had club feet. The doctors were concerned there would be other complications as well. We started looking at needs like surgeries and braces and those kinds of things. Then the doctor in charge asked if we would think about terminating the pregnancy. We were speechless; it wasn't even a consideration for us. We asked some family and friends to pray, and the Lord undertook. When our daughter was born, she did not have club feet or any other problems. The Lord has been so good. ■



IAMIE SIFAGALOA

Port Angeles, Washington | USA

At a young age, I knelt beside my bed and made a

commitment to the Lord.

I did not fully understand what that meant at the time—I was only about

eleven years old—but He saw

my heart and saved me. God has

kept me in this Gospel and in this church since. I am thankful He saved me at that young age, and also sanctified me, and filled me with His Holy Spirit.

Lately, God has been teaching me to look at the bigger picture of life and realize how short it is. My brother had some serious health issues that have caused me to stop and pray. I also had some health problems that were scary at the time, but turned out not to be serious. Then, I started having



BONNIE DAVIS

Portland, Oregon | USA

Recently, I have been quite sick, but the

Lord is so faithful. I collapsed at church last March, and my nerves just went to pieces. The doctors said I had high blood

pressure, which caused my liver

function to be impaired. I just prayed, "God, if this is Your will, I accept it." Then I had another blood test, and the doctor called me and said, "Bonnie, I cannot figure out what happened." I told him, "Jesus healed me; I know He did," and it was true.

This Christian life has been a wonderful way to live. I gave my heart to Jesus in my twenties, and now in my eighties, I can say God has been faithful to me. He healed me of cancer and many other things. I am so thankful for all the Lord has done for me that I want to shout His praises from the house tops and serve him for the rest of my life.

I have been sharing my testimony at the juvenile delinquent home for twenty-four years. Now I am seeing some of those young people get saved. This has been the desire of my heart and it is such a blessing. I am thankful that Jesus is real and so wonderful. ■

anxiety attacks, thinking something was seriously wrong with me when it wasn't. That was a humbling experience, because it was embarrassing to find out it was all in my mind. The other night, I started to have another anxiety attack, so I knelt down to pray with my husband and said, "Lord, I need You to calm me. I know I am okay." After praying, I opened my Bible and realized I had opened directly to a verse that said God would take care of all my fears. I am so thankful for those types of moments with God. He is real, and He is there when we need Him. Whenever the devil tries to play tricks on our minds, God can bring clarity. He took away my fear, and I am so thankful for His friendship. ■

WORLD REPORT

*Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the
ends of the earth: for I am God,
and there is none else. – Isaiah 45:22*

SHORT TAKES

38

FRANCE
AUDIO VERSION OF OUR DAILY
DEVOTIONALS IN FRENCH

UNITED STATES
ANSWER CURRICULUM
REDESIGN

39

ZAMBIA
ZAMBIA MEETINGS YIELD
MANY BLESSINGS

TANZANIA
FIRST WATER BAPTISMAL
IN KASULU, TANZANIA

SHORT TAKES

BRIEF REPORTS FROM OUR
CHURCHES WORLDWIDE

FRANCE

Lecture biblique: GENÈSE 27:1-46

septembre 15, 2021

La Foi Apostolique France • Dévotion du 15 Septembre 2021

SOUNDCLOUD

Lecture biblique: GENÈSE 27:1-46

«Ensuite, Rebecca prit les vêtements d'Ésaü, son fils aîné, les plus beaux qui se trouvaient à la maison, et elle les fit mettre à Jacob, son fils cadet. Elle couvrit ses mains de la peau des chevreaux, et son cou qui était sans poil. Et elle plaça dans la main de Jacob, son fils, le mets et le pain qu'elle avait préparés.»

(Genèse 27:15 – 17)

Avez-vous déjà entendu dire : « La fin justifie les moyens » ?

Apparemment, c'était le point de vue de Rebecca dans ce triste segment de l'histoire de la famille choisie.

Lorsqu'elle apprit qu'Isaac se préparait à bénir Ésaü, elle prit les choses en main.

Puisque le droit d'aînesse avait déjà été promis à Jacob, Rebecca n'avait besoin de comploter.

Dieu avait la situation sous contrôle, quelle que soit l'intention d'Isaac concernant ses fils.

Peut-être Rebecca pensait que si elle n'intervenait pas, quelque chose entraverait ce que Dieu avait promis.

AUDIO VERSION OF OUR DAILY DEVOTIONALS IN FRENCH

In September of 2019, a team of translators at the Apostolic Faith Church in Paris, France, began producing a French version of the daily devotional from the world headquarters church website. Then in May of the following year, they began posting an audio version of the same. Both the print and audio versions are accessible through the Paris church's website at www.LaFoiApostolique.org.

For those who have not been following the daily devotionals, a new unit of *Daybreak* devotionals began on August 23. Over the course of three months, the lessons will go chapter by chapter through the Books of Genesis, Exodus, and Job. Then in November, another *Daybreak* unit will begin, covering the books of Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 Kings. The English version is available at www.apostolicfaith.org/daily-devotional, and it is not too late to join in!



UNITED STATES

ANSWER CURRICULUM REDESIGN

Our *Answer* Sunday school curriculum was originally produced in the 1970s as a four-year study for students grades four through eight. Each lesson includes an assigned Bible text, lesson story, memory verse, and activity, and for over four decades, the lessons have been used to teach Bible truths to thousands upon thousands of children. While the teachings are timeless, it was determined that the graphics could use a refresh, so in 2016 the design team at the world headquarters office began producing an updated look for the series. In the process, it was a blessing to have some of the new illustrations drawn by talented young artists who themselves had studied the lessons in their childhoods.

The team produced one new unit every quarter until the project was fully completed in 2020. We all look forward to more generations of Apostolic Faith youth growing in the Lord with the *Answer* lessons as Jesus tarries.

ZAMBIA



ZAMBIA MEETINGS YIELD MANY BLESSINGS

Our churches throughout Zambia held three days of special meetings April 2-4, 2021. The activities included Bible teachings, evangelistic services, and in some locations, concerts. In the Central Province alone, where we have three churches, twenty-eight people reported receiving blessings from the Lord. Among them, eight received salvation, three were sanctified, and one was filled with the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Special youth meetings were held at the Mpulungu church on Friday through Monday, April 23-26. The Sunday testimony service was especially moving with many telling of God's power to save and protect. By the close of the services, six had prayed and received salvation, two had received sanctification, and two had been baptized with the Holy Spirit. There were many other blessings reported as well, including nineteen healings.

A new outreach opportunity has emerged in Katuba, which is about eighteen miles north of Lusaka. When a member of the Chikumbi congregation moved there, he requested that a

team from Chikumbi come and hold meetings. They did, and as a result, about ten people are now gathering each week for services. In addition, one woman who attended on June 27 prayed through to salvation and sanctification.

Another outreach effort took place in Chinyunyu on the farm of a brother who relocated there from Chazanga. A mission team of about fifty from Lusaka went on April 4 to hold an evangelistic meeting, and over one hundred locals attended. Among those present was the senior man of the village, and following the service, he allocated a parcel of land for the building of a place of worship.

TANZANIA



FIRST WATER BAPTISM IN KASULU, TANZANIA

Special meetings were held in Kasulu, Tanzania, on May 16-23. Gospel workers came from three different provinces to help with the meetings, which included Bible teachings and evangelistic services. During the week, three people prayed through to salvation, three received sanctification, and one was baptized with the Holy Spirit. In addition, seventeen were healed. On Saturday, May 22, the three new converts were baptized in a nearby river. This was the first water baptismal service to be held in the area as the Kasulu work is relatively new.

OUR CLASSICS

*The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want. – Psalm 23:1*

41 FACING GIANTS

44 LED TO THE TRUTH

FACING GIANTS

IF YOU'RE FEELING LIKE THE PROBLEMS IN YOUR LIFE ARE TOWERING OVER YOU, READ HOW YOU CAN BECOME A GIANT SLAYER!

Originally published in the May 1991 edition of our magazine.

By Earl Phillips



What kind of giants loom over you today? Do you face the giant of fear? Discouragement? Illness?

Financial difficulties? Trouble with your children? The devil would like to make your problems become giants. He will say that what you face is too hard for the Lord—it's impossible to conquer.

For everyone who faces a giant today, there is a question recorded in the first book of the Bible. It reads, "Is any thing too hard for the LORD?" (Genesis 18:14). When this question was asked, the situation referred to was truly impossible in the natural. God had promised a man named Abraham that he and his wife, Sarah, would have a son. But years went by and the promise wasn't fulfilled. That difficulty likely grew until it seemed like a giant that could not be overcome. Sarah was

well past the age of childbearing. Her womb had been closed for many years. But was it too hard for God? No! In their old age, when Abraham was one hundred and his wife ninety, they had the promised son. With God all things are possible.

A little farther on in the Bible, we read of literal giants that faced the Children of Israel. God had delivered the Israelites from Egyptian bondage and led them to the border of Canaan. Moses, their leader, chose twelve men to spy out the country. But as these men walked through the Promised Land, ten of them could see only high-walled cities and giants. The longer they walked, the higher the walls seemed. The more they looked at the people in those cities, the bigger they seemed to become.

When the spies reported back to Moses, they said, "The people are so big that we are like

grasshoppers in their sight!" Now, these were big men. But were they so big that the Israelites were like grasshoppers by comparison? Oh, how the devil will take a challenging situation and just keep making it bigger and bigger!

Think of the man Daniel. Daniel lived a good life. He was faithful. He was honest. He was upright. But there were people who were jealous of him. They could find nothing to discredit him, but finally they came up with a plot. They had the king sign a decree that no one was to make a request of anyone except of the king for thirty days. Anyone who did would be thrown into a den of lions.

No doubt the devil told Daniel, "Now, you've done it. You'll end up in that den of lions if you pray. You'd better just keep quiet." Can't you just imagine how the devil tried to put the giant of fear before him? But Daniel faced his giant head-on. He didn't plead with God to change the king's mind. The Bible says he went to his room, opened his windows toward Jerusalem, and gave thanks to the Lord.

It isn't always easy to give thanks in the middle of a trial. But oh, that's a giant-killer! And when they threw Daniel to the lions, God was there. He sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths, and delivered Daniel.

When we think of giants, we recall one name in particular: Goliath. He was a big man—more than nine feet tall. When he had on his full armor and his huge spear in his hand, what a sight he must have been! He strutted up and down cursing the armies of Israel. He shouted, "Send a man out to fight me." All the army, from King Saul on down, saw that giant, and they were terrified. Not one of them wanted to face him. But a young man named David was willing to challenge Goliath. David didn't worry about the giant's size. He looked beyond what the devil tried to make

him see. He took his sling and said, "The Lord will deliver me out of his hand." And that's just what happened.

David knew the power of his God. In the natural we would say a young lad could not possibly defeat a trained, fully-armored giant. But, "Is any thing too hard for the LORD?"

All the giants weren't conquered back in Bible times. The devil comes along in our day too, and tries to create giants in our lives.

It's not likely that lions will come our way. I doubt if anyone will send us to spy out a new land. But the devil will still try to bring giants before us.

Perhaps he'll bring the giant of doubt. If we let doubt start in our lives, how fast it grows! It can get so big that it consumes us.

If the giant of doubt comes, we must destroy it with the Word of God. We can resist the devil, and tell him, "Our God is able."

The devil may bring the giant of discouragement. Like doubt, discouragement usually starts small. But if we let it come in, before long it becomes a giant. The devil will make us think, *Nobody loves me. God doesn't hear my prayer. I don't really matter to Him. I'm so discouraged, why go to church?* That giant of discouragement becomes so big it seems we will never overcome it.

Think about bitterness. Oh, what a giant that can become! Has someone offended you? Do you feel slighted? Ill-treated? Yes, it may have happened.

But don't let bitterness creep into your heart. The devil will make sure that it grows to mammoth proportions. The Bible says that a little root of bitterness can spring up and defile many. How careful we must be to get rid of bitterness before it becomes a giant that can ruin us and many others.

GOD

ANYTHING

“

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Some years ago, my wife and I had an experience with the giant of the cares of life. We found out first-hand that those cares can slip in and grow almost unnoticed. Now this giant isn't sin, but how overwhelming it can be!

When I got out of the military, I married. My wife and I had one child and before long we had two, three, and then four. I was working Saturdays and taking night jobs, trying to make ends meet. It seemed that just when we'd get our heads above water, the children needed school clothes or books. And when we'd get that paid for, the car would break down. The cares of life flooded in, and before long that giant was in our home.

I remember being so tired that when I'd get down to pray, I would fall asleep. It was hard to get to church regularly. But one day my wife and I talked it over. We decided that with God's help, things were going to change. And as we began to pray more and pull together, how the Lord blessed us! We destroyed that giant of the cares of life. We proved that with God all things are possible.

The devil doesn't put giants in front of Christians only. He comes to unsaved people and puts giants in their lives too. Sometimes he makes a giant out of restitution. He says it would be impossible to ask forgiveness or make something right. To someone else he says, "How can you ever live a Christian life on the job?"

My own dad had a giant in his life that kept him from getting saved. Dad was a good man. He paid his bills, gave to the needy, and was a caring father to his children. But he couldn't quit smoking. He felt he couldn't be a Christian for that reason. And the devil used that giant for many years. Smoking took its toll. One day my dad was dying of cancer of the throat. A minister from this church came out and asked him, "Wouldn't you like to pray?" And he said yes. That day my dad was completely delivered from the desire for tobacco. The giant was dead.

Some people say, "I don't want to be bound by the rules of the church. They say I can't do this and I can't do that." Those people are allowing their own desires to become a giant. When a person is saved, he has new desires. Then he says, "Show me how I can draw closer to the Lord." That giant is defeated!

Shortly after I was saved, I went to work for a man who was not a Christian. Do you know what stood

between him and salvation? His wife had said, "If you get saved, I'll leave you." That giant got bigger and bigger. He tried to soothe his conscience by joining the neighborhood church. He quit smoking cigars and going to taverns after work. Finally he became a Sunday school superintendent. That made him feel better for a while, but in his heart, he knew he hadn't made his peace with God.

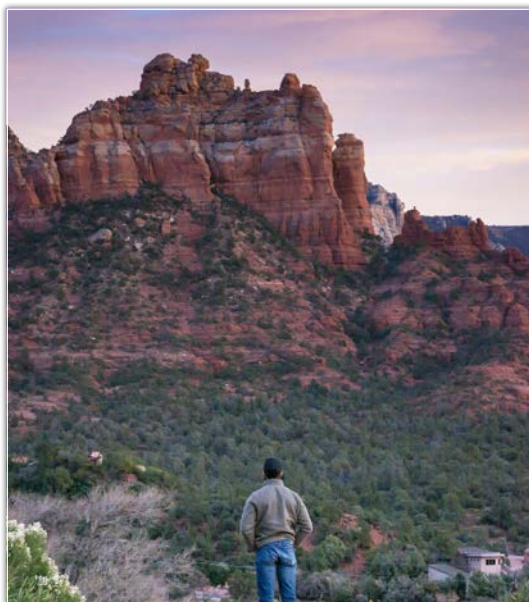
One day he could stand it no longer. He told God, "I'm going to serve You whether my wife takes the way or not." The Lord saved him.

And what happened? Within a week, his wife gave her heart to the Lord too. That couple spent almost twenty years in Korea as missionaries. And to think the devil had said, "Your wife will never come." Oh, how that giant came tumbling down!

Let's ask God to help us when the devil comes around to say, "It's too hard." Many times, in the natural, it is too hard. It may be impossible! But not with God. "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Today if there is a giant in your life, the devil would like to keep you looking at it. Don't do it! Bring that giant before God and say, "Is any thing too hard for the LORD?" The answer is "No, our God is able." ■

Earl Phillips began preaching in 1966 and was a pastor in Dallas and Medford, Oregon; Chehalis and Tacoma, Washington; and Eureka, California. After "retiring," he was interim pastor in Woodlake, California; and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He and his wife of over seventy years currently live in Portland, Oregon.



LED TO THE TRUTH

HER FATHER'S MOVE FROM HUNGARY TO CANADA BEGAN A LONG SERIES OF EVENTS WHICH RESULTED IN THIS WOMAN'S SALVATION.



By Elizabeth Plesko

“America is a wonderful place,” it was said, “where roast pigeons fly through the air and dollar bills grow on trees.” Though we knew those claims were far-fetched, my father wanted to provide a good life for my mother and younger sister and me. So when I was very small, he said goodbye to us and left our town in Hungary, moving to Canada in 1926. He planned to make a lot of money in a short time, and then return and build a nice little home for our family.

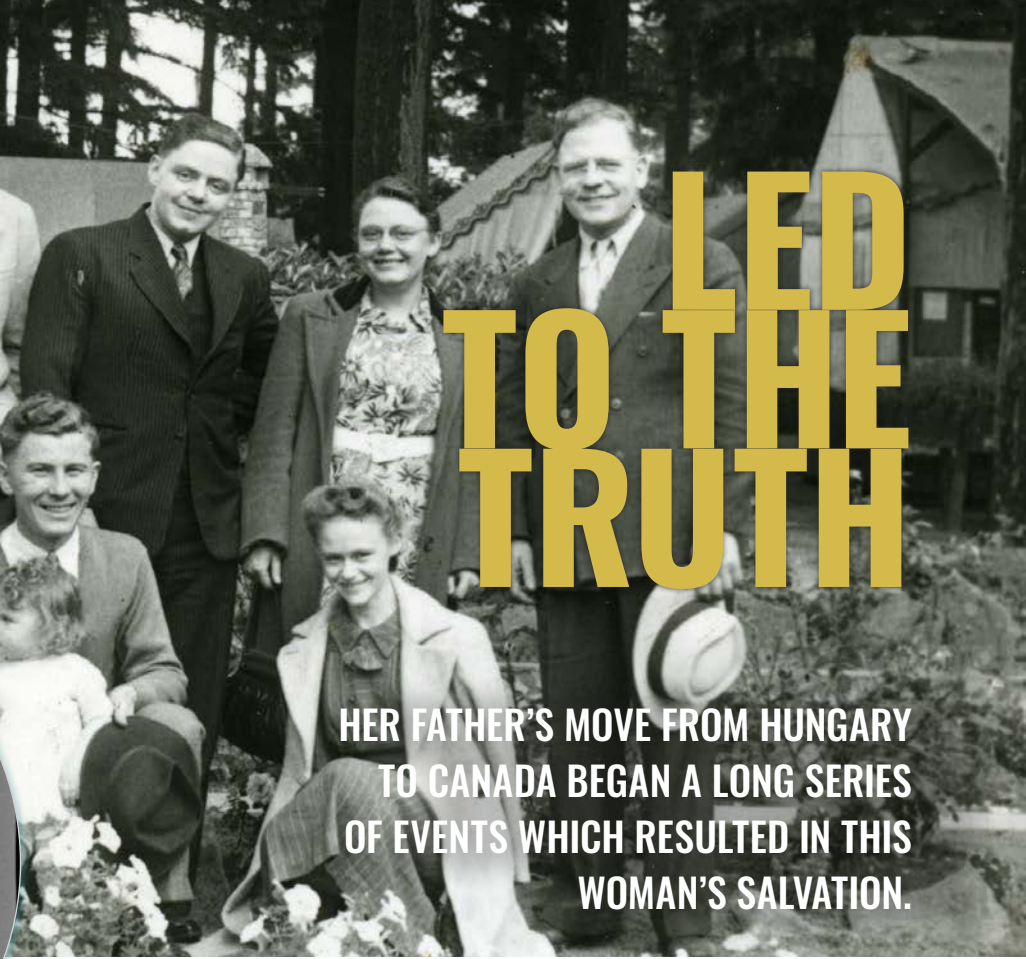
However, before he could come back to us, the dark clouds of war loomed on the horizon. My father decided he should stay in Canada, so my sister and I spent our early years in my mother’s hometown. It was there that I had my first religious training. Each morning before school we went to a Catholic church where we stood for almost an hour on a cold concrete floor while the priest went through his ceremony.

Though I went to church and was taught to be good and respectful, I had no real understanding of the Bible. Every day as we walked to school, my sister and I passed a life-sized crucifix of Jesus, with blood flowing down from His hands and feet. We would look at it and wonder, because we didn’t understand what it symbolized. No one told us the true meaning of the love Christ had when He hung on the Cross for our sins.

When I was nine years old, our little family was able to join my father on a farm in Saskatchewan. We lived far away from any neighbors, and I didn’t see the inside of a church for about three years. Then the Depression came. We had to struggle through that time, like many others. Eventually Dad could not make it any longer, so we left the farm and moved to Alberta to try making a living there.

The little town we moved to had a church in it. By that time, I was fourteen years old and had a longing in my heart to know the Lord. I tried to be a Christian, but I didn’t know how. I went to confession regularly, and took my first communion. But somehow all my efforts didn’t satisfy my inner yearning.

Elizabeth (left) and family on the Portland campground.



At confession, the priest would go through the Ten Commandments to determine what sins I had committed. I didn't even understand what some of them meant. One time I remember thinking, That priest will not believe me if I say I didn't do any of those things; he will think I am a liar. God had helped me live a clean life because He saw I wanted to be good. But that day I told a lie and said I had done something wrong, even though I hadn't. I was so ignorant!

When I was about twenty, I began attending a Mormon church. They had promised to make me the queen of the church I was attending. Like any young girl, I was elated. There was a lot of prestige and ceremony involved, and it was tremendously exciting. But when it came to the actual time, they told me I would have to be baptized into the Mormon Church and become a member first. Somehow, God in His love and mercy kept me from doing so. After I said no, I was so disappointed that I didn't want to go to church anymore. I moved to Lethbridge, Alberta, and got a job in a hospital. But there was still something in my heart that wanted to be a good girl. I had no desire for the sinful things of the world.

The Lord was leading me to the truth. One of the girls who lived in the hospital dorm with me did not go to dances and parties like the other girls. She stayed behind and practiced hymns on her violin. One night we started talking about the Lord. She told me she was a Christian, that she had been born again.

Not long after, I asked if I could go to church

with her. She was glad to take me, and we went to the Christian Missionary Alliance Church. There I heard about forgiveness, and that the Blood of Jesus had power to forgive and cleanse from sin. But as I listened, I remembered how the Mormon Church had ridiculed the idea of salvation that frees from sin. So I thought, Oh, these people believe *that* way. I didn't think I wanted any part of it.

My friend's brother, Paul, walked us home from church. He had a little suitcase filled with literature from the Apostolic Faith Church. When he learned that I could read Hungarian, he opened his suitcase. From it he pulled out tracts and *Apostolic Faith* papers in both English and Hungarian, and gave them to me.

In the evenings that followed and during my afternoon breaks, I lay on my bed and read those papers and tracts. As I did, something stirred in my heart. I thought, Oh, it would be wonderful to have what these people have! My reading was mingled with prayer, and I longed for the Lord to help me.

I didn't really know how to pray, but my heart went up to God in a hunger for righteousness. And God, in His love and mercy, answered my prayer and made such a change in my heart. It was wonderful! I hardly understood what had

happened to me, but at last I had peace and happiness in my heart.

Before long, my parents noticed the difference in me. The Easter dance was coming up, and my mother always tried to get my sister and me new dresses so we could look our prettiest. But that year I told her I did not want to go, and she was worried. Whatever had happened to me? What would make me say no to things I had so looked forward to before?



Whenever any problem came up, I just felt that Jesus would take care of it. I would say, "Lord, You make it all right." The faith He gave me and the peace I had in my heart was so new and wonderful. My sister saw what the Lord had done for me, and soon she also gave her life to Him.

After a time, I had to leave my work at the hospital and return to my parents' home. Paul and his sister said they would come to visit my family, and they kept their word. Paul's mother and dad came also and brought their Bibles, and we talked about the Lord and sang hymns. My dad and mother could not speak much English, but Paul's family was Czechoslovakian and his dad was able to converse with my parents in Hungarian. So we had multi-lingual (Hungarian, Czech, and English) cottage meetings whenever they came.

I had given up the idea of getting married. The worldly men who had paid attention to me swore when they were upset. I knew they drank and did other things that were not right. But when I got to know Paul, I realized there were still men in the world who were clean and good and kind. It was just a marvel to me. Paul and I were married at the end of that year, and it remained a marvel to me all my married life.

God gave us a happy Christian home. We put God first in all our decisions and tried wholeheartedly to please Him. When we had children, we tried to pass this on to them. We had hard places to go through, as everyone does, but the Lord used them to purify and strengthen us.

During the early part of our married life we lived in Lethbridge. Paul had a good job, and we bought our first home. Everything was going well. Then someone came from the Apostolic Faith Church and said a church needed to be established in Vancouver, British Columbia. They asked if we would be interested in going there to help. Right away we put our home up for sale and moved to Vancouver. We did not furnish our new living room, but gave it over to be used for church

services. For a year and a half, meetings were held there. The crowds were good, and God blessed.

When we were able to obtain a church building, Paul started visiting ships that came into the harbor in Vancouver. He invited the crewmen on board to church services and talked to them about the Lord. Often he brought them into our home for times of fellowship. Years later, the Lord gave us the opportunity to go to Korea, Japan, and the Philippines, where we visited the families of men that we had become acquainted with while their ships were in our port. What a privilege that was!

The time came when we were better off financially than we had ever been in our lives. Three of our four children lived near us, and I was enjoying being a grandmother. Then we heard from a group in New Brunswick. One of the families had received a wonderful healing after getting a *Light of Hope* paper, and they wanted an Apostolic Faith Church there. Paul felt the Lord

wanted him to go and build that church. When the church was done, he felt we should move there and work for the Lord in that field. It was dreadfully hard for me to leave our family, but I said, "Lord, whatever You want me to do, I'll do."

So we went to New Brunswick, and we worked among those people for over three years. Paul put his whole heart and life into it, just as he did into everything else. And then one night the Lord suddenly called him Home. How I thank God for His comfort during that time! I was left alone, and yet not alone, for the Lord drew so close to me. He became so much more precious. I learned that if our trust is in God, when trials come, He is there to give us the grace and the strength that we need.

I am so thankful that God called me and helped me give my life to Him. Today my hope is bright, and my eyes are on the goal. I am looking for His coming. I know that He will take me the rest of the way, and I will live with Him throughout all eternity. ■

After the death of her husband, Elizabeth Plesko moved back to Vancouver, British Columbia, and served God there until she went to Heaven in 2004.



Elizabeth with her husband, Paul, at camp meeting in Portland, Oregon.

A STATEMENT OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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