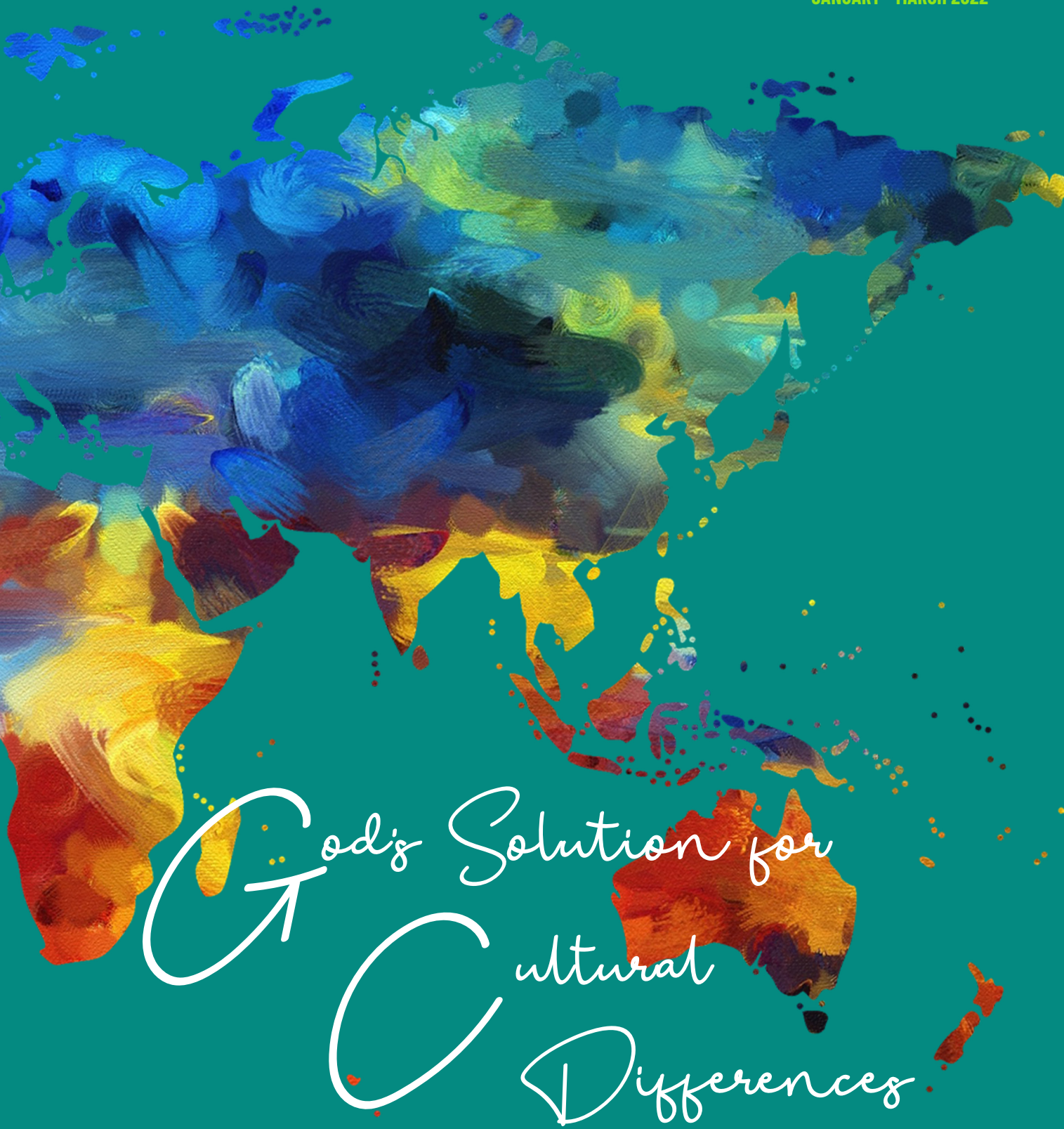


THE Apostolic Faith

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

JANUARY - MARCH 2022



God's Solution for
Cultural Differences

FROM THE WORD

6

As in Noah's day,
God offers hope and
a way of escape for
the real danger facing
mankind.

**A WAY OF
ESCAPE**

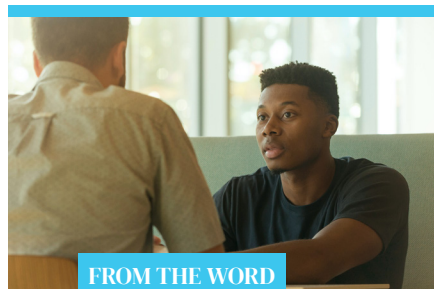


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STEPS TO SALVATION

WHAT WE BELIEVE

VIEWPOINT

By Darrel Lee, SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL



AN APPROACH FOR THE NEW YEAR.

For some, turning the calendar from 2021 to 2022 represents a new beginning. You know the drill because you have done it before—you purpose to exercise more, eat less, and floss with consistency. A new year triggers resolutions and thirty-day plans. Trouble is, by the end of January, the new year is a month old and the practices we abandoned thirty days earlier have returned. Come to think of it, if you want a really good deal on lightly used exercise equipment, start checking around the middle of February.

Rather than focusing on the year ahead, perhaps our challenge is to focus on the dawning of each new day, no matter the month. Did not the Lord teach us to face each day as it comes, rather than dwell on an uncertain future? Knowing God cares for the flowers of the field and the fowls of the air gives us confidence that we need not fret about the future. Notice the repetition in the Lord's prayer when He taught, "Give us day by day our daily bread" (Luke 11:3). Consider also the reason manna was provided to the Children of Israel on an every-day basis and not annually. Paul declared that the inward man is renewed "day by day" rather than year by year. Renewal each day adds up to a year after twelve months, which grows into decades and then a

lifetime. The key is to focus on each new day as it dawns.

During our forty-five years of marriage, Debbie has recorded significant daily happenings on a wall calendar she posts each January 1st. Appointments are written in advance, yet she cannot know in the morning what a day will bring. That type of uncertainty can be quite distressing. However, she, and we, can be confident that God will orchestrate

the events of our day according to His perfect will. If He is capable of that, then He is capable of governing our year. In that, we have supreme confidence.

Every day brings hope, and one purpose of this magazine is to present messages from

a variety of perspectives

that remind us of our great hope in God. As you read, may you be inspired to enter daily into His presence through the way that was opened to us by Christ (see page 21), to keep your trust in God no matter what events transpire (see page 31), and to remain undistracted from your commitment to His service (see page 40). Anxiety is reduced when we live a day at a time rather than projecting months and years into the future. We can only live a day at a time anyway, so may God help us each morning to commit our new day to Him.

Darrel D Lee

From THE WORD

In the beginning was the Word, and
the Word was with God, and the
Word was God. — John 1:1

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A WAY OF ESCAPE



By Darrel Lee

*As in Noah's day, God offers hope
and a way of escape for the real
danger facing mankind.*



In our day, we are frequently told that humanity faces an existential threat—that the continued survival of the planet and the human race is at a dangerous tipping point. This is nothing new.

I remember being taught about existential threats when I was just a fourth or fifth grade student, and what I heard created a great deal of anxiety in my mind. There was apprehension about the coming population explosion, which I would visualize as I rode the school bus from Hucrest Elementary School in Roseburg, Oregon, out to Quail Lane and our home on the banks of the North Umpqua River. I remember being worried as I looked on either side of the road where there were few houses, but many trees, pastures, cattle, and sheep. I thought, *Wow! This is going to be full of people!* Then they told me of the coming ice age. I wondered, *Would it reach down to Oregon? Would we all freeze to death?* We were informed of a looming water shortage, and advised to conserve water. I came home and told my dad that we needed to put a brick in the tank of the toilet to minimize the tank capacity. My dad never finished high school—he was short on academics but long on common sense. He replied, “Why not just adjust the float?”

Even today, secular doomsday prophets can create a feeling of panic and anxiety in our children regarding events that will never occur. However, there is an existential threat that faces our world, though it has nothing to do with the environment. It has to do with what was dealt with in Noah’s day, and that is the moral corruption of the human race.

Genesis 6:5 records, “God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” Verse 7 declares the existential threat that this widespread corruption brought about: “And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.”

The existential threat we face today is the same as that of Noah’s day, and that is the coming judgment of God. However, Scripture tells us that “Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Genesis 6:8), and God

provided a way of escape for him and his family. That way of escape—the ark—was available to anyone who wished to take advantage of it. And today, God has provided a way of escape from coming judgment that is available to all: the Rapture of the Church. So rather than burdening our children with anxiety about environmental threats, let's give them hope! There is a better day coming, and we can be prepared for it.

COMPARING NOAH'S DAY TO OURS

Matthew 24:38 describes the conditions in which Noah lived. We read, "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark." The inhabitants of earth back then were going about their routines, focusing on their temporal priorities and goals, and making their decisions without regard to God. In 2 Peter 3:3-4, we find a description of people's actions and perspectives in the last days—our day. "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

While stated in different terms, the common denominator between Noah's day and ours is the depraved condition of the human race. In Noah's day, his preaching of righteousness was mocked and disregarded. We see the same thing in our day: the lawless are deified while the lawful are vilified. No matter what the generation or geographic location, the consequences of godlessness are always the same.

NOAH'S LIFE A CONTRAST

Noah's manner of living was in contrast to others of his day. Genesis 6:9 indicates that Noah was "a just man and perfect in his generations," and that he "walked with God." We can do that as well. It is not complicated. We determine to serve God—we make a start at salvation, and then we simply continue to follow Him. We hear testimonies of many who made

that determination years ago, and one day at a time, just kept walking with God. They are still doing so. That is unusual in the day and age in which we live, but it was unusual in Noah's day, too. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, and we can find that same grace.

Noah took the actions necessary to receive the grace and favor of God. We read in Hebrews 11:7, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." And he did not just build the ark—he preached to the ungodly people around him as well. It had been revealed to him that there would be a flood. There had never been rain on the earth prior to that time, but Noah knew it was going to come because God had said it would. No doubt some of Noah's hearers

Noah took the actions necessary to receive the grace and favor of God.

wondered about his mental stability and mocked him for investing time and energy in building an ark. However, in faith he continued to obey God. Faith enables individuals to act on promises where there is no evidence that the promise can be fulfilled. Noah made decisions based on what God had said rather than on appearances. That is how he found grace in the eyes of the Lord, and walking with God was what God's grace empowered him to do.

The statement in Genesis 6:9 that Noah was "perfect in his generations," was not a reference to the perfection that is God's alone. No person will ever measure up to God's power, His holiness, or His love. Nor did the statement mean that Noah enjoyed the Adamic perfection that existed before the Fall of Man. Though Adam was created with the ability to do wrong, his inclination was to do right until he exercised his free will and chose otherwise. When we read of Noah being "perfect," we understand this is an allusion to the way Noah lived. He found grace in the eyes of the Lord because he responded favorably to Him! That's what the Lord wants—that we have a purpose to obey and walk with Him. We thank God that the grace Noah found can still be found today, and individuals can be "perfect" in this generation just as Noah was in his.



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A WARNING

In 2 Peter 3:5, Peter spoke of the people of Noah's day who were willingly ignorant of the flood that was coming until the waters came and overflowed the earth. In like manner, people of our day will be caught unawares at the Rapture of the Church. While many of the threats promoted by false doomsday prophets will never take place, this is something that *will* happen. Peter went on to say that “the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” (verse 7). The Lord will come and the day of judgment will follow. It will fall heavy upon this planet. That is the existential threat our world faces! This planet itself is reserved for fire, but those who have chosen to walk with God as Noah did will not be here. They will be in a better place.

The moral corruption that exists in the human race today is no different from what existed in the time of Noah. That is why Jesus said, “As it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man” (Luke 17:26). Perhaps the most significant sign of Christ's soon coming is observing what concerns the human race today. Current predictions of existential threats are Satan's diversions to preoccupy the human race with things that are insignificant when compared to God's judgment.

Noah lived with a sense of urgency, not for a day or for a week, but for 120 years. “Repent! Turn to God!” was the theme of his preaching. However, all but Noah and his family ignored their opportunity, and finally the door of the ark was shut and the flood was upon them. In the same way, people in our day largely neglect the fact that they are about to face God's judgment—even though some of them have been told for decades that judgment is coming. And just as the people of Noah's day did not know that their opportunity was past until the flood came, many on this earth will not know their opportunity is past until the Rapture has occurred.

Thank God, there is a way of escape. You can face the future with hope rather than anxiety. You can turn to the Lord for the grace He offers, and yield your life to Him. Then you will look forward to the coming Rapture with peace and assurance that like Noah, you are walking with God and will be delivered. ■

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

GOD'S SOLUTION FOR CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

*History does not have
the answer for conflicts
between cultures, but
God does!*



By Demetrius McElveen

On the last Sunday of February 2021, the Apostolic Faith Church in Washington D.C. held their annual Culture Day service where they recognized and celebrated over a dozen cultures represented in their congregation. The following article was taken from the message shared that morning.

Our Culture Day celebration here in Washington D.C. was inspired by our desire to be more inclusive of people in our congregation who are from different cultures. For those of us who have lived in a monolithic community where only one culture is primarily visible, it can be challenging to adopt new ways, especially as we get older. We become accustomed to our own foods, clothing, greetings, and even expectations of each other. Sometimes our habits are so ingrained that doing anything else feels uncomfortable, or perhaps even wrong.

While having cultural preferences is not negative in itself, it can become a problem if one group's ways come into conflict with another's. Of course, this issue is not unique to our church but is something that confronts people all over the world. I grew up in Washington D.C. back when we still had racial segregation and at that time, if you lived in a predominantly black neighborhood, you mostly

saw only black people, and the opposite was true in white neighborhoods. The result was that we did not see people outside of our own race enough to get to know them. When racial integration started, we were taught rules for how to behave toward one another, but not how to love one another. It was difficult in many ways and people did not always get along. Society only had history to guide them, so if someone wondered, “Why doesn’t that person like me?” they would just turn back a page in history to find what happened to make one group not like the other.

To this day, many still believe that history holds the answers. Often we hear somebody say, “If we only knew our history, we could live better.” I wish it were as simple as that, but we have no evidence to support that philosophy. Today we have access to an unprecedented amount of historical information, yet people still cannot get along. One source will tell a story one way, but if you keep researching, somebody else will tell it another way. Then someone else will bring up even older events and claim that changes everything! We can keep going around and around looking for more information.

This is not to denounce the importance of knowing history, but we must understand that reading about history will not bring us peace. Depending on what version of history we read, it may generate feelings of pride, disappointment, animosity, or perhaps even hatred. However, it will not make us love our brothers and sisters, or our enemies.

We can also eliminate the idea that the color of our skin is a deciding factor for peace. I’ve had conversations with people who emigrated here from places like Ghana, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone, as well as those who were born in the United States, and I have found that even when we have the same skin color, there is not always agreement among us when we discuss the major issues of our day. Many people focus on that, but even among those of the same ethnicity, there is not always peace.

What, then, is the source of our conflicts, and what is the solution? The truth is that God created mankind, and He set the standard by which we ought to live and treat each other. Only He can judge any of us. We will not find answers for how we are supposed to live in a history book, but we can find it in God’s Word.

CHILDREN OF OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

Jesus was born into the Jewish culture. Like any other people group, the Jews had traditions and values that guided the way they were expected to behave. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught the Jewish people from their own Law and challenged their cultural practices. He told them:

“Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:38-45).

When Jesus said, “Ye have heard . . .” in this passage, He was referencing popular beliefs of the time. Those in His audience had been raised to “love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy.” “An eye for an eye” was the expectation in their culture. In a sense, this seems fair, but it is also true that a culture that lives by “an eye for an eye” is going to end up with a lot of one-eyed people! At the end of the day, once everyone has lost an eye, they cannot be put back. What has been achieved?

Jesus challenged the Jewish traditional views by presenting something better—the ways of “your Father which is in Heaven.” I am grateful for my biological father who taught me important lessons about hard work and how to respect my elders, but those types of lessons were not what Jesus was talking about. If we want to know our true heritage and learn the way we are really supposed to live, we have to go back further than our family, tribe, or ethnicity. The nation we come from and the cultural

beliefs we hold are all secondary. We have to go all the way back to the Garden of Eden, when God made mankind in His image and in His likeness. Our Father in Heaven set the standard that we should love each other, and this is what Jesus came to teach.

Everything Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount was remarkable. It may sound somewhat normal to us today because the world has been exposed to His teachings for two thousand years now, but imagine the first time He preached, "If somebody sues you wrongfully to take an article of clothing, give him the rest of your clothes." And then forgive, show mercy to enemies, be a peacemaker, love your neighbor as yourself—this all must have been astonishing at the time. These teachings are still desperately needed in a world that continues to struggle over basic differences such as the language we speak, the color of our skin, or the food we eat. There is no chance we will have peace unless people begin to learn the ways of our Father in Heaven.

OUR TRUE HISTORY

As much as people hope to find answers in history, what we actually find when we look back is more of the same problems. We know that because we can read about the very beginning of humanity in the Bible. Chapter 4 of Genesis says:

"And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:1-9).

For those who promote the idea that "If we only knew our history, we could get along," this account proves otherwise. Cain and Abel were two people who truly knew their history. They were

Cain and Abel were two people who truly knew their history . . . and yet, Cain killed his brother.

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in the first generations of mankind. There were no other races or cultures yet. Cain and Abel ate the same foods, dressed the same way, and spoke the same language. They were raised with the same beliefs and taught about the same God. They even talked with God directly—not through a prophet, through rituals, or even through Scripture, but through direct communication with the Creator! And yet, Cain killed his brother.

Why did it come to murder for Cain? For the same reason that people murder today: because of a condition of the heart. Cain's problem did not start with his external circumstances but in his own heart. He was jealous that God gave deference to Abel's gift and not his own. When people think evil of another in their hearts, it will be manifested in their actions, even among brothers from the same household.

This is true for all people around the world, of all backgrounds. Many today try to solve problems with laws and politics, but we are never going to write a law that will make others treat us the way we think we ought to be treated. People cannot even treat themselves the way they ought to be treated! Without the love of God, we cannot treat anybody right.

That is why the words of Jesus were so riveting. He was explaining that His listeners had forgotten what their Heavenly Father had taught them, and were instead learning the traditions of the culture of their earthly fathers. Mankind was so hopelessly lost that the Son of God had to come down from Heaven and walk among us to show us how to love one another. Jesus' love took Him all the way to the Cross. The Bible says He despised the shame thereof, but He laid down His life for the joy that was set before Him—the joy of us one day repenting and believing, and finally understanding that God is love and that we ought to love one another.

OUR FATHER'S WAYS

After we have been saved, we still have differing cultures and practices. We cherish the traditions that have been passed down to us, but our traditions are not our faith. Cultural practices cannot replace the Word of God. They cannot replace the *love* of God! If we have traditions but we lose God's mercy, forgiveness, or grace, we've lost everything. We must have love.

Cultures change over time based on experiences. For example, a culture that has been generous to others might become more sparing if their generosity is exploited. In contrast to this, the ways of our Father in Heaven are unchanging. No matter what we experience in life, we cannot stop following what the Bible teaches, so if someone does us wrong, we must continue to show them love and



forgive. When I was saved, I was forgiven and I also forgave those who had wronged me. I was set free! And now, no one can make me angry again over something I settled with the Lord. I may get upset when someone does me wrong, but because I have God's love in my heart, I can forgive.

It helps to remember that often, the people who hurt us have been mistreated themselves, and they may not know how to do any better than what they are doing. While the world uses weapons of greater and greater destruction against each other, we use the weapon God gave us: love. It is the only weapon that will work. That's why Jesus gave no other formula but to "turn the other cheek." If we follow His teachings and show others His love, we are creating an opportunity for God the Father to come and transform that conflict.

It also helps to remember that we need God's mercy too. At the time of the Exodus when God brought judgment on Egypt for their sin, He made a way of escape that was available to anyone who wanted to be saved. Egyptian and Jew alike could be delivered—the only condition was to paint the blood of a lamb over their doorposts. God was not for the Jews because they were slaves, and He was not against the Egyptians

because they were slave owners. He was against the condition that they all were in—their sinful state—and deliverance was for them all.

Today, all are born with the same condition of sin, and Jesus' shed Blood is our way of escape from that bondage. If we have enmity in our hearts against another, the only solution is for that enmity to die, and Christ carried all our sins to the Cross to make that possible. He became sin so that sin could be put to death, because He loves us. Thank God for the Blood of Jesus that sets us free!

EMBRACING OUR FATHER'S WAYS

My family does not know much about our ancestry in Africa, and personally, I am not particularly interested in finding out, because our cultures and our histories cannot answer the most important questions in life. No matter how far back we look or how many relics we dig up, we cannot find peace there. How do I know that? Because Cain slew Abel. And if Cain slew Abel, then there's no chance we are going to find something in our history that will make us better people. It does not make a difference what color we are or where we are from. If we start looking back, we will find there is jealousy in our history. There is hatred in our history. And there is death in our history. But hallelujah, Jesus came to

Jesus taught about the ways of our Father which is in Heaven, and that is what we want to learn.

deliver us! He came that we might have life, and that it might be more abundant.

Jesus taught about the ways of our Father which is in Heaven, and that is what we want to learn. I am not a child of a tribe or a nation; I am first and foremost a son of God. He allowed me to be born into a particular family and culture, but when I consider what is important, I am going to think all the way back to my Father which is in Heaven. He created us in His likeness and in His image, and we want our lives to emulate His ways most of all. ■

Demetrius McElveen is a minister of the Apostolic Faith Church in Washington, D.C.

EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM



From a minister training session by Olusola Adesope

All of us know someone who is in need of the Savior, whether a loved one, friend, neighbor, or acquaintance. Having experienced the wonderful Gospel of Christ, we realize the blessings they are missing and carry a burden for their souls. It is our desire to see unbelievers saved, and we pray for them. However, when it comes to evangelism, we may find it difficult to know where to begin or how to make our efforts effective.

By looking into five aspects of evangelism, using God's Word as our guide, we can better equip ourselves to share the Gospel with those around us. These aspects could be called "The Five W's of Evangelism" as they are what, why, who, where, and when.

The WHAT, WHY, WHO, WHERE, and WHEN of delivering the greatest news ever told.

WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

The word “evangelism” does not appear in the English Bible. However, it is rooted in three Greek words used in the New Testament: *euaggelion*, *euaggelistes*, and *euaggelizo*. The first of these words has a meaning of “gospel or good news,” the second refers to “an evangelist or one who proclaims the gospel,” and the third is “the act of proclaiming the gospel or bringing good news.” When combined, these meanings give an understanding of the English word “evangelism.” It is the act of communicating the Gospel message to others.

Necessarily, evangelism involves using our imperfect ways of communicating. Each of us delivers the message through testimonies, illustrations, metaphors, and stories filtered through our own context of experience, personality, culture, and location. However, though we have a part in spreading the Gospel message, evangelism does not rest solely upon our efforts. It relies on the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told His followers, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). As we endeavor to evangelize, we trust and pray that God in His sovereignty will supernaturally use our human and natural means to bring about His divine purposes.

For a better understanding of our role, we can look closer at the three Greek words that constitute evangelism.

***Euaggelion*: the message.** The focal point of the evangelism message is the good news that Jesus Christ saves from sin, and the message is anchored by His life and teachings. Just prior to Jesus’ birth, an angel instructed His earthly father, “. . . thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

This is not our message, but a message from Heaven. At Jesus’ birth, a heralding angel visited shepherds in a field and proclaimed, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11). Though this news of a Savior was declared in Bethlehem, the angel specified that it was “to all people.” The message of salvation is for the Africans, the Asians, the Europeans . . . all people, and it is the greatest news we will ever share with another!

When we hear of something good, it is difficult to keep the news of it to ourselves, even when that news is nothing more significant than a bargain at a clearance sale. I like to tell others when I find a good restaurant. One time, I discovered an exceptional buffet restaurant in Spokane, Washington. It is owned by Christians and features a large variety of good foods. Soon after returning home, I told the saints at church, “The food is great, and you can listen to Christian music while you eat.” Upon my recommendation, many in our congregation have eaten there.

Some news is so important that no one would ever think of

As we endeavor to evangelize, we trust and pray that His sovereignty will supernaturally use our human means to bring about His divine purposes.

withholding it. What if you discovered a cure for cancer? Would you keep that information to yourself? No, you would tell the whole world, "I have the cure!" The Gospel message is so much more important than that. God has given us the secret to curing the worst disease in the world, which is sin. We should want to tell everyone, "We have the cure!"

Euaggelistes: the messenger. Before we can tell others how good the Gospel is, we must experience it for ourselves. Upon receiving salvation, we become equipped to share the basics of the message with others. Then as we continue in our walk with the Lord, deepening our relationship with Him and studying His Word, we gain further knowledge and experience, enabling us to share more.

Another condition for telling others about the Gospel is that we must be living according to God's Word.

The people we speak to observe how we live, and this is our greatest testimony. Paul told the converts at Corinth, "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men" (2 Corinthians 3:2).

Therefore, it is important that we continually examine our own hearts to be sure we remain fully surrendered to God's will.

There are a number of other conditions that contribute to the success of evangelism, and we should cultivate these in our lives. Here are some listed in the *Apostolic Faith Minister's Manual*:

- ✦ **Understand the lost condition of humanity.** Those who are most successful in helping people see their need of salvation are those who deeply realize that individuals without God are eternally lost. Paul related that for three years, he "ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:31). We need to pray for a profound

spiritual understanding of the lost condition of mankind.

- ✦ **Have a genuine love for people.** Nothing is a more compelling influence than a real love for others. And people will never believe we love them unless we truly do! A love for people's souls is a gift of the Spirit of God and is the first fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22.
- ✦ **Have perseverance and patience.** Sometimes the salvation of a soul requires prevailing day after day, week after week, and even month after month. We must not consider anyone beyond the Lord's reach and give up on them.
- ✦ **Know the Bible.** It is the Word that produces conviction for sin, so knowledge of the Word of God is a necessity.
- ✦ **Pray.** If we want to be used of God in winning souls, we will need to spend time in prayer, asking God to bring us to the right people, give us the right message, anoint us with His power, and make our efforts for Him fruitful.
- ✦ **Labor in the power of the Holy Ghost.** The definite empowerment by the Holy Ghost was a necessity for power in the Early Church, and it is still a necessity today.

If we will focus on preparing our hearts and listening for the Spirit's direction, we need not concern ourselves with the immediate results. As we do our part, God will do His part. Paul said, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Euangelizo: the delivery. Whether we are preaching, testifying in church, or witnessing to someone personally, our goal should always be to point to Jesus. For example, our testimonies of salvation should not dwell on how sinful we were in the past, but on what Jesus did to deliver us from sin. Also, when telling about times that God has healed, provided, or protected us, our focus should be on His goodness more than on what we did to receive an answer to prayer. God is good, and that is what we want others to hear. If we share the Gospel and people walk away saying, "Oh, what a teacher," we have lifted up ourselves instead of Jesus. There is power in this Gospel, and we want everyone to walk away exclaiming, "Oh, what a Gospel!"

John the Baptist was a great evangelist and his approach was to point people to Christ. When his disciples were unsure of where their loyalties should lie, he said of Jesus, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). Likewise, if we want people to see Jesus, we must drop any desire for worldly accolades and attempt to emulate this attitude.

WHY EVANGELIZE?

It is necessary to evangelize, and the reason is brought out in Romans 10:14. It says, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" People cannot choose to believe in Christ if they have not heard of Him.

It is our responsibility to introduce Christ to those around us, first because He commanded us to, but also because we know how precious each soul is.

The Lord commanded it. The Early Church saints were first called Christians at Antioch because they obeyed the commandments of Christ and were thereby associated with Him. As Christians, we have submitted our lives to the Lord, and we too obey His commands.

Shortly before His ascension into Heaven, Jesus appeared to His disciples and gave them one final mandate, which became known as the Great Commission. He told them, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Of all the thoughts Jesus could have left His followers with, He chose this one. He did not remind them to feed the poor, heal the sick, or continue to do miracles. Therefore, we do not want to take this charge lightly.

The concept of the Great Commission was not new to the disciples. From the time Jesus first called them, He said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Throughout His ministry, He continued to prepare them for the task ahead. He helped them to understand that God's people would participate in the divine activity of carrying His truth to lost humanity.

The mandate that was given to the disciples is our mandate as well. The human race is lost, and people need to hear that Jesus can rescue them. It is our

responsibility to share this Good News.

Every soul has value. God specifically created each of us and knows us so intimately that even the hairs on our heads are numbered. He gave us undying souls, and after this life on earth, we will live on for eternity either in Heaven or Hell. As each of us is God's unique creation, He places tremendous value on our souls. He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

God so loves us that He sent His Son to die for us while we were yet sinners. We read in 1 Peter 1:18-19 that we "were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." Jesus paid for our redemption with His own Blood! That is how valuable we are to Him.

As recipients of God's love, we are compelled to act compassionately toward others also in need of redemption. When we see people at work or school who are headed for everlasting punishment, our hearts should burn with a desire to tell them about Jesus.

WHO DO WE EVANGELIZE?

In a broad sense, evangelism refers to the Christian's effort to proclaim the Gospel message to any audience, whether believers or nonbelievers. When speaking to other believers, telling what God has done in our lives can encourage them to press forward in the faith.

In a narrower sense, evangelism is for the lost—those who have never known the Lord or who are backslidden. These people generally fall into one of four categories: some are completely ignorant



of their need for salvation, some are religious but have an erroneous view of salvation, others realize their need of a Savior and want to be saved, and still others have little or no concern for their souls.

Looking again to our *Minister's Manual*, we find some guidelines for how best to approach the people in each category:

- ✦ *Those who are ignorant of their need.* We must be prepared to begin with the basics. They will need to understand that they are special creations of God and loved by Him. Sin has separated them and the rest of humanity from God, but He has bridged this separation through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, providing forgiveness of sins for all who will receive it.
- ✦ *Those who are religious.* We will need to point them to the possibility of living a life of victory over sin through a definite experience of

approach such discussions with solemnity and earnestness, and in the power of the Holy Ghost. As we do so, God will give us insight and grace.

WHERE DO WE EVANGELIZE?

Jesus told His followers, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The first place He mentioned was Jerusalem, because that is where they were located. Evangelism begins right where we are!

For an example, we can look to a woman in our congregation who was hired years ago as a secretary. One day, her boss gave instructions that if a call should come in from someone he did not want to speak with, she should say he was out. She refused, telling him, "I can't do that. It would be a lie to say you are not here." She did not know it at the time, but this brought heavy conviction to

☞ In dealing with a person's need for salvation, we are dealing with a life and death matter.

salvation. At times this can be done by inquiring whether they know that their sins have been forgiven and they are ready for eternity.

- ✦ *Those who want to be saved.* There are wonderful promises in the Word of God that can encourage people who are in this category. We should be prepared to point them to verses such as "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).
- ✦ *Those who have little or no concern.* When dealing with people in this group, our goal must be to bring about that concern. At times, a verse such as Romans 14:12, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" may help them see their need.

In dealing with a person's need for salvation, we are addressing a life and death matter. We must

her employer's heart. Eventually, he accepted her invitation to an Apostolic Faith church service, and there he prayed and was saved. Now this man leads our work in Yakima, Washington. That sister was faithful, and God used her right where she was.

As we reach out to those in our locations, we must also be receptive to God's call and be willing to go where the Spirit leads. After I completed my PhD in Langley, British Columbia, I applied for thirty or forty jobs in the area. I felt it was my duty to stay in Langley and support my pastor and the Gospel work there. However, God had other plans. I was turned down for every job, including stocking shelves. I asked God, "What would You have me to do?" He led me to apply for a couple of jobs in the United States, and I was hired at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington.

My wife and I moved our family to Pullman, and on Sundays, we began attending the nearest Apostolic Faith Church, which was two hundred miles away in Yakima. After a time, another family moved to our area and began making a similarly long drive to church. Eventually, with the blessing of our pastor, our families stayed home every other Sunday and watched the Portland service online. We invited others to join us, and on the weekends that we went to Yakima, some of them came with us. One day it was suggested that we hold a church service in Pullman to see what would happen. People came and about six months later, we held another service. Little by little the numbers grew, and now we have a congregation. Though none of us involved could have foreseen it, God had a plan to reach people in Pullman. We must be willing to start where we are and then go where He leads.

had the well in common, so He initiated the conversation with, "Give me to drink." This led to a discussion about living water, which resulted in the woman telling others, "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" (John 4:7, 29).

Something else we can do is to be aware of the people around us, taking time to listen to them, and asking good questions. Phillip observed the Ethiopian eunuch reading Isaiah and asked, "Understandest thou what thou redest?" (Acts 8:30). That was a good question, because it had the potential to lead to a discussion.

Some environments, such as work or school, preclude people from speaking about their faith. However, there is nothing to stop us from living a Christian life before our associates, and this can often lead to a conversation. One time at a faculty event, I was in the buffet line. My dean was behind me and asked, "Aren't you going to take any

“ Every day as we go about our regular routines, we encounter people who need the Lord.

WHEN DO WE EVANGELIZE?

We also need to be ready to evangelize whenever the opportunity arises. Peter admonished believers, "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). Every day as we go about our regular routines, we encounter people who need the Lord; whether a co-worker, neighbor, or grocer. The difficulty is not in finding someone to speak to about the Gospel but in knowing how to begin. By preparing a few ideas for starting a conversation, we can be ready to share the Gospel message at all times.

One possibility is to look for a commonality with the other person, even if it is nothing more than your surroundings. Jesus did that when a Samaritan woman came to Jacob's well to draw water. They

wine?" I told him, "Sir, I have never taken wine in my life. I would love to have water." He asked someone to bring water for both of us, and since that day bottled water has been served at all of our college events. More importantly, though, simply following God's principals started a dialogue with this man. Over the years, he has come to ask different questions about my faith. With a little preparation, we will be able to evangelize whenever the opportunity arises.

The greatest news ever told is that Jesus Christ saves from sin! God has called us to be part of His plan for sharing this news with the world. As Paul said, "We are labourers together with God" (1 Corinthians 3:9). We can help bring hope to the lost. What an exciting opportunity! ■

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ACCESS GRANTED



By Tony Boyce

Jesus' death on Calvary opened the way into God's presence.

The United States Bullion Depository in Fort Knox, Kentucky, is a high-level security facility. The fenced property houses a building constructed from concrete, granite, and reinforced steel. This structure is surrounded by rolls of razor wire and minefields. Armed police stand at the four corners and entrance. They are assisted by soldiers from the adjacent U.S. Army base in guarding the building's contents—the largest U.S. deposit of gold. Access to this facility is so restricted that only three times have visitors been permitted to enter.¹ Over the years, due to these restrictive measures, the name “Fort Knox” has become synonymous with “security.”

If we look back in history to the time of Moses, we find another structure where access was even more restrictive. When the Lord instituted the Tabernacle in the wilderness, He gave Moses very specific commands about how it was to be built and fashioned. One set of instructions pertained to the veil that was hung like a curtain between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. This veil provided a barrier, beyond which only the High Priest

could go, and even then only once a year on the Day of Atonement. It also served as a type of warning. It was a reminder that entrance into God's presence was restricted, for the Holy of Holies was where God manifested His glory in a cloud above the Mercy Seat.

Though the High Priest was permitted to enter God's presence one day each year, careful preparations had to be made first. He was required to wash, dress in specific clothing, and make an atoning sacrifice for his sins. After that, he was to put “incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat.” This cloud of smoke from the incense was to prevent him from seeing God's glory so “that he die not” (Leviticus 16:13).

Being denied entrance into Fort Knox is not a concern for most people; no one has ever tried to break in. But when it comes to being in the presence of God, all of us should be interested in having full access. This was not possible under the sacrificial system of the Law. However, Jesus' death on the Cross opened the way to direct access to God. His atoning sacrifice fulfilled all of the requirements necessary under the Law to fully reconcile man to God. His innocent Blood paid the penalty for our sins so that when we repent, we will be saved. What does it mean to be saved? It means that our sins are forgiven, we have entered into a relationship with God, and there is a home in Heaven prepared for us.

More than that, we can be sanctified. Hebrews 9:13-14 lets us know that if “the ashes

of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh; how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience."

We can also be filled with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us in Matthew 27:50-51 that when Jesus died, the way into the Holy of Holies was opened. It reads, "Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent." It was no accident that as Jesus died the veil in the Temple was torn in two. It was a miracle! If you or I were going to tear that curtain, we would have started at the bottom, but it tore from the top. And the tear continued all the way to the ground. At that moment, we were granted access to the Holy of Holies, into the presence of God's glory. There was no more separation between man and God. Suddenly, we had direct access to the throne of grace. What an opportunity!

The Apostle Paul instructed us in Hebrews 10:19-22 to take advantage of this access and draw near to God. He said, "Having, therefore, brethren boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; and having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."

Though the way into God's presence is open, there are some conditions we must meet to enter in. We must approach God's throne with humility, fully surrendering ourselves to His will, and in faith, believing that He will hear and answer our prayers.

COME HUMBLY

When we come before God for any need, whether salvation, healing, a deeper experience, or help in a situation, we must come with an attitude of humility, understanding who God is. It is revealed in Isaiah 57:15 that God abides with those whose attitudes reflect a right perspective. It says, "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit."

This might seem to conflict with the instruction in Hebrews 10:19 to have "boldness to enter into the holiest" and also that of Hebrews 4:16, which says to "come boldly unto the throne of grace." However, there may be misconceptions about what it means to be humble. The word humble as used in Isaiah 57:15 comes from the Hebrew root word shaphel, which means "to become low." This is not the same as self-degradation, self-harm, or self-imposed humiliation. Instead, it is yielding to God's preeminent will and His perfect way, understanding that He knows what is best and has all things under His control. It is simply coming before the Lord and saying, "I don't know, but You do, and I place my trust in You."

So how do we reconcile approaching God in both boldness and humility? We come boldly by having confidence in His promises, and we come humbly by recognizing His authority over us. When we do this, God will hear and answer our prayers.

COME IN FULL SURRENDER

When we come to the Lord to be granted access, He does not want us to hold back any part of ourselves. God tells us in Jeremiah 29:13, "Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." God wants it all; He is asking for a complete surrender.

A helpful illustration when trying to surrender our all to God is to think of our hearts as having several compartments, each holding a different aspect of our lives. One section might be for family, another for church, and another for work. Then, we picture ourselves opening up each compartment to God and inviting Him in.

The Lord not only wants to look inside our hearts, but He also wants to dwell in each area. Some might think, I understand why it is important for God to be in my family life and church activities, but what about the box that contains my job? The Lord wants us to search for Him with that part of our hearts as well. God wants to be involved on a daily basis in all the things that we do. He wants us to consult Him. I do this all the time in my job. Though I am not the best trained or most capable employee, I put my trust in the Lord and He helps everything work out. God said

to search for Him with “all your heart,” so we want to come to Him with every part of our lives.

Sometimes it is difficult to let go of something that is precious to us. We might find ourselves holding back something from God because we are worried about what will happen if we release control

of it. In those situations, we need to remind ourselves that God can protect the things that are most valuable to us better than we can.

As a parent, I have experienced this. One time I learned that two sexual predators lived near our home. I was concerned about my children, but there was

nothing I could do to guarantee their safety, so I realized I needed

to entrust them to the Lord. I gave that compartment to Him, knowing that He is more capable than I am. Now

my children are older, and as they go out into the world on their own, I think about what types of things they will be exposed to and

what choices they will make. Worrying will not help them, but I can continue to trust God and pray that He will keep them from evil and harm. God knows

diligently seek Him in accordance with His Word.

We are told in Romans 12:3 that the Lord has dealt a “measure of faith” to every Christian, and we find in 1 John 5:4 that our faith is sufficient to overcome this world. The Lord has given us the faith necessary to live for Him and to receive His promises, but we must exercise this faith. When we find ourselves lacking, we can do as the man who brought his demoniac son to Jesus and say, “Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief” (Mark 9:24).

Sometimes, we put up our own barriers through unbelief. We need to remember that the Lord wants to answer our prayers. He orchestrated events so we would have access to His promises. He invites us to come boldly before His throne with our requests. We should come to Him in full assurance of faith.

God wants to take care of all of our needs. He wants to touch our lives. He wants us to bring our struggles to Him. I heard of an incident where a young man went to an altar bench at church and prayed earnestly for some time. The people around him thought he might be praying to receive sanctification or the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In actuality, he was praying to know how to fix his motorcycle, because it was his only mode of

“ God knows what He is doing . . . so why wouldn't we give every part of our hearts to Him?

what He is doing, and He has been proven faithful, so why wouldn't we give every part of our hearts to Him? Why wouldn't we give the most precious things into His care?

When we surrender every aspect of our lives to God, our whole hearts, He will be found.

COME BELIEVING

To receive anything from God requires faith. Hebrews 11:6 tells us that “without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” None of us question that God is who He says He is, but we must also believe that He will answer our prayers when we

transportation. He came boldly and said, “Lord, You know what I need,” and his prayer was answered. He left knowing how to fix his motorcycle.

What do you need from the Lord? Come boldly and receive all that God has for you. Jesus paid the price so we could be granted direct access into God's presence, but to enter we need to come to Him humbly, in full surrender, and in full assurance of faith. If we come in this manner, He is sure to answer. ■

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¹ Identiv, Inc., “The World's Most Secure Buildings: U.S. Bullion Depository, Fort Knox,” *Identiv Community Blogs*, May 24, 2021, <https://www.identiv.com>.

WITNESS

And all bore him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son? - **Luke 4:22**

25 TWO BACKGROUNDS BUT ONE SAVIOR

29 GOD SETTLED MY DOUBTS

31 LESSON LEARNED: TRUST GOD

34 EVIDENCE



TWO BACKGROUNDS BUT ONE SAVIOR

By Roth & Kristy Mom

Roth's childhood included near-death experiences while escaping war in Cambodia. Kristy grew up in a multi-generational Christian family. Now they are serving God together.

ROTH

God is the reason my life is what it is today. I was born in Cambodia during the civil war there, which lasted from 1968 to 1975. Hundreds of thousands of Cambodians died, and more than two million were displaced from their homes. After that, the Khmer Rouge regime, led by Pol Pot, came into power and mass bloodshed continued. Some of my earliest memories are of when my family had to pack up what we could carry and start running. That was the last time we saw our house. While I didn't understand what was going on, I knew to follow my parents, and now I appreciate them so much for not leaving us behind. Often at night they scouted or looked for food, and sometimes I wondered if they would come back, but they always did.

Every day for three or four years we ran through the jungle from place to place, doing our best to stay hidden so we would not be shot. I saw people pacing with rocket launchers as we hid under bushes and in

holes. We went through areas where there were land mines, but thankfully we did not step on them. Many times we could have been killed—people next to us fell down left and right as we ran. God was with us and protected us, even though we didn't know Him yet.

Once I fell into a raging river, and another time I was left on a canoe as it went floating away from my family. On another occasion, I almost lost my life in a lake. I was in a shallow area and didn't realize I was near a sudden drop off in the lake floor. I began falling backward into deep water when somebody pushed me back up. I didn't drown, and I believe it was because there were angels watching over me.

God helped us escape to Thailand, and we were there for a year or two. Next we went to the Philippines for nearly a year while my brother had surgery and recovered. Finally, we were blessed to come to America, arriving in 1984. When we had lived in the United States for a few months, someone

invited my siblings and me to Sunday school at the Apostolic Faith Church. We began to attend regularly and learned about God and His Son Jesus. In time I understood that there was a Heaven and a Hell, and that if Jesus was not in my life, I would end up in Hell. I did not want that. Right before my senior year in high school, I prayed after a church service and gave my life to the Lord, and He forgave my sins.

“LOOKING AHEAD TO MY FUTURE, I ASKED THE LORD, ‘WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?’

Before I was saved, I often had nightmares about the things I had seen during those years in the jungle. As soon as God saved me, I had peace; there were no more nightmares. God erased all that. At that time I also realized that God had protected our family because He had a plan for us.

A few months after being saved, at another meeting God touched me in a special way. I did not realize that it was possible to get closer to God, but that was what happened. As I continued to pray, the Holy Ghost totally consumed me. The joy was indescribable and His power was overwhelming. I wept like a child and said words that I didn't understand. I couldn't control what I was uttering but I tried to be as quiet as possible because I did not know what was happening. I only knew that God had taken over. I was young in the faith then, but later, when other people testified, I realized these were the deeper experiences of sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

After I became a Christian, my brother and sister were saved, and a few years later my mom was saved also. However, it took my dad a while to come to God. When he learned that he needed a minor surgery, we all talked to him, saying it was a good time to get rid of pride and talk to Jesus. Three days before the operation, he prayed and was saved. He said that a big burden

was lifted off his shoulders. He went into surgery but, even though it was minor, there were complications and he passed away. However, we had peace because we knew he had gone to Heaven.

God has been with me in so many ways. In my third year of college, I was a little stressed out and depressed. Looking ahead to my future, I asked the Lord, “What do You want me to do?” Although I didn't make all the right choices, God kept tugging on my heart and

Roth's family after arriving to the United States in the early 1980s.



saying, “Just keep following Me and I will help you through. I will make you who you should be. You are part of My plan.”

During that time, I rededicated my life to the Lord. I said, “I want to give my life wholly to You. When I get out of school and am back at home, I want to be involved in the church and to be a Sunday school teacher.” That is what happened. On weekends when I was home, I went to our church. Once I was finished with school, the Lord gave me the opportunity to be involved teaching Sunday school, ushering, and in other aspects of His work. At that time I did not know that later God would call me to preach, but I am thankful to do whatever I can to help spread the Gospel.

God blessed me to meet Kristy, and we were married in 2003. Now we have a beautiful family with five children, as well as the support of the family of God. In all the challenges of raising our children (three of them are teenagers now), at my job, or in any other matters, I am so thankful for God's Spirit to guide. I can ask Him for wisdom and discernment each day in everything I do and say. Without God's love and mercy, I wouldn't be here. He is awesome, and I want to serve Him the rest of my life. □

KRISTY

My Christian heritage included my parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, and that has had a huge influence on my life. I grew up hearing testimonies of how God had worked in our family. One of those accounts was regarding my great-great-grandmother who did not want her husband to buy crop insurance “against the acts of God.” Hail was common where they lived, and it could beat the crops right into the ground. A hailstorm did come, and as the family heard it approaching, my great-great-grandmother went to prayer. The hail kept coming, and she kept praying. God answered—the hail stopped right along the fence of the family property!

Along with hearing about such answers to prayer, I saw the faithfulness of my great-grandmother and many others around me. I always believed that God was real because of how they lived. The

gave me a desire to see others saved. Later He also sanctified me and filled me with His Holy Spirit.

In time, God brought Roth into my life, we married, and now we have five children. Over the years God has been faithful to point out when I needed to draw closer to Him. About ten years ago, His Spirit started talking to my heart and helped me see that I was very lukewarm spiritually and needed to do something about the situation. I poured out my soul to God and rededicated my life to Him. Since then, He has done so much more than I ever imagined, and deepened my walk with Him in ways I did not even know were possible.

God has given our family wonderful healings. Our oldest son had a bad milk allergy, and he would become very sick if he ate anything with dairy in

it. One evening during a camp meeting, we did not plan to go to church, but not knowing that, our son was fully dressed and standing by the door ready to leave. When I said we were not going, he replied, “I’m



*Kristy (right)
at church with
two of her sisters.*

“I FELT THAT THE LORD WAS ASKING, ‘WILL YOU SERVE ME NO MATTER WHAT?’

truth was evidenced in their lives. However, believing in God did not make me a Christian. I wanted to please God, but I also wanted to hold hands with the things of the world, and I definitely wanted to do what I wanted to do. Yet, God kept working with me and drawing me to Himself.

When I was a teenager, during a sermon one camp meeting, I understood that I was not saved. That night as I prayed, the Lord saved my soul; He changed my heart. He helped me to love those I had not loved, gave me a different view of those around me, and

going to get healed.” We all got ready and went to church, and he was prayed for by the ministers. The next day he wanted to drink milk and eat ice cream. He was at my mother’s home, and she called to find out my thoughts. I said, “I guess we’d better try.” He was fine and has never had that problem since.

When our youngest son was a year old, he had the flu. We took him to the doctors and the hospital over and over, but they would just send him home. Meanwhile he grew worse and worse. Finally, we took him to the doctor again, and that time we were told, “Take him to the hospital right now. He is very sick!” He was admitted and hooked up to IVs, but we began to get more and more bad news. His kidneys had failed, he was septic, he had necrotizing pneumonia and various other things were wrong



with him. Roth had gone home to be with our other children when the doctor came in and said, "It is very, very serious and we don't think he will make

it through the night. His heart could stop at any moment. It's not a matter of *if* he will get worse; he *will* get worse. That is the course of the disease."

When I called Roth, he came back to the hospital, and we got down on our knees and prayed. God's people at many locations were praying with us. Roth had peace even as he prepared for the worst. God gave him the strength to accept that if the Lord took our son, we would see him again someday in Heaven. However, I was really wrestling in my heart. I felt that the Lord was asking, "Will you serve Me no matter what?" I loved my baby and did not want to lose him, and it was hard to say, "Yes, I'll serve You no matter what." But finally, I prayed that from my heart. At that moment, the Lord came into the room, and our son did not get worse. The doctors could not explain it, but we know that God had mercy on him and us. It took some time, but the Lord healed him completely. Now, over six years later, he has no lasting damage, and we are so grateful.

I am thankful for all God has done for me, and I want to serve Him the rest of my life. I love to look at the older people who have served God for years, and their faces just shine. That is what I want to do in my heart and have on my face because God is so good. ■

Roth and Kristy Mom attend the Apostolic Faith Church in Portland, Oregon, where he is a minister.



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."



GOD SETTLED MY DOUBTS

By Jayne Ortiz

After being a Christian for years, Jayne went through a trial that caused her to question God's ways.



When I was growing up in the Dominican Republic, my family lived right in front of the Apostolic Faith Church where my dad was the pastor. I was raised in the Gospel, and much of my time was spent in church activities or with friends from church. For a while, I thought this meant that I was a Christian. Then I learned in Sunday school that each individual needs to have a personal encounter with God and make his or her own decision to serve Him. I realized that being a pastor's daughter was not a free pass to Heaven.

In 1976, when I was eleven years old, I made the decision to give my life to the Lord. Prayer meetings were being held for the young people every Tuesday, and on one of those days, I said, "Today, I am going to invite Jesus into my heart." During the prayer meeting, God saved my soul, and it was a wonderful experience. From then on, I was different. I had not gone very far into sin, but I had done some mischievous things. For instance, my friends and I used to go through the neighborhood knocking on doors and running away. After God saved me, I told my friends I could not do those types of things anymore. I wanted to be a good example for others.

Growing up in a Christian home, I saw God answer prayer, performing miracles. One time my mom became very ill and was unable to walk. My dad had to help her with everything. This was during the annual camp meeting, and a pastor from one of our branch churches visited to encourage her. My mom said she wanted to go to the camp meeting, so my dad took her. There, the ministers prayed for her, and that was the end of the illness. God healed her, and she started walking again. On another occasion, my brother was very sick, and God healed him, too.

As I got older, I studied the Bible and drew closer to God. Then during a youth service when I was fifteen, God sanctified me. The experience was a blessing from Heaven like I had never felt before, and it made a definite change in my life. I was no longer looking at the world and wanting to do what other people were doing. My only desire from that point on has been to serve the Lord. I do not envy people in the world. I am fully focused on what God has for me.

“GOD HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME THROUGH THE YEARS.”

In my twenties, I moved to the United States and began attending the Apostolic Faith Church in the Bronx, New York. During the meetings, I heard people testify about having the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and I realized how much I needed God’s power for service in my life. I began to pray, “God, what do I need to consecrate to receive it? Take from me whatever You require.” One Sunday, the Lord baptized me, and it was a beautiful experience. It brought a sustaining peace and joy as well as a closer relationship with God.

God has been good to me through the years. When I came to the United States, I did not speak English very well, but God opened doors for me, and I was able to get a job. He also gave me a Christian husband and has blessed us with three daughters. Our girls love the Lord and are involved in the work of the Gospel, and it has been a joy to serve God as a family.

Along the way, there have been trials, but God has always been faithful. One time I noticed that our middle daughter was not as physically active as she had been. I asked her what was wrong, and she

said she just didn’t feel good. I took her to the hospital and was told that she had pneumonia though there were almost no outward symptoms. The doctor said it was fortunate that I had not waited even one more hour before bringing her in. Thankfully, the Lord was watching over her and had alerted me that something was wrong.

In 2011, my husband was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. He underwent surgery to remove the cancer, and that was successful, but there was the possibility of the cancer recurring. We know the Lord undertook, and he is still cancer free today.

Another trial took place in 2017 when one of my sisters passed away. This was a very sad time for me. She had been wholly dedicated to the Lord and sang specials in church. Often, when people visited her while she was sick, they found her singing, and this was a testimony to the peace God gives. She went to several doctors and was a witness to them as well. It was clear that they noticed there was something different about her. Many times I prayed, “God, do a miracle and heal her so the doctors will believe in You and pray,” but God did not heal her.

After my sister died, my thoughts and prayers continually turned to the question of “Why?” I would remind God, “She gave her life to You.” Then I would ask again, “Why? Why? Why?” Sometimes the grief and confusion was so great that I did not even want to pray. Then one night, the Lord spoke to my heart saying, “My will is My will.” He also told me, “I don’t have to show people who I am; I don’t have to prove Myself.” His words spoke so deeply to my heart that I just had to go to my knees and say, “Lord, forgive me. I give You the glory. I know You are God, and Your will is Your will.” It was still true that God had chosen to take my

sister home, but He settled my doubts and gave me peace.

God is good and gives peace in the midst of all life’s trials. I want to serve Him for the rest of my days.



Jayne Ortiz attends the Apostolic Faith Church in Atlanta, Georgia, where her husband serves as a minister.

LESSON LEARNED: TRUST GOD

*Emily has been taught
an invaluable truth that
everyone needs to know.*

By Emily Luka



Most of us have heard the advice that we should be lifelong learners. In my experience, life itself is the best teacher. Some lessons are hard to master while others we seemingly grasp without even trying, but I've found that God has a customized curriculum of life events for each one of us. Though we may sometimes think we have life all figured out, God ultimately knows what is best. His ways are much better and wiser than ours, and what we learn along the journey with Him is beyond what we could ever have imagined.

As I reflect back on my greatest lessons learned over the years, I would like to share a few of these in the hope that it might help a fellow "lifelong learner" along the way.

✓ **LESSON #1: Trust God**

One of my earliest lessons came as a teenager. As a middle child in a large family where Mom and

Dad were often busy, I had to figure out a lot of things on my own. I had witnessed extended family members whose lives were a wreck from partying, alcohol, or being dependent on prescription drugs to help them through depression. I did not want that for my life, so was determined to avoid those outcomes by always doing my best to be a good person and do the right thing. At home, my focus was to try to please my parents. At school, it was to please my teachers and friends. When the opportunity came to start going to church with my grandma and sister, my goal was to live as my Sunday school teachers taught.

Eventually, however, I realized that as hard as I tried to do what was right, I was failing. It was not possible for me to change harsh feelings that I knew were wrong. And even my best efforts to "be good" left me feeling unsatisfied. Something was missing. I wondered what I was put on this earth for. I did believe in God and knew there was a Heaven and a Hell, but had no assurance that Heaven was where



**AT AGE SEVENTEEN,
IN ONE OF MY WORST
MOMENTS, GOD
REACHED OUT TO ME,
SAYING, “YOU HAVE
TRIED EVERYTHING
ELSE. WHY NOT GIVE
ME A CHANCE?”**

I would spend eternity. I feared for the worst at times when I couldn't control my emotions or actions.

At age seventeen, in one of my worst moments, God reached out to me, saying, “You have tried everything else. Why not give Me a chance?” I did that, placing my trust in God for the first time by surrendering to Him, and my life changed in an instant! Instead of despair, God gave me hope, and He gave peace instead of anger. In place of jealousy, bitterness, and sin, He filled my heart with His perfect love. I was truly a “new creature” in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). **Lesson learned: Trust God when He calls, and surrender to Him.**

LESSON #2: Trust God

As I grew in my new relationship with the Lord, I turned to Him for guidance in times of uncertainty. For example: Who should I date? God advised me never to date someone I would not consider marrying. Then I wondered, Who should I marry? That question took a lot of prayer, but the end result of following God's guidance was a godly husband. Our love never failed, and we never regretted our decision. After we were married we looked to God to know, Should we have children? God gave us children, and then we needed to know how to raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The need for guidance does not end, and God never fails to lead us!

During the years of raising our children, there were many situations that we were not sure how to handle, but God guided us through His Word. There were also times when we did not know how we would pay our bills. We honored God's financial plan of tithing first, and when we turned to Him in times of difficulty, He always provided for us. Issues came up with jobs, extended family, and more. We proved the promise from Proverbs 3:5-6 time and again: “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Lesson learned: Turn your concerns over to God and trust His guidance.

LESSON #3: Trust God

One of my hardest trials was when a dearest hope of mine came true but was soon taken away. My husband and I wanted a large family, and my personal dream was to have twins. We had two children, and then a pregnancy that ended in a miscarriage. That was a difficult time, but God taught me to count my blessings. A couple more years passed, and then to our delight, I was pregnant again. However, about five months later, a car accident occurred on my way to work. Though not physically injured, the trauma and other complications caused my pregnancy to end. The situation was heartbreaking, and then the doctor informed us that we had lost twins. Even today, words fail to describe the profound loss we felt. I could not understand why God would give me my heart's desire just to take it away. It seemed to me that it would have been better to never have known we were going to have twins. Though I could not comprehend why this had happened, God helped me through that painful time, and later blessed us with another son.

Years later, at a Bible study session, those of us participating were asked to look back over our lives and figure out when we were closest to the Lord. The purpose was to determine what caused that close relationship. To my amazement, I discovered that the loss of our twins was my hardest time, yet also the time when I felt closest to God! Because I needed God's presence and comfort so much during that time, I was reading the Bible more and praying more earnestly than ever before. God had used that trial to help me grow closer to Him and stronger in my faith.

A while later, a colleague of mine went through a similar experience of losing her unborn baby. Because of what I

had been through, I was able to *empathize* (not just sympathize) with her. Through our shared sorrows, she went from being an atheist to believing in God! She was able to trust that He knew best in this circumstance. My sorrow changed to joy, knowing that God had permitted a trial that would later enable me to reach out and help someone in need.

At some point, all of us will question why God allows bad things to happen to good people. We will not always understand God's ways. However, with the passing of time I have seen many ways that God uses these situations for a greater good, either for myself or for another. **Lesson learned: Trust God with your trials. He has a good purpose for everything He allows.**

✓ LESSON #4: Trust God

As my husband and I approached the end of our careers, we thought we had our retirement all planned out. Our dream was to travel from branch church to branch church, supporting their music programs and enjoying fellowship with God and His saints. However, when that time arrived, my retirement lasted only four days before life-changing events took place that altered our plans entirely. A medical emergency caused my husband to be placed in an intensive care unit for two days, and one month later he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. The damage from these episodes and successive strokes caused Alzheimer's disease and dementia, which started us on a new journey with God.

It was hard to suddenly change our plans, sell our home, and relocate to a new city. Witnessing my husband's suffering and trying to help him maintain his dignity in spite of the demoralizing symptoms of Alzheimer's was beyond difficult. In many ways, the man I knew was already gone, and I grieved that loss even while trying to care for him. Yet at certain times, God in His mercy would allow a moment of clarity to break through his mental confusion, and I had my husband back. Those were such precious times! God encouraged him, too. Even though his memory loss meant that he could no longer perform most tasks, the Lord allowed him to retain his ability to play the clarinet. His fingers could still fly over the keys and play his

most difficult memorized music. He was unable to comprehend anything he read, but God preserved his love of the Bible, and he would often surprise me with comments about what he learned anew.

Over the course of four years, despite the challenges, there were many blessed moments of God's intervention on our behalf, and miraculous ways that God went before us to provide our needs even before we knew what was ahead. Often, these incidences became a tool to share God's goodness with family, medical providers, and others. They painted a beautiful picture of His grace, power, and faithfulness. We could clearly see His perfect foreknowledge and absolute love. Now more than ever, I value how close God has been in *every* aspect of my life. These lessons were not easy, but I wouldn't trade what I have learned over the past four years for anything.



THERE HAS BEEN SORROW, BUT IT HAS NEVER OVERSHADOWED MY JOY.

My husband's trials have ended and He has gone to be with His Lord. There has been sorrow, but it has never overshadowed my joy. There have been questions, but God has given His perfect peace. There have been times I have felt tired and weak, but He has been my strength. There have been times I felt alone and bereft, but He has been my constant Companion and Friend. I can confirm the words of the Psalmist, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psalm 37:25). **Lesson learned: We can trust God to the very end of this life. He will see us all the way through!**

Truly, I am a lifelong learner of how trustworthy our God is. Life will bring us challenges that are big and small and everything in between, and we can trust God with all of them. He is in control! **Lessons learned: God can always be trusted.** ■

Emily Luka works at the Apostolic Faith headquarters office and attends the church in Portland, Oregon.

EVIDENCE

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES OF VICTORY

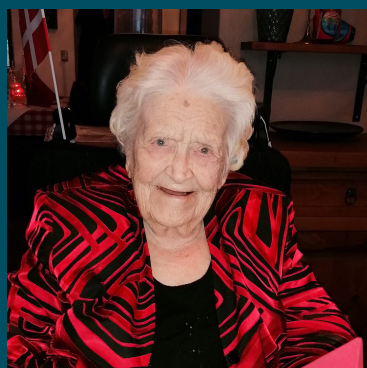
INGE KROGH

Horsens / Denmark



CHOOLO MOUNGA

Solwezi / Zambia



NATALIE RAE

Los Angeles / United States



In my childhood home in Denmark, no one talked about Jesus. However, in high school I was invited to join a Christian group. At that time, I was very depressed and at a crisis point in my life. I became part of the group and realized I was completely lacking the salvation that the Christian youths were talking about. I understood that salvation was for everyone, so I started seeking God in faith, and He saved me. That faith has never failed me since.

In time, I came into contact with two members of the Apostolic Faith Church and started going to meetings with them in Horsens. When I graduated high school, my parents said I could take a trip. They probably thought I would want to go to Holland or France, but I chose Norway. It was summertime, and I wanted to go to the annual church camp meeting in Stavanger. Since then, I have taken many more trips to the camp meetings, and they have been wonderful every time. I enjoy

the meetings and the people who have the power and light of God in their lives.

My life has been a good mix of adversity and success. I worked as a doctor for the mentally disabled and then served in the Danish parliament, and that brought opportunities to travel around the world. My work took me to India, Australia, the United States, South Korea, and even North Korea. When I started as a doctor, the mentally disabled were often ignored and not counted for anything, and it became common to abort these people in the womb before they had a chance to live. I felt strongly that there was a task for me to do. I wanted to help show their value as human beings. Many thought I was overly zealous, but my colleagues and I helped make great improvements in the living conditions for individuals in institutions.

Today I am over one hundred years old and am glad I can still do as much as I can. My eyes are still good so I can read my Bible several times a day. I am grateful for the good friends I have in the family of God. My desire is to continue to live in peace with my family, respect other people, and hold on to the faith. ■

From the time my sister and I were little, our mom

would tuck us in at night and pray over us. We had a keyboard in our bedroom, and sometimes she would play and sing hymns as well. I am so

thankful for that godly influence from such a young age. I have never forgotten it.

God saved me when I was very young, but I did not hold onto salvation. A few years ago, I started going to junior college and making the wrong kind of friends. I just wanted to have people to talk to, and I tried to make friends with anyone that I could. I did not let God lead in my choices, and some of the people I let into my life were pretty bad influences on me. I picked up a few of their

habits, and one day I let words slip out of my mouth in public that I could not believe were in my heart. I realized then that I had left God out of my life.

Thankfully, God led me to an altar of prayer on a Sunday night at our church in Los Angeles, and showed me that I was headed for a lost eternity. I prayed, and God saved me again. That night He washed away my sins and gave me a clean heart. I did not feel guilty anymore, and I knew I was ready for Heaven.

Since then God has kept me and led into my life Christian friends at my non-Christian school. I have had people ask, "What church do you go to?" and "Can you tell me about salvation?" I am so thankful that God is opening doors for me to be a witness. I praise Him for everything He has done in my life. ■

“AND YE SHALL BE WITNESSES UNTO ME BOTH IN JERUSALEM . . . AND UNTO THE UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH”

CHOO

My parents loved the Lord and taught us children

the value of family worship at the earliest stage. Dad would often read the Bible, and we would sing and pray as a family. Once when I was sick to the point of death, my parents

prayed until God raised me up, so I had firsthand experience of the power of prayer. In times of need, our family saw God providing, protecting, healing, and comforting us.

In 2005 I entered a boarding school to pursue my secondary education, and there I began living a life of compromise. I chose poor company and soon started drinking and smoking. I was suspended from school many times and would hire someone to pretend to be my parent and stand for me during the school disciplinary committee. At one point, I was apprehended by the police and whipped for my crimes, but even that could not change me. I made sure my parents did not know about my bad behavior, yet somehow it seemed the Spirit of God had revealed it to them because their advice to me always pointed to my sinful life.

After secondary school, I studied engineering in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia and then got a job in the mine. There, my life continued to deteriorate. I was addicted to alcohol and cigarettes and became

popular in bars and nightclubs, singing worldly music with the intention to become a popular artist. My heart hardened and I hated church very much. When the Spirit of God reminded me of my childhood, I brushed it aside.

I didn't want family members to know where I was or what I did, so all they knew was that I was working in the mine. Yet, the prayers of my mother are what kept me alive. God spared my life several times when the mine collapsed. I also lost some friends through unclear circumstances. However, God was using these events to bring me back to Himself.

When my contract at the mine ended, I decided to visit an elder brother that I hadn't seen in a long time. During my stay, I attended church and encountered Christ at the altar of prayer on July 23, 2017. I surrendered myself to Jesus and He saved me and cleaned up my life. Joy filled my heart so much that I was singing and meditating on the Word of God throughout the night. The desire for alcohol, smoking, and the pleasures of the world left me completely. I was a new creature in Christ Jesus!

The change God made in my life is truly by His amazing grace. My father died before I was saved, but I want to emulate his example of constant prayer and one day meet him in Heaven. I owe Jesus my life, and my prayer is that I will see Him face to face. ■

WORLD REPORT

*Let the heavens be glad, and let the
earth rejoice: and let men say among
the nations, The LORD reigneth.*

- 1 Chronicles 16:31

37 DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS INSTALLED

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS INSTALLED

Reverend Mark Mfandarahwa and Reverend Isaac Adigun were recently installed as leaders of our work in Western Europe and West and Central Africa.



(Top to bottom) Ministers pray over Rev. Mfandarahwa; Rev. Mfandarahwa and his wife, Marble (left) with Bristol group leader Thomas Moyo and his wife, Keaboka (right).

On Sunday, November 7, an installation service was held to install Reverend Mark Mfandarahwa as district superintendent of the United Kingdom and Western Europe, and also to appoint two board members and ordain three ministers for the work in that district. In the weeks following the service, the prior district superintendent, Reverend Isaac Adigun, relocated to Lagos, Nigeria, and was installed as the district superintendent of West and Central Arica (WECA) on December 12.

The European installation was held at our Bexley church in London, England, with many in attendance, including Superintendent General Darrel Lee and his wife, Debbie. Following a piano prelude, a pre-recorded children's program was shown, featuring young musicians from our churches throughout Western Europe who joined online for an orchestra number, several choir songs, and a skit titled "Wake Up, the Harvest Is Ready." The service also included inspiring music specials by the Midland youth orchestra and the Bexley choir and orchestra.

The ordination portion of the service began with Reverend Lee giving an exhortation from Titus 1:5 on the Biblical model for ordaining and appointing leaders within the church. He brought out that only those who are called by God and meet the criteria set forth in His Word are eligible, and said that the selection process is a collaborative effort by the regional leaders and board of trustees and the Portland headquarters. He also noted that this is not a political process that determines the will of the people, but a prayerful



*(Top to bottom)
Rev. Adigun with
his wife, Stella;
The installation
service in
Nigeria.*

process
designed to
determine the will of God.

Following this, the board of trustees was introduced, and two new members were presented and then prayed over: Reverend Toyin Emitola, the pastor in Manchester, and Reverend Lazarus Simbanegavi, the pastor in Birmingham. Three ministers were also ordained: Delight Nyoni and Emmanuel Odejimi, who will serve at Birmingham, and Victor Idowu, who will serve at Manchester. They were ordained with the laying on of hands

and prayer by the platform ministers and board members.

For the installation, Rev. Adigun gave a brief introduction of Rev. Mfandarahwa and his wife, Marble, and their daughters, Naomi and Ruth. He said Rev. Mfandarahwa had served faithfully in four locations and was now answering the call to serve as district superintendent. Then the board members and platform ministers gathered and laid hands on Rev. Mfandarahwa and prayed for God's blessing upon him and his family, and for the Gospel to prosper under his leadership. He then said a few words, thanking God for the leaders who went before him and the expansion of the work.

The WECA installation was held at our church in Anthony Village, Lagos, and also opened with an energetic children's program that included several songs and a skit of Joshua leading the Israelites into the Promised Land. This was followed by beautiful renditions from the choir and orchestra.

Rev. Lee again outlined the Biblical model for ordaining and appointing church leaders, and then thanked Reverend Gabriel Kayode Ajayi, the retiring WECA district superintendent, for his many years of

faithful service in Nigeria, which has included a variety of roles. He then presented Rev. Adigun and his wife, Stella, to the congregation, and he shared a portion of his testimony with the congregation.

Rev. Adigun was born in Nigeria and moved to the UK to attend university in 1983. In 2000, he was appointed as the district superintendent of the UK, and continued in that role for over twenty years, until he was recently asked to assume the leadership position in Lagos.

Rev. Lee and the WECA board members gathered to pray for Rev. Adigun, asking that God would give him strength and wisdom to carry out his new role, and that many souls in this district would be won for Christ. Before the conclusion of the service, Rev. Adigun also thanked the congregation for their prayers and support both now and in the days ahead. We thank God for the willingness of both Rev. Mfandarahwa and Rev. Adigun to offer their lives in God's service. ■



OUR CLASSICS

Heaven and earth shall pass away,
but my words shall not pass away.

- Matthew 24:35

40 KEEP ON PLOWING

43 LIVING ON BORROWED TIME

KEEP ON PLOWING

Make sure you do not get sidetracked from your commitment to God's service.

Originally published in the July 2004 edition of this magazine.



By Clyde Penn

We hear much today about the value of commitment. Commitment is important in many areas of life, but it is critical when it comes to our walk with God. The Bible makes it clear that God desires total dedication, not half-hearted commitment. We must be willing to abandon everything else, allowing nothing to distract us from serving Him.


In Luke 9:62, we read Jesus' words, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." We do not see many plows today, but in Jesus' day, they were common. In order to operate a plow successfully, you must look forward. You must know where you are headed and focus on what you are doing—you must be committed to the operation of the plow, because

you control it. When you look back, you cannot see what is ahead, and you will quickly veer from the direction you were going. Jesus made it plain: looking back to the world is dangerous. You must not allow your attention to be divided.

This is a glorious Gospel. It enables us to live here on this earth without sinning. That sounds impossible, but it is true. If we keep our eyes fixed on the goal and our hands on the plow, we can live without sinning and eventually enter Heaven's pearly gates. We can spend eternity in a place where God and the angels are—a place that is reserved for us—but we must keep on going toward that place.

When you are going somewhere in daily life and are expected at a certain time, you do not





allow your attention to be diverted. If something obstructs your way, you do not turn around and say, "Okay, I am going back home." No, you have made a commitment, so you figure out a way to keep going.

Consider our journey to Heaven. We have made a commitment to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. He is awaiting us at the end of our journey, looking forward with great anticipation to our arrival. He wants us to keep our commitment and arrive at His house. It is wonderful to know that the King of kings, Lord of lords,



KEEP ON PLOWING FOR JESUS. STAY WITH HIM AND HE WILL SUSTAIN YOU AND ENABLE YOU TO KEEP YOUR HANDS ON THE PLOW.

the Creator of the world, the One who died for us when we were lost in sin and alienated from Him, has prepared a beautiful home in Heaven and is waiting for us there! He paid the price. He set everything in order that we might go to that place. He said: "I go to prepare a place for you . . . that where I am,

there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3). Isn't that awesome?

If we are to arrive at that heavenly destination, we must keep heading in that direction. Jesus is saying: "Children, when you begin to serve Me, go all the way. Keep your hands on the plow. Keep doing My work, keep following Me day by day. When you do, My Father's kingdom is awaiting you."

Not only has Jesus prepared a place for us in Heaven, but He has also promised to be with us until we get there. We read a promise in His Word, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). When Jesus tells us something, we can have confidence that it will be so. Therefore, when trials assail us, when we are bewildered or perplexed, when we are distressed, when we are tempted to look back, what should we do? We should cling to Him because He says that He is always with us. Thank God!

The founder of the Apostolic Faith organization, Florence Crawford, kept her hands on the plow. Those who followed her kept their hands on the plow. That is why we are here today! We must follow their example and keep going forward until we arrive in Glory.

How do we do that? The veterans of the Gospel can tell you. Ask them! It is good to do that. We can learn much from the senior saints. We know them; we have watched those who have kept their hands on the plow through many trying situations. We know that they have overcome. They can encourage us in the way.

There will be times in God's service when we will become discouraged. Our feet will get heavy. In times like that, we must "talk" to our feet. We must say, "Come on now. Don't be weary! Let's keep going here." There must be something within us that motivates us, something that propels us on. When we make the effort, God is there to help us. Suddenly, we feel like going on! There is a song that says, "My heavenly home is bright and fair, I feel like traveling on." That is a good feeling!

Jesus said "Do not look back" because there is danger in doing so. There was danger for Lot's wife. Heavenly beings had come to Sodom to lead her out of destruction and had warned her not to look back, but she did so anyway, and she became a pillar of salt.

In our day, too, many people look back. They commit themselves to the Lord but somewhere along the way, they falter. Their path seems to be somewhat different from what they anticipated, so they decide to turn back. It is a fearful thing to turn back! I encourage you to keep holding on to the plow and going forward. Keep going on, because victory is ahead, not behind. It may not be right in front of us, but it is ahead. Stay focused. Keep your eyes on the goal, and you will make it.

There are times when hindrances are thrown in our way and we stumble. Do you know what to do if you have fallen? Pick yourself up and run to the outstretched arms of the Savior, saying, "I am sorry, Lord. Please forgive me of all my sins, of all my errors, my foolishness, my neglect, my willfulness." He is able to pick us up and give us back the joy in our hearts—the peace we once had. David said in Psalm 51:12, "Restore unto me the joy of thy

salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit." God will help us take hold of the plow once more. Then we can continue to declare this glorious Gospel.

Paul had a fellow worker who was plowing along with him, but then turned back. The Apostle said with pain, "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world" (2 Timothy 4:10). It is heartrending to see others look back into this world, but it happens. Still, whatever others do, we must keep on plowing.

God is saying to us today, "Stay in the Gospel. Keep your hands on the plow." Sunday school teachers, teaching your class might be your plow. Keep on



MY WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOU IS TO CONTINUE PRESSING ON. HOW DO YOU DO THAT? BY KEEPING IN DAILY CONTACT WITH GOD AND HIS WORD, THROUGH PRAYER AND CONSECRATION.

plowing! Those in the choir, your music may be your plow. Keep on plowing! Ushers, janitors, bus drivers—whatever your task—keep on plowing! Someone is depending on you. Someone is looking to you. Do not falter. I challenge you today to remain in the position that the Lord has placed you, and do it to the best of your ability. God is expecting you to keep your commitment.

Whatever work you do for the Lord—whether it is yard work, sweeping the floor, dusting the benches, picking up the songbooks—do it gladly and for the glory of God. When you can testify, do so. When you

can shine for Jesus on your job, in the street, in the classroom, in the supermarket, do so. Whenever you can do something for Jesus, do it. You do not know how long you have, so do not hesitate. Do not say, "No, I did it last time; someone else should do it this time." God wants willing, committed soldiers and servants for Him.

When you can help, do not stand by or pass up the opportunity. Do not be like the Levite and the priest as they went down to Jericho and passed by the poor Samaritan who was bleeding and dying on the road. Sometimes we see some of our brethren "bleeding"—suffering from a wound in their spiritual lives. We do not want to pass them by. It is good to stop and say, "Brother, Sister, may I help you? Is there something I can do?" Sometimes that brings such relief. Oh, when you can help somebody as you travel along, it is wonderful!

God's harvest field is great. All of us who have committed ourselves to God are working in His harvest field. We may labor in different areas, but we all have the same goal. We are all pressing forward with Heaven in view.

If you are weary in your task, take courage. Those who have become slack along the way, those who are frustrated, those who are bewildered, those who are going through great trials, do not give up. Keep on plowing for Jesus. Stay with Him and He will sustain you and enable you to keep your hands on the plow.

My word of encouragement to you is to continue pressing on. How do you do that? By keeping in daily contact with God and His Word, through prayer and consecration. Keep on following! Keep on keeping on, whatever field you are in. You are doing a great job for God. When you are obedient and follow directions, God blesses you, and your faithfulness brings glory and honor to His name and causes others to rejoice.

As we keep our hands on the plow, young and old, He will lead us all the way Home. ■

Clyde Penn served as a minister at the Apostolic Faith Churches in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, and then in Brooklyn, New York. In 1987 he became the pastor of our church in St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, and in 2000, the Apostolic Faith District Superintendent of Eastern Caribbean Work. He continued serving in that role until his passing in 2010.

LIVING ON BORROWED TIME

A former logger tells of miracle that impacted his life both before and after he was converted.

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By Paul Andrews

When I was born in 1918, I was not expected to live. My mother told me many times how I was just set aside on a table, because there was not enough time to save both of us. However, she had an aunt who was a nurse and happened to be there during the delivery. She took on the job of trying to save my life, and God saw to it that I was spared. On many occasions since then, I have been near death, and God has delivered me. Every day, I know that I am living on borrowed time, and that time belongs to God.

I grew up knowing that God hears and answers prayer. When I was about four years old, God did a mighty work in our home. My dad was a fireman on a railroad line that ran between Portland and Roseburg, Oregon. It was his job to shovel coal into the furnace of the train to keep the engine running. One day he passed out on the engine, and a few

days later, he was diagnosed with stomach cancer. The doctor told him, "There is nothing I can do for you. Go home and pick out your funeral songs." Dad came home from the doctor's office that day and sat down among pillows in an old wicker rocking chair. He had been a big man, weighing 235 pounds, but in the preceding months he had lost about one hundred pounds, and there wasn't much left of him. All of us, including four children, gathered around him crying.

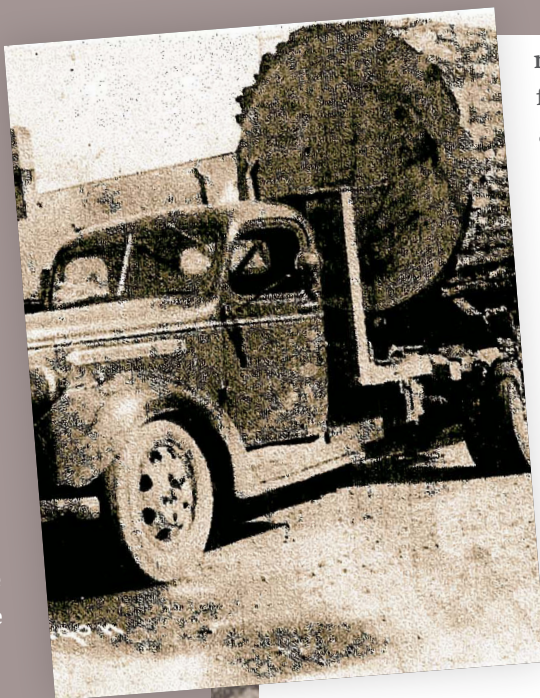
In the midst of all that grief, there was a knock at the door. It was a man my parents had been acquainted with when they were newly married. He said the Lord had directed him to visit us, and he had brought a few people with him. They came in and told my dad that God loved him and wanted to save him. They said he could pray right there in his chair, but Dad said, "I'm going to get on my knees if I can." He got down to pray, and after just a few minutes, he tapped the man on the shoulder and said, "Get up Brother. Whatever it is, I've got it." Then they read James 5 and prayed again, and God healed my dad. On many occasions after that, I heard him say that if those people had visited a

week earlier, he would not have had time for them. Dad lived almost thirty years more, and spent those years serving the Lord.

After God saved my dad, we moved to a farm between Portland and Dallas, Oregon, and another child was born into our home. The baby was not well, and when he was about two or three months old, the doctors said he would not live. Dad had heard about the Apostolic Faith people in Dallas, and he got on the phone. He told the operator, "I don't know the name or the number, but I want to contact those people who come out and pray for the sick." She said, "I know who you want," and called Nels Swensen, the pastor in Dallas. He came out that evening with a few others, and they anointed the baby's head with oil and prayed as Mother held him in her arms. The little fellow had not moved for two or three days, but as they finished praying, he smiled and raised his head. God had healed him on the spot! It wasn't long before we moved to Dallas so we could attend the Apostolic Faith Church, and we began to hear the Gospel in its fullness.

While I was still young, we moved onto a five-hundred-acre timber ranch, and I began to pick up the bad language and habits of the ranch hands. I also developed a temper, and would fight anyone at the drop of a hat—sometimes I knocked the hat off a person to get a fight started! In that condition, I lost more friends than I made, and my life became miserable. There were times when I was so ashamed of my temper that I would go out into the woods alone and cry.

One day I was bringing the cows in, but they had other ideas. I was so mad that I started throwing anything that was loose, including tree limbs and rocks. I wore myself out swearing, and then turned around exhausted to sit down on a stump—and there stood my mother! I had never sworn in front of her, and I felt so ashamed that I could not look up. I slinked off and finished the rest of



my chores. When it was time for dinner, I had no appetite and still could not face my mother, so I went and sat in the hay barn. That was a good start toward conviction, and I tried to pray in the barn, but I did not have the faith to believe God would save me.

In my teenage years, I worked on the ranch with the other hands, logging and cutting wood. For entertainment, we liked to sing cowboy songs while playing guitars and harmonicas.

On Saturday nights, my older

brother went to town with the other fellows to attend the dances and shows. Many times they asked me to go with them, but I was afraid that if I started down that path, I would never stop.

Then one night in 1936, I consented and went with them. One of the boys paid my way into a

“**WHILE I WAS STILL YOUNG, WE MOVED ONTO A FIVE-HUNDRED-ACRE TIMBER RANCH, AND I BEGAN TO PICK UP THE BAD LANGUAGE AND HABITS OF THE RANCH HANDS.**”

dance and they began introducing me to girls and encouraging me to take part. However, standing around that place, the conviction was so great I felt I would die. Eventually, I had to leave. On the way back to the car, I crossed a footbridge and looked down into the water. It was dark, which

OF ALL THE COWBOY SONGS I KNEW, I COULD NOT THINK OF ONE LINE, SO I SANG 'TELL MOTHER I'LL BE THERE.'

of one line, so I sang "Tell Mother I'll Be There." It got real quiet in the car, and my brother was mad, but I started to feel good inside, so I kept singing. God was beginning to get through to my heart.

Not long after that, I woke up early on a Sunday morning and told my mom, "I am going to church." She went with me, and on the way, we had a flat tire. The old devil said to me, "You are only halfway. You might as well go home." I answered, "If I am already halfway, I might as well go on." We got to the meeting, and I can't recall any of the songs or testimonies, or who preached, but I know who got saved. At the close, no one had to come back and get me; I was ready. I went and knelt at the altar, and within a few minutes the terrible feeling of guilt that I had been carrying for so long was gone. The peace of God came into my heart, and oh it was good!

The next day at work, the usual things went wrong, but I had God in my heart, so the foul language and bad temper were gone. In the following weeks, the fellows came around a few times asking if I wanted to go with them on Saturday nights, but I told them I had better things to do. I began going to church, and soon God sanctified me. Then, during special meetings in Dallas, He baptized me with the Holy Spirit, and it was wonderful!

A short time later, I went to work in a logging camp. Right away, one of the young men told me,

was exactly how I felt inside.

As I waited in the car for the others until almost midnight, I tried to pray, but I still lacked faith. On the way home, my brother asked me to start a song. Of all the cowboy songs I knew, I could not think

"This is no place for religion. You had better leave yours behind." I did not heed his advice. God went with me, and He spared my life many times. On one occasion, I released a load of logs from my truck and immediately realized I was standing on the wrong side of the load. I was hemmed in with no place to run, except out in front of the logs. They were about to come tumbling off the truck onto a stretch of logs that would get them rolling downhill toward a pond. As they broke loose, I took off running down that log path and dove into the water. At the other side of the pond, the man who had told me to leave my religion behind gave me a hand up. As he did, he said, "You better stick with that religion. One of those logs flew right over your shoulder."

Another incident took place when I was waiting for my truck to be loaded. Something went wrong with the rigging while a log was suspended thirty or forty feet in the air. The log began to slip and it hit a tree, making an awful clatter. The machine operator tried to regain control, but could not hold the log. It fell, landing on a stump, and then rolled right at me. When it was eight or ten feet away, it became clear that I was going to see the Lord. I had heard that a man's sins will pass before his eyes at a time like that, but not one thing came up—I was ready! The log hit an iron loading bunk, which in turn knocked me in the chest. I shot like a bullet to about fifty feet away, and landed in a ditch. The log came down over top of me, just touching, but not pressing my body. I wiggled out from under it in time to hear the machine operator tell the foreman he had just killed a man. Then he pointed at me, and said, "That's him!" My only injury was a broken rib. God had spared me again.

My life is in God's hands, and when He says it is enough, it will be enough. Until then, I am ready to go wherever He calls me. I love the Gospel, and could go on and on telling of God's goodness. ■

Paul Andrews began preaching in 1944, and served as pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Richland Center, Wisconsin, from 1988-1994. He retired to Medford, Oregon, and in 2015, God called him home at the age of ninety-six.

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A STATEMENT OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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