

THE Apostolic Faith

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH—JUDE 3

OCTOBER — DECEMBER 2024



A NEW APOSTOLIC FAITH SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL

THE SIXTH APOSTOLIC FAITH SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL
WAS INSTALLED DURING THE 2024 PORTLAND CAMP MEETING

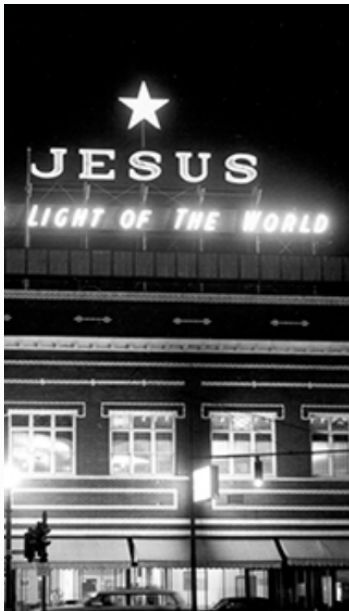
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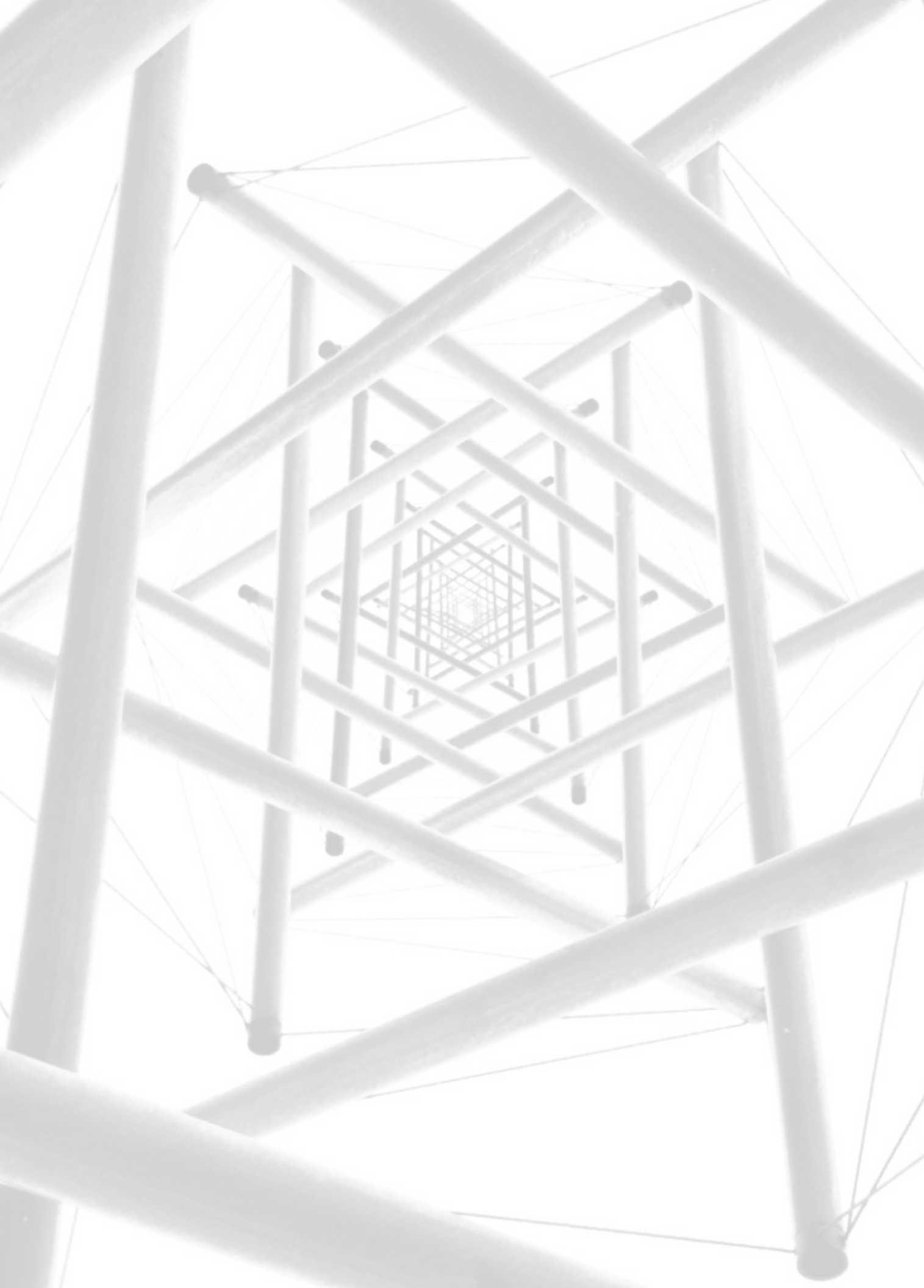
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VIEWPOINT

By Sola Adesope
SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL

What an incredible privilege the Lord has given me to write my first *Viewpoint* as a

servant of this wonderful Gospel. I am grateful to God for the inspiring legacy that my predecessor, Brother Darrel Lee, left for us all. One important aspect of his legacy is keeping the Apostolic Faith Church a Christ-centered church. With the Lord's help, we will continue to do that. Indeed, as you read this issue of *The Apostolic Faith*, you will notice that lifting up Jesus Christ is a common theme throughout every article.

As a university professor, I often teach about "reliability" and "validity." "Reliability" refers to the *consistency* of a measure, while "validity" refers to the *accuracy* of a measure. We remind students that a measurement tool can produce a reliable (consistent) result that is wrong, which is not useful. A tool that produces a valid (accurate) result but does not do so consistently is also not useful. To be useful, the source of information must be both reliable and valid.

When you combine reliability with validity, you get Someone you can depend on.

We live in a complex world that far exceeds humanity's ability to measure and understand everything that is happening around us, much less to predict what will happen next. In every field, experts are asked to analyze and forecast outcomes, but they do so with limited success. Many of us have experienced disappointment after finding out that the systems and institutions of this world are not reliable. However, an article by Brother John Musgrave (see page 10) reminds us that there is Someone we can believe, and that is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. How thankful we are that He meets both criteria of reliability and validity. His words are infallible. His promises are sure.

Brother John's sermon also speaks of the fulfillment of prophecies related to the Lord's return, reminding us again that Jesus' words are true. In addition, the testimonies in this magazine point to the surety of Jesus' words

as well; Brother Ernest (see page 18), Sister Jennifer (see page 26), and the others have proven that we can trust and depend upon the Lord. Jesus Himself declared in Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

Without doubt, we are living in the last days before the Lord's Second Coming. More than ever before, we need the reliability and validity that only Jesus can offer. It gives us so much joy to know that we can depend upon the Lord and His Word, and we pray that the contents of this magazine will inspire you to trust Him in all areas of your life. When we do that, He will do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).





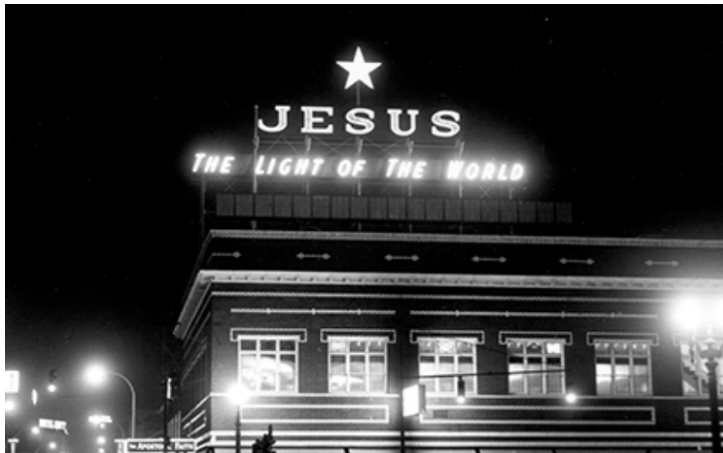
THE TRUE LIGHT

The life-transforming light of Jesus can dispel any darkness.

This article is from the first message preached by Reverend Sola Adesope following his installation as Superintendent General of the worldwide Apostolic Faith work. It was preached on the final Sunday of the 2024 international camp meeting in Portland, Oregon.



By Sola Adesope



This morning, we will consider a topic that is known to many of us because it is the phrase used for our church logo: Jesus, the Light of the World. In John 8:12, we find these words: “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

To provide some historical context, the logo was first displayed in 1917 as an electric sign on our church building at Front and Burnside in Portland, Oregon. When the tabernacle we are currently sitting in was built in 1921, it featured the same words on the front of the building. Through all the changes in society over the past 103 years, the words “Jesus the Light of the World” are still there.



The sign above the Apostolic Faith Church in downtown Portland was a landmark in the city for many years.

When the downtown headquarters church was moved to Sixth and Burnside in 1922, the same message was displayed on top of that building. It was proclaimed from that spot for about sixty years, and its position at the heart of downtown Portland made it a well-known landmark. During those years, there were some who intended to jump from the Burnside Bridge into the Willamette River and take their own lives. But when they came to the bridge, they saw that big sign: “Jesus, the Light of the World.” The Spirit of God moved in their hearts and stopped them

from committing suicide. They walked into our church, listened to Gospel meetings, and the Lord saved their souls.

Through the years, our branch churches around the world have also chosen to display the same heart-warming message of hope: that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. By the grace of God, those words will never be set aside in our generation! As an organization, we will continue to maintain that Jesus is the Light of the world because He said if He is lifted up, He will draw all men—everyone, men and women, boys and girls—unto Himself.

“And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”~John 1:5

The “light” a theme of John’s Gospel

Throughout the Gospel of John, the Apostle introduced Jesus as the Light of the world. The word *light* appears six times in the first nine verses of chapter 1. To mention a few instances, in verse 4 we read, “In him [Jesus] was life; and the life was the light of men.” The word *light* appears again in verse 5, which states, “And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” In verse 9 we read, “That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.” And that theme continues in subsequent chapters. For instance, John 3:19 states, “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” This list could go on and on, because the Gospel of John has a lot to say about Jesus being the Light of the world.

The Bible is very clear about the meaning of “light” and “darkness” in a spiritual sense. We read in Colossians 1:12-14, “Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.” Salvation brings forgiveness of sin—deliverance from the power of darkness.

In this camp meeting, many have been delivered from darkness. Those of you who

are present this morning and are still in sin, you are in darkness. But God does not want you to continue in that condition! He wants to bring you “out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9). I love that adjective “marvellous.” This is not just ordinary light. It is wonderful, life-transforming Light!

Four aspects of spiritual light

This morning let us consider four aspects of spiritual light.

Light and darkness cannot coexist. Impossible! It will never happen. The first chapter of Genesis relates, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness” (verses 1-4). From the beginning, God established that light and darkness cannot coexist. This earth was formless, shapeless, and darkness was upon it. The very first spoken words of God recorded in Scripture were, “Let there be light”! That shows the importance of light. And the very first decision God made was to divide light from darkness. In effect, God was saying, “Light, you cannot coexist with darkness.” He put a division between the two.

Whenever there is darkness in any place or in any life, light disappears. And whenever there is light, darkness



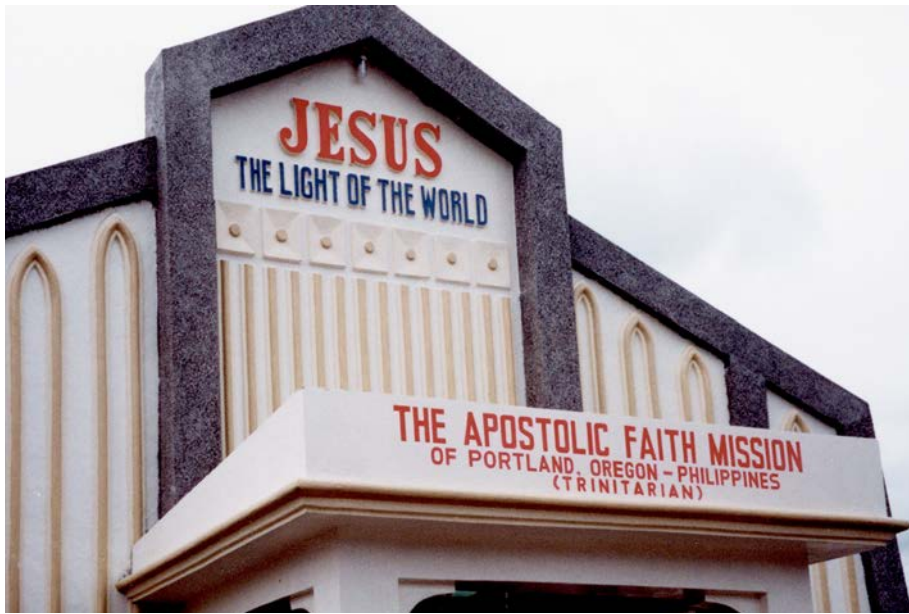
⤴
The sign from our church in Stavanger, Norway, was declared a historical landmark by the local government.

⤵
The sign at one of the first Apostolic Faith Churches in South Korea.



disappears. When you are saved—when Jesus, the Light of the world comes into your heart—the darkness of sin disappears. You cannot live in sin and claim to be saved. Impossible! There are no sinning Christians. There is no sin in Heaven, and there is no holiness in Hell.

Let us look again at 1 Peter 2:9, which speaks of this “marvellous light.” We read there, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” God is saying you are not an ordinary person. As you go



that you don't want anybody to know about, take note: the things that darkness conceals are open to God. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" God knows! His Word says that the eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good (see Proverbs 15:3). If you try to conceal a matter, it will be revealed on the Day of Judgment. But when you confess it to God, your sins will go before you to judgment, rather than follow after. God will forgive your sins and illuminate your life with light—the light of the Gospel!

Light provides guidance.

In the prayer room before our services, we sometimes hear requests asking that God will give guidance in certain situations. Just take Jesus with you! He will provide guidance. It's difficult to walk in the dark, isn't it? But light can help us see where we are headed. In the same way, Jesus, the Light of the world, will give us direction. Life is full of many unknowns. We need to be led and guided through the wilderness of life, and it is only Jesus who can lead us.

One songwriter wrote these words: "In shady green pastures so rich and so sweet, God leads His dear children along." Sometimes we go through the valley, and at other times we may seem to be in the darkest of night, but wherever we are, we know God leads His dear children along. The song says, "Some through the waters, some through the flood. Some through the fire, but all through the Blood." Some go through great sorrow—situations that are hard to understand. Some

back to your branch churches, you are extraordinary because you have been called out of darkness into light. An ordinary person—a sinner—has been transformed into a child of God. You are no longer ordinary, you are extraordinary!

One of our veteran pastors has told us many times that we are a minority with a majority status. I love that! You may be few in number in your local church. You may think, *We are a minority. Our congregation is only fifteen or twenty.* Just go forth and preach the Gospel! Remember, one with God is a majority. The power of God will rest upon your meetings as you preach Christ who was crucified to deliver people from sin! That is the focal point of the Gospel message. We



Top: An Apostolic Faith Church in the Philippines.

Bottom left: The Limavida, Chile, Apostolic Faith Church.

Bottom right: The Apostolic Faith in Brazil.

don't want to shift that aside. Even if the message brings conviction, we want to be faithful in proclaiming it, so people can be delivered from the darkness of sin.

Darkness conceals, but light reveals. Without light we cannot see things that are hidden or concealed. When I clean the furniture at home, I initially think I have done a good job. Then the morning or afternoon sunlight shines through the window and I see all the dirt that I missed! That is what the light of the Gospel does. When we open our hearts and let the light shine in, we may see that it's "not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, Oh Lord, standing in the need of prayer."

If you have things in your life that you are concealing or

say, “Lord, why me? Why am I going through this?” We may not know the reason, but one thing we do know: He will lead you along if you will trust Him. He will give you a song in the night. God gave Paul and Silas a song in prison, and the prison doors began to shake because Jesus was there! The power of God can rest upon you in your seasons of dark night, in your seasons of sorrow, if you take Jesus with you. He will give you direction.

Darkness can never, and will never, overcome light.

John 1:5 tells us that “the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” That phrase, “the darkness comprehended it not,” means that the darkness of evil has never and will never extinguish God’s light.

In Old Testament times, darkness did not overcome light. In the New Testament era, darkness could not overcome light. In the early years of our church, many people came to mock our founder, Florence Crawford and the Gospel meetings she was holding. They threw rotten eggs and all sorts of things at the platform, but the darkness did not overcome the truth that was being proclaimed back then in 1906. It will not overcome us now! By the grace of God, we will march forward. By the grace of God, we will not go back.

Don’t let anything take you out of the Gospel. Our former Superintendent General, Brother Loyce Carver, used to say that anyone who would not be discouraged, will not be



The Apostolic Faith Church in Combayo, Peru.

discouraged. So don’t let the devil discourage you. Don’t let *anything* discourage you! As you go back home and serve God in your branch churches, keep on shining for Jesus. Darkness will not overcome your church. It will not overcome you! God will raise up help for us as we continue to walk in His light.

Light in the tunnel

Maybe today you are going through a period of darkness in your life. There is a common saying, “There is light at the end of the tunnel,” and it sounds good to hear that there is a ray of hope ahead. But I want to tell you this morning that there is not just light at the end of the tunnel, there is light *in* the tunnel! In the tunnel of life, Jesus will be there with you.

He was there with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they were thrown unto the fiery furnace. The king who ordered them cast in asked, “Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” When the answer was affirmative, he said, “Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of

God” (Daniel 3:24-25). Jesus does not let us just go through the fire of life alone: He goes through with us, and He holds our hands.

Isaiah 43:2 promises, “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.” The Lord will be with us, whatever we are going through. Let the devil heat the furnace seven times! By the grace of our great God of Heaven, Jesus the Light of the world will see us through. He says an abundant entrance shall be opened unto us. We shall get to Heaven by the special grace of God.

Are you in a dark period of life today? Perhaps circumstances have dealt a heavy blow to you, to your health, or to your family. Perhaps you have prayed but have yet to be saved, sanctified, or filled with the Holy Spirit. Do not be discouraged! Look to the Light and God will encourage you. He will hear and He will answer. ◆

Reverend Sola Adesope is the Apostolic Faith Superintendent General.





AN **INCREDIBLE** PREDICTION *from a* **CREDIBLE** SOURCE



By John Musgrave

Many predict mankind’s future without credibility, but there is One with a record we can trust.

When it comes to predictions about the future, more important than the prediction itself is the credibility of the source of information. An unlikely prediction from a credible source can cause us to change our actions and behaviors. On the other hand, we are not likely to give much thought at all to sources we deem unreliable.

For example, last winter Portlanders were told to expect freezing rain and snow in the city. Not many years ago, we probably would have been skeptical of such a

forecast. Many of us used to routinely take a “wait-and-see” approach to storm predictions, because so many times before we had heard similar forecasts that never materialized. I remember one time when all the schools in the city closed because a major winter storm was predicted, but then there was no storm at all. The closures were a huge waste of time and resources. However, technology in weather forecasting has advanced to the point that it now has a high degree of accuracy. In addition, in the last few years, Portland has seen multiple ice storms. Nowadays, when one is in the forecast, we tend to believe it will happen. We deem the weather forecasters to be a credible source, so last winter most of us took precautions when they issued warnings.

✚
While traveling to Jerusalem, Jesus stopped with His disciples on the Mount of Olives and spoke to them about the destruction of the Temple.

Consider some more significant predictions that have been made, such as the end of civilization. It seems as if almost every year, someone will declare a new theory about how and when humanity will meet its end. Last year, I heard a biologist say that the human population is no longer sustainable, and that in order to be sustainable, we would need five more earths to inhabit. He predicted mass extinction of the human species. But before you get too worried, you should know that in 1968, this same biologist predicted that humans would become extinct within a decade. Clearly, his predictions lack credibility. Regardless of how many warnings he gives, we are not likely to be persuaded by one who has proven to be an unreliable source.



There is a source we can trust and believe no matter how impossible the report may seem.

A source we must consider

There is a source we can trust and believe no matter how impossible the report may seem. That One is the Lord. Matthew 24 records one of the instances when He made an unexpected prediction to His disciples, and it was concerning the Temple at Jerusalem. History records that the Temple complex was a spectacular place. Over forty-six years before the Matthew 24 account, Herod the Great had begun the expansion and reconstruction of the site. At that time, the complex itself was over thirty-five acres. The Roman Colosseum had not yet been built, but if it had, its square footage would have been less than one-sixth the size of the Temple complex. The courtyard walls were constructed with massive white sandstone blocks that weighed up to fifty tons each. They were cut and polished so perfectly that not even a piece of paper could fit between them; it was an absolute engineering marvel. All the Temple buildings were made of white marble, so the structure would have been stunning to see in person. It has been reported that the eastern courtyard wall was overlaid with gold and could be seen from miles away when it shined in the morning light of the rising sun.

In the Matthew 24 account, Jesus and His disciples were visiting Jerusalem, and after He had been teaching in the Temple one day, “his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple” (Matthew 24:1). We can



understand why the disciples would have wanted to show the Lord these impressive buildings! However, Jesus’ response to them was, “See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” Now that was a remarkable prediction. It would have been astonishing to the disciples, something difficult for them to even comprehend. We can imagine that they probably struggled to believe Him.

Yet, as unbelievable as the pronouncement was, they had to stop and consider that it could be true because of the Source. After all, Jesus was the One who had said to a man who had been dead for four days, “Lazarus, come forth!” And they had all watched as Lazarus walked out of his tomb, still bound in grave clothes. Peter would have remembered the time he needed to pay the Temple tax, and Jesus told him to go down to the shore, put a hook on a fishing line, cast it in and catch a fish, and then open its mouth to find the tax money inside.

⤴
*“Reconstruction
of the Temple
of Herod,
Southeast
Corner” by
James Tissot
(1836-1902).*

That actually happened! All the disciples, no doubt, would have remembered the night they were caught in a terrible storm on the Sea of Galilee and thought they were going to perish. Then Jesus stood in their midst and said, “Peace, be still,” and there was a great calm. If anyone else had said that the Temple would be destroyed, it would have been impossible to believe, but the disciples knew that if Jesus said it, it must be true. In fact, the Temple was destroyed by Titus in 70 A.D., and some of those disciples would still have been alive to see the prediction come true.

The signs predicted

Though the disciples accepted what Jesus told them that day, it is apparent that it took them a little time to digest the information. They all walked to the Mount of Olives, which would have taken about thirty minutes, and there the disciples came to Jesus privately saying, “Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming,

and of the end of the world?” (Matthew 24:3). It seems that they could only conceive of the Temple being destroyed in a cataclysmic type of event at the end of the world, and so they began asking the Lord when that was going to happen.

Verses 4-24 of Matthew 24 catalog the signs of the end times that the Lord shared with them. These were signs that they could observe and then know that the end was near. He began by warning that many would come in His name and would deceive many. That was something they were already witnessing in their time, and we still see it happening today. Many have claimed to be Christ, and they deceive many.

The Lord told them that there would be wars and rumors of wars. That is interesting because that time period was one of the few in history when there was mostly peace throughout the region. Many believe that was something God orchestrated so the Gospel could spread throughout the world at that time. But within a decade or so of this prediction, there were wars and rumors of wars, and those continue to this day.

In verse 7, the Lord spoke of famines, pestilences, and earthquakes. Today, at least four countries are experiencing famines and dozens more are on the



brink of it. As for pestilence, certainly COVID comes to mind, but there have also been recent outbreaks of measles in many countries, as well as bird flu, Ebola, RSV, and the list goes on. There have been major locust infestations in recent years as well. When it comes to earthquakes, it seems like they grow more frequent every year. In 2022, there were 128 around the world that were at least 6.0 in magnitude on the Richter scale.

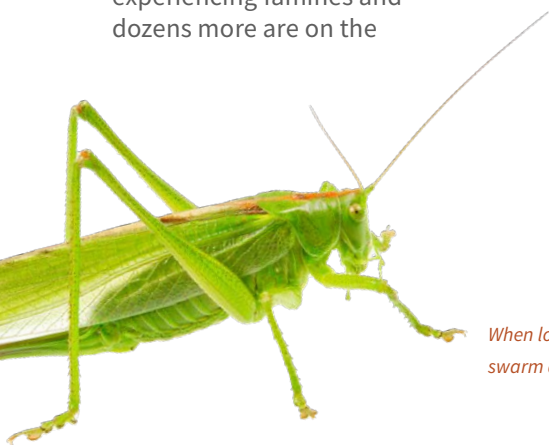
The Lord went on to warn of persecutions. In 2022, it was reported that 360 million Christians experienced high levels of persecution. Then He told the disciples that many false prophets would arise and deceive many. Today, there are so many false prophets that even some who attend evangelical churches flock to hear them. Many have been deceived by those falsely claiming to do the work of God.

Other signs were given by the Lord too, and we see

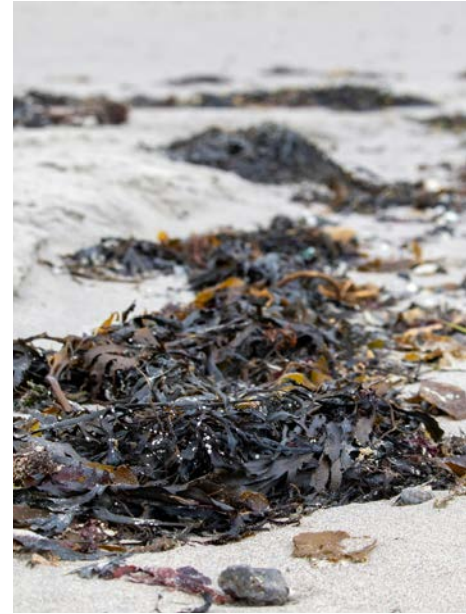
them all in our day. It appears that most, if not all of the prophecies related to His return, have already been fulfilled. If we stopped to really consider the situation, we would have a strong basis to expect that it will be soon. Of course, in verse 36 Jesus said, “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.” Even though we don’t know the day or hour, we believe His coming is very soon. The signs are all there. It is God’s mercy and love that causes Him to tarry so that people—maybe you as you read this article—will have an opportunity to be saved and ready for Christ’s return.

Recognizing the signs

The Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804 is a historical example of signs that indicated reaching a goal. Their expedition across North America took place shortly after the United States acquired a vast portion of the country with the Louisiana Purchase. The government



When locust populations are high, the physical and behavioral changes they undergo cause them to swarm and become a threat to local vegetation.



commissioned Lewis and Clark to travel to the Pacific Ocean and document their journey. At that time, there were no maps of that area. The information they had about the terrain was sketchy at best, with their most reliable source being the Native Americans who tried to share what they knew about the land. The team had almost no idea how long it would take to reach the ocean, though they were determined to get there.

Eventually, in 1805, they had crossed over the Rocky Mountains. Then the day came when they arrived at the Columbia River. Based on what they had been told, they thought there was a good chance that it would flow all the way to the ocean. But it wasn't until they saw signs of the ocean that they believed it was true. The first sign was Mount Hood; they had been given a description of it thirteen years prior by explorers who had travelled from the Pacific up the Columbia River. When Lewis and Clark's crew finally saw it, they concluded, "That's Mount Hood! We must be getting close." A few days after that,

they saw seagulls. That's a sure sign of the ocean! They would have known they had to be within a couple hundred miles. Days went by, and then as they were drinking from the river, they began to taste salt.

All of these were signs, indicating to them that they were getting close to their destination—the Pacific Ocean. One day, they found seaweed in the water. Then they began to feel the ocean tide affecting the flow of the river. So when they saw the ocean for the first time, it was by no means a surprise. They had known it was imminently close because they recognized all the signs.

The signs that the Lord gave us about the end times indicate that the Rapture is now imminently close. We have to believe the Source and we have to understand the signs that are happening around us. They tell us that at any moment, we could be in Christ's presence at the Rapture of the Church. The Lord wants everyone who hears His message to believe the report and to understand that the opportunity to be saved from the coming judgment is



A statue of Meriwether Lewis.

now. If you are not ready, ask God to forgive your sins and come into your heart, and He will give you the peace and assurance that He will take you with Him when He comes.

Jesus is going to come quickly. It will happen in the blink of an eye.

The Lord Himself spoke the final words recorded in Scripture concerning His return: "Surely I come quickly" (Revelation 22:20). Jesus is going to come quickly. It will happen in the blink of an eye: "The dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). What a wonderful hope! ♦

Reverend John Musgrave serves as Treasurer at the Apostolic Faith World Headquarters and is a minister of the church in Portland, Oregon.



BE THOU PERFECT

God's command may seem impossible, but He has made a way.



By Tony Boyce



In Genesis 17:1, we read what could be considered a startling command that God gave to a man named Abram: “And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.”

Being perfect sounds like a tall order, doesn't it? Perhaps that is because there are several definitions for the word *perfect*. If we trace the word back to its English roots, we find that one meaning is “to be complete.” While we commonly use “perfect” to describe something that is flawless, totally free of

imperfections or defects, or the best possible example of something, it can also mean to be complete and whole.

Sometime back, I had a manager at work who assigned me projects, and when I would bring my finished work back to him, he often would say: “It's perfect!” I always thought he was using that word wrong, but it turns out he was using it correctly. The project was complete! It was done to his satisfaction. It would do the job. Could I have improved it in any way—maybe added a graphic, changed a few words, or tweaked it a bit here or there? Yes, but what I gave him was complete and perfect for his purposes.

The Hebrew word translated *perfect*, as used in God's command to Abram (who was later renamed Abraham), simply meant that God was calling this man to be complete, to be wholly and entirely committed in his

walk before Him. Earlier, God had called Abram to “get thee out of thy country...” (Genesis 12:1). Abram really was no different than any of us. No doubt he wondered what was ahead. It was no small thing for him to leave home, friends, and family behind and start out toward a land that he did not know, but he obeyed. As he traveled toward this unknown land and eventually settled where God led him, he experienced conflict, uncertainty, and loss. He watched out for his family and at times saw them make decisions that were not the best. He experienced going to the defense of his family and praying for them, just as you and I do for our families.

In all these life situations, what did it mean for Abram to walk before God and be perfect? We tend to think that “be thou perfect” is the

If we walk before God in obedience to His Word, in accordance with His will, we are perfect. To walk in complete obedience is to be perfect.

significant part of the verse. Those words are important, but focus for a moment on the phrase “walk before me.” That phrase is also key because if we walk before God in obedience to His Word, in accordance with His will, we *are* perfect. To walk in complete obedience is to be perfect.

We can get confused if we think that we need to be without flaw, weakness, or any sign of human frailty in order to please God. No, we just need to walk before Him in obedience. God was giving Abram an invitation when He said, “Walk before me and be thou perfect.” He was inviting him to a life of blessing, and the same invitation is extended to us today.

Starting our walk

How do we begin to walk before God? We read in Galatians 3:6-9, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.” Notice in verse 8 the assertion that God will “justify the heathen through faith.” That’s where a perfect walk before God starts—with the experience of justification.

We are born into this world in a sinful condition and that condition does not improve

as we get older. We commit sins, we choose our own way over God’s way, we become the slaves of sin. But thanks be to God, there is a remedy! I marvel that God looked down upon a broken and sinful humanity and desired to make it whole, but He did. God sent His Son to make atonement for our sins. His Blood paid the price for our redemption, so we can be forgiven and have our sins taken away. When we come to Him in faith and are justified, we start on that journey of walking before God.

Experiencing sanctification

Once we are justified, our carnality must be dealt with. In Romans 8:7 we are told that this is necessary because “the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” Even after we are saved, there is a nature within us that is not wholly yielded to God—a root of sin remains that must be eradicated. When Adam sinned—an event theologians call the “fall of man”—the nature of man changed. As descendants of Adam, we were born in his likeness, with a sinful nature that is sometimes referred to as the “Adamic

nature” or the “carnal nature.” That sinful nature rebels against the law of God and puts self first, but we cannot be perfect without being subject to God. We need to have that sin nature dealt with—to have carnality taken out. And praise be to God, through Jesus’ death on the Cross, we have that opportunity! We can be freed of that carnal nature.

We read in Leviticus 20:7-8, “Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God. And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the LORD which sanctify you.” The instruction to “sanctify yourselves” does not mean we must accomplish this in our own strength. The reality is that you and I can do nothing to remove the sinful nature within us. It takes God to remove it. “Sanctify yourselves” means that we set ourselves apart for God. God is looking for people who have done so. He’s looking for people who have said, “I want to be perfect and whole before God, so I will yield everything to Him.” He is looking for people who reach out to Him, yearning for that cleansing. He will do the work, for He says, “I am the LORD which sanctify you.”

In the New Testament, the Apostle Peter reiterated the





need for sanctification. He instructed those in the Early Church, “As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15-16). Again, we might look at this and think, *I don’t know if I can be holy*. We must remind ourselves that this is something God offers to do for us. It is not something we can work out on our own, but God offers to accomplish it in our lives if we will simply set ourselves apart for Him. It is an invitation.

God’s provision for our walk

God himself provides what we need to have a perfect walk before Him. In Peter’s second epistle, he noted in his greeting that “his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness.” He went on to encourage his readers by saying, “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:3-4). God wants us to be partakers of the divine nature, so He gives us what we need to overcome the corruption of this world.

Sometimes we may fear that we will disappoint God or fail

God himself provides what we need to have a perfect walk before Him.

Him in some way. Have you ever experienced that? In this as well, God provides. We read in 2 Timothy 1:7, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” God invites us to trust in His power to keep us. He looks for people who will have the courage to say, “I know that He has all things in His hands. I believe that He will lead me and will accomplish His work in my life.”

God is committed to keeping us safe from being overwhelmed by the enemy of our souls, but we must let Him do so. An illustration comes to my mind. A number of years ago when our two daughters were small, I was walking to church with them when a menacing dog charged at us from a yard. The instinct of my older daughter, who has special needs, was to run. Thankfully, I had her hand in mine, and I held on firmly. I put the two girls behind me and just stood still, facing the dog. Basically, I was letting it know, “You aren’t going to get to my girls.” After the owner came up and secured his dog, I knelt by my little girl who had tried to run and told her, “If you run away from me, I can’t protect

you. You limit my power to help you.”

The same is true in the spiritual realm. If we run from God, we limit what He can do in our lives. God is with us and He wants to deliver us, so we must not succumb to fear. If I, an earthly father, would protect my children from danger, what will the God of Heaven do for you and me? We want to let go of our fears and trust God to help us walk perfectly before Him.

Maintaining our consecrations

Walking perfectly before God involves consecration. *Consecration* means to make something sacred by setting it apart for God—by dedicating it to Him for His service, to be used at His discretion. “His discretion” is the part that we might have a little concern about. What might that mean in our day-to-day lives?

Consecrations will vary from individual to individual. For example, one of our ministers testifies that after he was saved, he felt God leading him to consecrate his music. He was a musician, and he thought consecrating it meant he would never sing or play a note again. However, he was willing to give up his music—to consecrate it to God—if that was what God required. After he yielded that part of his life, God asked him to use his musical talents in His service! That was many years ago, and he is still using his musical ability in the work of the Lord. You and I may never be called to consecrate our musical talents, but we will be asked to consecrate something.

A perfect walk before God requires maintenance, which includes keeping our consecrations up to date. We are aware of the need for maintenance of physical objects and structures, such as the tabernacle where we hold services during our annual camp meetings. That building is perfect in the sense that over one hundred years ago, it was dedicated to the use of God. And it is fulfilling its purpose—it is doing the job it was intended to do. However, it still requires maintenance. From time to time, the roof leaks. A paint job is needed. The lighting needs to be replaced. Although the tabernacle has been perfect from the moment that it was dedicated to God's service, maintenance is still required occasionally. And the same is true in our lives. Sometimes you and I need to do a little maintenance, don't we? We maintain our walk before God by consecration.

The word translated *consecrate* has several meanings in the Old Testament books of Exodus and Leviticus, and those meanings shed further light on this subject. One of the words translated *consecrate* means "to set as a stone." We can picture why that was necessary. Stones needed to be set in place securely so that they would not be dislodged. They were meant to be permanently in place; they were not to be removed. The same is true of a consecration; when we bring an offering to God, it is not to be taken back. A consecration is meant to be like a stone that has been set in place.

Another word translated *consecrate* is a compound word meaning "to fill with the hand." That implies action. When we make a consecration to God, it is not just words we say as we pray. It is something that we live out every day, wherever we are. We do what we promised to God.

In Psalm 101:2-4, the Psalmist committed to several actions that took consecration. He said, "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person."

Notice the declarative statements in this passage. Count how many times the Psalmist said, "I will," and, "I shall." He had a purpose to follow through on his commitments! And that is how we walk perfectly before God—we live a consecrated life. We give everything to God. We yield control of our possessions, our finances, our friendships, and our futures, and we follow through on those commitments as we progress through life.

Timeless advice

A longtime pastor gave me some advice before he passed away. He said to me: "Never be afraid to do what the Lord asks you to do." As he looked back over his life and thought about what he had learned in his personal walk with the Lord, that was what he

wanted me to understand and remember. Now I pass that on to you. Never be afraid to give everything to God! Never be afraid to trust that God knows what He is doing and will see you through if you stay yielded to Him.

In 1 Corinthians 15:31, the Apostle Paul said, "I die daily." He submitted himself to God every single day. And as a result, when he neared the end of his earthly life, he could



If I, an earthly father, would protect my children from danger, what will the God of Heaven do for you and me?

tell the believers at Philippi that his earnest expectation and hope was that "Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:20-21).

Today, give everything to God and live a consecrated life. When you do, you can walk before Him and be perfect through His divine strength. ♦

Reverend Tony Boyce is pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Dallas, Oregon.



WHERE GOD LEADS, I WILL FOLLOW

From Nigeria to Australia with joy, heartache, and blessings in between.



By Ernest Akerejola

Before I understood about the Gospel of Jesus Christ, my life was full of confusion. I was born into a polygamous home in Nigeria. My father was from a royal family, so he was a ruler by birth. As such, he was expected to accommodate all religious traditions. Also, his social and cultural obligations caused him to marry many wives, and so he had many children. He loved me, and I trusted and relied on him, but he died when I was fifteen years old.

There was quarreling and envy among our family members, and some of them told me that I would never do well. The implication was that I would never obtain an education. I felt that the words said to me were powerful and put something of a curse on me, and this brought me fear. Now that my father was dead, who would pay for my education?

While in secondary school, I began to be conscious of my serious need of God. I wanted to serve Him but did not know how to do it. Thinking I could overcome sin in my



Ernest with his wife, Janet, and their four children at his seventieth birthday celebration in June of this year.

own power, I struggled to live without sinning, but found that I could not. I attended many different churches, and in some even joined the choir because I loved singing. However, when I looked at the lives of the people in those churches, my heart was discouraged because they seemed no different than me. For a while I did not support any particular church. Other times I thought it was not worth going to church at all. Occasionally I went about preaching to people. But if anyone was bold enough to ask me if I was saved, I would say, "Well, I think I am saved." Confusion abounded inside me.

After completing secondary school, I went on for higher education. There I met five people who called themselves Christians and whose lives were different from mine. I tried to associate with them and become friends because I thought that would make me a true Christian.

They invited me to a four-day retreat at the Apostolic Faith Church in Lagos, Nigeria. What I heard the first two days had a big impact on me. I came to understand that those people had genuine salvation, and I did not. They did their best to answer all my questions. That Saturday there were no

services and they encouraged me to spend time in prayer, so I did.

Although I did not know what to say, I asked God to forgive my sins and promised not to go back to those sins again. As I knelt there, my sins came flashing before me like a panorama, and as each one came, I said, "Oh Lord, I am sorry. I will never do that again."

After about ten minutes of praying, God's Spirit witnessed to my heart that the work was done. It was so real, there was no more guessing about it. Joy like I had never experienced before flooded my soul. Everything seemed new! When I went outside, the moonlight caused me to say, "God, You created this moon that has been there all the while!" Flowers looked new to me, though I had passed by them several times previously. Before that retreat ended, I prayed more and God sanctified me. That was in March of 1975, when I was twenty-one years old.

When I went back to school, life was totally different. Before I was saved, everything that I did tended towards failure, which seemed to be a fulfillment of the curses from my childhood. After salvation, what I thought were curses

were removed and failures became successes. The next exam that I took was a national one, and one of my results was among the best in the center where I attended. There was such a difference in my life that I wondered if I needed to change my birthday. The day

There was such a difference in my life that I wondered if I needed to change my birthday.

God saved me was the day life came to me, and I actually knew I was alive!

My heart continued to yearn for more of God. At night, kneeling by my bedside or a chair and tarrying for a long while, God was so real that it seemed at times as if I was even touching His hand. He let me know that restitutions were necessary for some of my past actions, and I began making those things right. When I made restitution to my mother,



« Right to left: Ernest accompanying a children's recorder group on the pianica for Sunday school around 1978; With his first son and a late sister in the mid-1990s; Graduating with a PhD from Macquarie University in 2006.

she thought maybe I had some condition and was going to die. Weeping, she asked, “What has happened to you?” I told her that God had saved my soul. When the restitutions were made, God filled me with the Holy Ghost and power. Thank God for that experience!

Meanwhile, God continued to help with my education. He took me through university, and another student and I were told that our results broke an eighty-year-old record. Then I went on and received a master’s degree. That is what God can do for one who is saved.

The Lord led me to marry a young lady from the church. However, just over a year later, she passed away. This caused suspicion within my unbelieving family, who said my God had failed me. I told them, “My God never fails, but that was His will.” Upon my arrival home from her burial, they told me that I should choose between God and family. It was a serious decision because my family still tried to have a great deal of influence on me. It felt as if I was on a tightrope. Sitting on my bed and holding my Bible, I said, “This is the way I want to follow. I will follow the Bible way. I will choose Christ.” Some of my family made comments that were not edifying, but I thank God that I chose the Bible and God’s way. He has never disappointed me.

In time I married again, to a woman named Janet. At the time, I was teaching at the university, and we were both involved in church work in Zaria, Nigeria, where I had been asked to begin preaching. After some years, I was asked to fill the role of pastor there.

Then in a miraculous way, God changed the direction of



⚡ A recent photo of the Akerejola family.

My life is a testimony of what God can do for a person who gives his life to Christ.

our lives. He made it possible for me to receive a scholarship to go to Australia and study for a doctorate in linguistics. I had been praying for God’s direction, and when the opportunity came, I prayed again, “God, I don’t have to go abroad. I don’t have to be anywhere else than here. If You know that I am not going to be useful to You there, then I don’t want to go.” Also, I had heard of people who lost their salvation when they went abroad. So I prayed, “God, if You know I am going to lose my salvation there and am not going to serve You, please, I would rather remain at home.”

When it appeared that God wanted us to go, I went home and told Janet, “We are going to Australia.” She said, “What? Where is Australia?” We looked at a world map, and she said, “You mean we are going like from one end of the world to

the other?” I said, “Yes.” Her next question was if there was one of our churches there. When I told her there was not, she asked, “What are we going to do? How can we leave this place where there is a church and go to a place where there is not one? How are we going to survive?” I suggested that we might start a church.

We had three children by that time, and we packed our bags and went to Australia. Before we left Nigeria, the church leaders told us the names of some people in the area who had connections to our church. After we were in Australia we began meeting for fellowship, and our group grew. The enemy resisted, as he does, but God took us through.

When I was asked to be the church leader, I did not want to. Then God reminded me of Sister Ruth Ashwell’s testimony. She said the Lord

showed her two roads and both of them led to Heaven. One was difficult, and one was easy. She understood that God wanted her to take the difficult way, and she did. She said that God had never disappointed her.

God used that to speak to my heart. So I prayed, “God, I don’t know anything and can’t do anything by myself. But if this is what You want me to do and You will lead me, I will just follow what You ask me to do.” Thank God, He has helped. There have been difficulties, but each time we took the matter to God, and He resolved the problem for us. Now, besides the church in Sydney, there are groups in Melbourne and Perth, and recently one in Queensland as well.

Throughout our stay in Australia, God has sustained us. When we lived in Nigeria, I taught for thirteen years at

the Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, which is one of the largest universities in Nigeria. Since we moved to Australia, I have been teaching at Macquarie University, but this position is not on a permanent basis. Yet God continues to provide employment.

At one point I did not have work for a couple of semesters. Janet was attending the university at that time, and we were paying international student fees for her. We had three children in school and were paying international fees for them as well. It was really tough, but God was always faithful to provide.

One time, one of Janet’s colleagues complained about having to pay overseas student fees for her son. This woman was working fulltime and so was her husband, and they had only one child. Janet told her, “We are paying overseas

student fees for our children and also my own fees.” The coworker said, “No. You don’t look like somebody who is in distress paying for this. You must have someone very rich sending you money to pay!” Janet said, “Yes, I have Someone—that is Jesus,” and gave the lady her testimony. Miraculously, God helped us through that time.

In His own way, God made it possible for us to obtain permanent residency in Australia, and now we are citizens. He has helped us purchase a home when that seemed impossible. All along, God has been more than faithful. My life is a testimony of what God can do for a person who gives his life to Christ. ◆

Reverend Ernest Akerejola the leader of the Apostolic Faith work in Australia and pastor of the church in Sydney.



Testimony of Sister Ruth Ashwell

Ruth Ashwell worked for many years at the Apostolic Faith world headquarters office as secretary to Africa work.

EVEN THOUGH I HAD RECEIVED the three basic Christian experiences, I still had my own plans about what I wanted to do with my life. My brothers and sisters and I had a cousin, George Hughes, whose main topic of conversation was consecration. Again and again he would tell us, “Give your life to the Lord. Let the Lord choose everything you do.” As he continued to encourage us, a hunger for the things of God filled my heart. However, I was afraid if I completely surrendered my life to the Lord, my own plans might never materialize. My desires were not sinful, but they were not God’s plan for me. I would begin to surrender my plans to the

Lord and then draw back. The battle warred inside me for over a year.

Finally, one Sunday I knew I had to make a decision. I found a place to be alone with God. The conflict raged between my ambitions and the deep feeling within my heart that I must do God’s will. Then the Lord showed me two paths. One was sunny and sheltered with trees, had lovely homes and children playing, and the Lord stood at the end of it. The other was rutted and muddy. It was unprotected and hard, and the Lord stood at the end of that path also. I realized I could have my ambitions and still make Heaven, but I also knew that the Lord wanted me to take the difficult path.

I wondered if I could ever live my life the Lord’s way. Then He reminded me of the verses in Luke 18:29 and 30, “Verily I say unto you, there is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God’s sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.” Weeping, I told the Lord I would take His way. I laid down all my plans and said I would follow Him whatever the cost. The decision came from the depths of my heart, and I meant to keep it. Only God knows how hard it was, but I have never been sorry. The path God chose for me far surpassed any ambitions or dreams I ever had.



IGNITED TO SHARE

Just as a lit briquette spreads heat, we can spread the fire in our souls to those around us.



By Randy Baltzell

Briquettes are a type of fuel that can be used for campfires and outdoor grills. They are small blocks made of densely packed combustible material, such as sawdust or coal, and they are popular because they light easily and burn for a long time.

When I first started grilling with briquettes, I wasn't used to them and it bothered me when the flame would go out. I would think, *Oh no! I need to start the fire again.* Out came the lighter fluid and a lighter to reignite them. But I quickly learned that briquettes do not have a visible flame; you just ignite them and let them work. Once a briquette has internalized the heat, it will pass that heat on to the others that are in contact with it, and those pass the heat to the next ones, until the entire pile is burning.

One time, I did an experiment with this. I took a briquette that had burned until it was white and ashen, and put it in a pile of some that were cool. Before long, they were all affected by the single hot briquette. However, I observed that if some of the briquettes were even just a few inches away from the rest, they were unaffected. You could close

Once a briquette has internalized the heat, it will pass that heat on to the others that are in contact with it, and those pass the heat to the next ones, until the entire pile is burning.

the lid of the grill and wait until the hot ones smoldered down to ash, but the isolated ones would not have burned. They might not even be hot!

Several years ago, it occurred to me that the Gospel is a lot like briquettes, and now I think of it every time I use them to grill. Briquettes are designed to hold and pass heat. They are powerless in and of themselves, accomplishing nothing when left alone. But after one is ignited, the heat it produces is going to spread. Likewise, we cannot do anything of eternal value on our own, but our lives can be transformed by the power and love of God. When that happens, there will be an impact on those around us—they will be touched by God's power and love passing through us.

Let's consider a few ways this can happen and the benefits that result.

Build up the household of faith

The Book of Philemon is a great example of how God's love is received and then passed on. It is believed that Philemon was saved through Paul's preaching when he visited the city of Colosse, so in a sense, Paul passed the Gospel on to Philemon. We read in verse 4 of Paul's letter to his friend, "I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints." Philemon had faith and love for both the Lord and fellow believers—this is an indication of the transformation that took place when he was saved. If he were a briquette, we would say that he was "ignited."

Verse 7 continues, "For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother." From what Paul wrote about him, we can see that Philemon was a good man. We get the sense that he was solid in his faith and a faithful follower of Christ. He also had a noticeable effect on those who were in contact with him—they were refreshed! The word *bowels* in that verse was a reference to the inner man, meaning their hearts or spirits. The word translated *refreshed* is the same word that is translated as *rest* in Matthew 11:28 when Jesus said, "I will give you rest." So Philemon had found that rest in Christ, and he was passing it on to those around him.

What a picture of the Gospel. Philemon had something from Heaven in his heart that he was spreading, and it encouraged everybody. Thank God, that is something

all of us as believers can do. We too can refresh each other's spirits by sharing what God has put in our hearts. We are all called to love one another with a pure heart fervently (see 1 Peter 1:22), and to build each other up in the faith.

through a difficult trial, built up by ministers and teachers who took the time to explain what they had learned about Scripture, and encouraged in so many other ways. All of these were passing on what God put in their hearts, and then I could do the same. In

Philemon had something from Heaven in his heart that he was spreading, and it encouraged everybody.

When I think of how many times God has encouraged me through a fellow believer, there are simply too many to count. I have been touched by songs and testimonies offered during church services, strengthened through prayers from loved ones who knew I was going

this way, we are reinforcing the entire household of faith. The impact of whatever we've received from God—whether abilities, wisdom, victories, or something else—can be multiplied when we find ways to share it with others.

One thing to keep in mind is that for this to work, we must be in contact with each other. Unlike briquettes that are placed in a pile with no choice in the matter, we do have a say in whether or not we will have contact with fellow believers. Even if we cannot be in physical proximity, we can make an effort to stay in touch through online services, email, text, and other ways. When we choose to make the family of God a priority in our lives, we find innumerable blessings.

Point sinners to Christ

The encouragement we gain from other believers is wonderful for us personally, but it is not only believers who are affected when we allow the power and love of God to flow through our lives. John 13:35 records, "By this shall all men know that ye are my



« Randy (the author) at the grill.

disciples, if ye have love one to another.” Jesus didn’t say that unbelievers would note Christians for being polite or nice. They are not going to say, “Wow, those are nice people; they must have the truth!” No, lost souls will recognize that we are followers of Christ when we have His divine love flowing from our lives. The love of God is unique in this world. It is unmistakable. The natural reaction to it is for people to know, “They must be followers of Jesus.”

This idea also reminds me of Jesus’ words in John 7:38, “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” The Gospel is not designed to be kept as a personal secret, but to flow out to others. We have an opportunity to impact other people for the Lord! So many people in this world are looking for His love, though they may not realize that is what they are looking for. Some reject it, but many like us rejoice and embrace it when they find it. The love of God is meant to be shared, flowing from heart to heart, thereby testifying of God’s goodness to a lost and dying world.

Overcome conflicts

Paul himself was a master at encouraging. He wrote his letter to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus, who was Philemon’s runaway slave. Onesimus had been saved under Paul’s ministry, and after that he had been helping Paul. The purpose of the letter was to encourage Philemon to forgive Onesimus and receive him as a brother in Christ, but Paul didn’t demand, threaten, or force this on his friend. Instead, Paul encouraged him



in a gentle and loving way. Paul reminded Philemon of the love he had found in the Savior—the same love that Onesimus had found. Paul built up Philemon, and after reading this letter, I cannot imagine he was anything but joyful to be able to extend mercy and receive Onesimus as a brother in Christ.

Paul could have taken a different approach, but by relying on the love of God to prevail in the matter, what a boost that must have been to Onesimus’ faith, to Philemon, and even to Paul himself. That is how the Gospel is meant to work: we receive mercy and love, we extend mercy and love, and others are encouraged

The love of God is unique in this world. It is unmistakable. The natural reaction to it is for people to know, “They must be followers of Jesus.”

to do the same. God works through us in this way, with the result that everyone is built up, including ourselves.

It starts with the source

In John 13:34 Jesus said, “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” If we try to love others with love that we manufacture on our own, it will fall short. But Jesus was talking to His disciples about the supernatural love of God. His love is the kind that never fails, but always endures. His love is great enough that it can fill our lives and then flow out to everybody we come in contact with.

It is so encouraging to be around someone who loves us the way God does, and who truly has our best interests in mind. I’m grateful to have had people like that in my life, people who just wanted me to succeed in the Gospel, to find the deeper things of God, and to experience the depths of His love. Philemon was such an encourager—he was a man worth being around, and every one of us can be that way too. When we allow God’s love to flow through our lives, it is unstoppable as it passes from one heart to another. This is how the Gospel is meant to work, and it is wonderful. ♦

Reverend Randy Baltzell is a minister of the Apostolic Faith Church in Portland, Oregon.



MORE THAN FAMILY TRADITIONS

A great-grandmother's faithfulness encouraged Jennifer to follow Jesus.

By Jennifer Worthington



⋈ Above: Jennifer with her four daughters and her mother in 2006.
Right: Jennifer and her great-grandmother in the late 1980s.



Since I was born into a Christian home, I can't remember the first time I went to church. From my earliest childhood I knew that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, that He grew up to die on the Cross for me, that He rose again on Easter Sunday, and will return someday for those who are ready to meet Him.

My family's tradition was to be in church regularly. My great-grandmother, a widow, lived two doors down from the church, making it convenient for us to visit her often. Many times she would make cheese toast, banana bread, hand pies, or cookies for us. Then she would give thanks to our Heavenly Father before we would eat our tasty treat.

When she prayed, it wasn't a habitual prayer. She reached Heaven and the Holy Spirit was felt around that small table in her humble kitchen. She was a prayer warrior. We

knew we could call on her for prayer any time, day or night, and we did. Her faithfulness made a great impression on me that remains to this day.

At the age of eight, I began to feel God calling after my own heart. When the sun would go down and the lights were turned off, I started to fear the return of Christ. If He returned in the night or I failed to wake up, I knew I wasn't ready for Heaven. I was reaching the age of accountability, and I began to have personal conversations with the Lord. One night after an inspirational movie at our little church in Arkansas, I was ready to surrender my life to Christ. Kneeling at an altar of prayer, I wept as I told the Lord how sorry I was for my sins. I asked Him to forgive me and to come into my heart. He did, and changed me completely. I knew I was ready for the Lord's return, and I was no longer afraid to go to sleep at night. A deep settled peace came over me that still continues.

As a teenager, some of the choices I was making began steering my attention toward the things of this world. I wanted to be a Christian and yet fit in with friends at school. Deep down, I was struggling with temptation. Thankfully, God helped me realize I needed a closer walk with Him. Our family visited Midwest Camp in Murphysboro, Illinois, each summer. Looking forward to that camp meeting, my desire was to be more of what Jesus wanted me to be. I knew from the sermons I had heard that I needed to be sanctified. I prayed and prayed but felt at a loss about how to

receive sanctification. Then, after a youth service, I asked someone to help me pray. That was the step I needed to take. Admitting I needed to be sanctified and having another Christian agreeing to help me pray brought victory. The Blood of Jesus purified my heart and gave me the strength to stay true to Him.

Through good and especially through some difficult situations, Jesus has been my best Friend. One of the darkest valleys I ever faced came about when I was only fourteen years old. My older brother had gone away to Marine boot camp,

One night after an inspirational movie at our little church in Arkansas, I was ready to surrender my life to Christ.

and we were expecting him home soon. On an evening just before Christmas, a young man wearing Marine dress blues knocked on our door. He asked my parents to sit down and proceeded to inform them that my brother had died by suicide. The sudden grief, shock, and turmoil I felt is indescribable. I knew my brother would never be returning home again. There were times when sadness overcame me. I felt alone and afraid to talk to my family because they were also grieving. I remember shutting the door to my room and crying out to Jesus, asking Him to give me the joy I had when I first became a Christian, because I no longer felt joy. The precious Holy Spirit blessed me with joy and helped me see the beauty in life again.



When I was sixteen years old, I was given my first opportunity to attend the camp meeting in Portland, Oregon. As I anticipated the trip, I spoke with my great-grandmother about the possibility of meeting a Christian young man there. Her reply was, "You need your baptism first, and God will bless you with a Christian boyfriend." I am forever grateful for her blunt reply. She was one hundred percent correct. I needed God's direction if I were to have a relationship with a young man that God could bless. My hunger for the baptism of the Holy Ghost grew as I began to study God's Word. I read and reread Isaiah chapter six, where God called Isaiah. I wanted to be a witness for God but felt incapable. The more I



read this chapter, the more I wanted all of what God had to offer regardless of the cost.

Once we arrived at the camp meeting, I was attending services, practicing for the youth concert, and enjoying meeting new friends. Coming from a small branch church, I was caught up in the excitement of all the activities and fellowship. At the close of the first Friday night service, I was planning to meet a young man. After praying for a few minutes, I looked up and noticed him standing in the back of the tabernacle. By the grace of God, my great-grandmother's words rang loud in my ears, "You need your baptism first, and God will bless you with a Christian boyfriend." I was determined to stay on my knees and seek God with my whole heart, and I will never regret that decision. Not knowing what the future would hold, I consecrated my life to God.

His Spirit came down and filled my soul to overflowing. I spoke in a language unknown to me, a witness of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Three years later, the Lord brought a wonderful Christian man into my life. Shawn had recently graduated from college. After applying for multiple jobs, he accepted one where he lived in Portland, Oregon. Living thousands of miles apart, we knew one of us would need to move. We wanted God's will, so we prayerfully sought guidance. Shawn spoke with his pastor and his parents. I spoke with my parents, which included my pastor, who was my father. I bought a roundtrip ticket to Portland and planned to return home



⤴ *Above: Jennifer singing with her daughters during a church service in 2011. Below: With her husband, Shawn, at the 2015 Portland camp meeting.*

Whatever comes my way, I can say that I am still blessed. I thank God for being the Light in the darkness and for the joy He brings each day!

if I did not have a job within two months. Two job offers came my way in less than two weeks, so I took the best one and became an Oregonian. Shawn and I were married in 1994 and in time, we were blessed with four daughters.

Our family has seen many miracles. Our first daughter was born prematurely because I developed pre-eclampsia. She weighed 2 pounds 11 ounces, and to our amazement, came home a little more than a month later. We had been told and accepted the fact that she would have vision problems, because she came home with a partially detached retina. However, God miraculously healed her eye, and there was no sign of previous damage. This puzzled the doctors as they poured over her charts comparing her eye scans. God miraculously overruled all the predictions of the doctors. Today, she is a mother herself.

I'm thankful for God's protection. One day when our youngest daughter was three years old and I was about to put her into the car, I noticed that drool was pouring from her mouth. When I asked if she had swallowed something, she could not speak, and immediately I knew something was wrong. I called an advice nurse who said to give her some food to force down whatever she had eaten. My God-given instinct was to respond, "I'm not comfortable giving her food, because she can't even swallow her saliva." Instead, I took her to the emergency room, and a coin was found stuck in her esophagus. She was sent to the children's hospital where it was surgically removed. The



Our first daughter was born prematurely because I developed pre-eclampsia. She weighed 2 pounds 11 ounces, and to our amazement, came home a little more than a month later.

doctor told us that we were lucky the coin was lodged vertically in her esophagus rather than horizontally, and that giving her food would have been the worst decision. Events of that day were not luck but God's protection.

When our girls were young, even preparing to leave the house for church was no small task. With no warning, one of our daughters might climb into the bathtub wearing her church clothes or color her face with a marker. Another might have a meltdown trying to find matching shoes or forget them altogether. Attending church with four small children, I couldn't always recount what the sermon was about or which announcements were made, but the blessings cannot be measured. A Sunday school teacher once encouraged our women's class to seek blessings during the service, even if those blessings are just one sentence from a

hymn or testimony. God helped us prioritize being in church whenever possible, carrying on the tradition of our parents. Tradition alone will not get us to Heaven, but being in God's house has given us opportunities to witness immeasurable blessings, including all of our girls choosing to follow Jesus as their personal Savior.

Whatever comes my way, I can say that I am still blessed. I thank God for being the Light in the darkness and for the joy He brings each day! ♦

Jennifer Worthington worships at the Apostolic Faith Church in Portland, Oregon, and works at the world headquarters church office.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

If you are a new Christian, contact us and request the tract entitled “Starting Out.”

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*

EVIDENCE



MIMI WITHAM
Portland,
Oregon

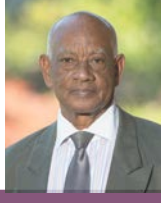
God has brought me a long way and I am grateful. I grew up in Romania, a Communist country, but in 1978 God miraculously brought my family to the United States. For many years we had looked forward to the day when we would be able to worship God freely. Living in a Communist country is very different from living in a free country. I was about fourteen when we left Romania, so I remember some of the restrictions the Communist regime placed on us. For one, they limited our church services—we could not gather whenever we wanted.

My grandparents told stories about their lives before and during Communism. My grandpa was a very wealthy man, and the Communists took almost everything he owned, such as his land and cattle. They barely left him with the necessities. He told us, though, that the Lord always provided. He was a minister who started numerous churches and was imprisoned for the Gospel. He talked about how God miraculously delivered him from death. One time he was in a lineup, ready to be shot and killed, but God intervened, and he survived. He came to this country too and loved it so much. He could not say enough good about it.

My dad was an amazing man. He was also a minister in Romania, and he continued that ministry here in the states. The language barrier was tough, because none of us spoke English when

we arrived, but he eventually managed. The language barrier was difficult for me also, and for some reason my family decided that I would do all the interpreting. Whenever someone had to see a doctor or had any other appointment, I had to go. I needed to brush up on my English, and fast. I thank the Lord that He helped me in that area.

I thank the Lord for all He has done for me. Coming to America was a dream and attending this church was a blessing. It still is. I can remember my grandmother sitting with us in the pews and having tears in her eyes. Though she did not understand a lot of what was going on, she felt God’s Spirit in this place and was touched by it. The Spirit of God is familiar wherever we go, and I felt it too. This was a place of comfort for me. I am so grateful God brought me to this country and this church. ♦



**MIRIO JUAN
RUIZ SOTO**

Los Montones,
Dominican
Republic

When I was growing up, my extended family was divided with one side Christian and the other Catholic, and the Catholic side never wanted to be told about the Gospel. No one in my home was a Christian until I was about eighteen years old, when my older brother converted. I was so surprised when he told me how the Lord had changed his life. I thought his decision would hurt our family and I told him, “Even if the whole world converts and I

am left alone, I will not convert to Christianity.” He just nodded and said, “I am going to pray for you.”

Soon after that, I moved away from home to work in Quisqueya. A church there was holding two weeks of special meetings, and someone invited me. I went on a Sunday morning, and after the service a woman asked if I wanted to pray and get saved. I told her I would come back the next Sunday, and her response pierced my heart. She asked me, “Who guaranteed that you will be alive until next Sunday?”

When I got home that day, I knelt and asked God to allow me to return the following Sunday, and He did. I went back with a strong determination to give my life to God. At that altar call, a man asked me if I wanted to pray for salvation, and I said yes, but that I wanted something that would last. I didn’t want to be like the people I had seen who converted and then went right back to their

old ways. He told me, “If you open your heart to God, the Lord will save you the way you are wanting Him to save you.” That is exactly what happened; in a moment, the power of God came down and I was completely changed! God made me a new creature. He took away the heavy burden of sin that I had been carrying, and I felt as if I were walking on air.

A lot of time has passed since then. There have been trials, but the Lord has always been by my side, and I know He will continue to help no matter what I face. Before I was saved, I thought life was just about working and producing as much as possible. Now, I have something better—I have eternity in Heaven to look forward to. I don’t care about missing out on material things in life, but I don’t want to lose the spiritual blessings God has for me. I want to be faithful to the Lord and serve Him until I see Him in Heaven. ♦



**ESTHER
BANDA**

Lusaka,
Zambia

My father passed away when I was a young girl, and my mother did her best to raise me and my siblings in a Christian way. She sent us to the Apostolic Faith Church where my older cousin attended. My cousin was a Christian who was married and had children. She would encourage me to come to church and pray.

When I was eleven, my mother became ill and said we had to move to a village to be near family. I did not want to go and was

allowed to stay behind with my cousin and her family. She was very serious about the Gospel and would tell me, “If you are not saved when you die, you will go to Hell.” That put fear in my heart, and when I was thirteen, I prayed to God and He saved me. He took away my fear and gave me peace. The next year, I went to the camp meeting at Ndola and prayed, and God sanctified me. Then, He baptized me with the Holy Spirit. That put a song in my heart. Ever since that day, I have enjoyed singing, whether doing chores in the home, or gardening, or at church.

My mother passed away when I was fifteen years old. After that, I

would go to the church to be alone with God and pray. I asked Him to give me a good husband who would love me. He answered that prayer. When I was twenty-two, He showed me a wonderful man to marry. He also blessed our marriage with five children. When I look at them, I see how good God is. He knows us by name. He is my Saviour and my life. ♦



A NEW APOSTOLIC FAITH SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL

The sixth Apostolic Faith Superintendent General was installed during the 2024 Portland camp meeting.

On Sunday, July 7, 2024, a new Apostolic Faith Superintendent General was installed during the morning devotional service at the world headquarters church in Portland, Oregon. The service was part of the annual Portland camp meeting convention, which is attended by delegates from around the world.

The service began with an orchestra prelude of “Canon on the Love of God,” followed by the choir singing “Come Christians, Join to Sing.” Then the congregation sang, “Lead On, O King Eternal” and “He Leadeth Me.” An opening prayer given by Reverend Isaac Adigun, the District Superintendent of West and Central Africa. Then Superintendent General Darrel Lee read to the congregation from the following prepared statement:

To Apostolic Faith saints worldwide:

It has long been my prayer that God would reveal the identity of my successor and the timing for when the next leadership transition should take place. Over the past few years,

the identity of that successor has become more and more apparent to me. Furthermore, I believe the mantle of Apostolic Faith global oversight now falls on one to be named shortly.

In a meeting of the Apostolic Faith Headquarters Board of Directors, I proposed that the Superintendent General role be passed to a successor, whom I named. In addition to myself, our Board is comprised of Brothers Bob Downey, Bill McKibben, Tim DeBusk, and John Baros. They each enthusiastically approved the proposal. This appointment will take effect after our formal installation in a few moments.

During our minister and spouse meeting yesterday morning, I shared this recommended path forward and solicited their support. They also wholly endorsed the appointment. I will ask the same of you in a moment. We ministers are united in our belief that we have the right man to take my place as Superintendent General, and that this is the right time to appoint him.

Before continuing, please allow me to first convey my sincere appreciation to all of you for your prayerful support of me and my family over the past many

years. Serving in this capacity has allowed Debbie and me to meet and work with the most beautiful people on the planet—all of you here, and so many other Apostolic Faith saints elsewhere around the world. We are deeply indebted to you. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you very much.

Thanks also to our children, their spouses, and our eight grandchildren. The support and joy they have brought to our lives has been a tremendous personal blessing.

Finally, thanks to Debbie. She had no idea what she was getting into when she married me. Of course, nor did I. We initially met and became acquainted while serving the Lord in our nearby Dallas church. We later married in Dallas and our two children were born while we lived there. Debbie has faithfully served the Lord by my side all these years. She has been the consummate wife, mother, and grandmother. Additionally, her common sense and unassuming manner have been instructive and beneficial to us all.

Most of all, we give thanks to God for His help and for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us in His service. Our hearts are full of gratitude to Him.



⤴ The congregation stands in unanimous support of Rev. Adesope's appointment.

Today it is time to transition to the next leader. My firm conviction, supported by the ministry, is that the mantle of Apostolic Faith worldwide oversight now falls upon Brother Olusola Adesope. He has agreed to pick it up and to carry it forward. Brother Sola meets the Bible criteria for church leadership, which includes the high standard of ethical conduct he has exemplified for decades. The same can be said of Sister Tolu, to whom he has been married for over twenty-three years.

Before marriage, they each lived for the Lord from the time they were saved at young ages. God has given them three children: Florence, Felicia, and Josiah. They too are saved and faithfully live for the Lord. Brother Sola will guide this work forward in a manner that honors the sound Bible doctrine we have stood for since Sister Florence Crawford settled in Portland not long after the 1906 Azusa Street outpouring. I believe God brought him to North America and subsequently to Pullman, Washington, many years ago for such a time as this.

Transition details have been in motion ever since Brother Sola and I met privately in Pullman some time ago. We discussed the matter then and the two of us have communicated nearly every day since, usually multiple times.

From here, I remain willing to serve as he deems best. The entire Adesope family has my whole-hearted support and prayerful backing.

The 2018 appointment of a Portland pastor was made in part with this eventuality in mind. Brother Sola intends to continue that approach. He will work closely with Brother Dave Lambert [Portland pastor] on Portland church matters, the same as I have done. The timing of their move to Portland is yet to be determined, but Brother Sola begins his role as Superintendent General immediately.

I am very excited about this appointment. Brother Sola is better equipped to take this work into the next generation as Jesus tarries. He is already widely known and highly regarded in Apostolic Faith circles worldwide. Our work will develop further and grow stronger on his watch.



⤴
Members of the Board of Directors lay hands on Rev. Adesope as everyone prays for him.

Reading now from Joshua 1, we are reminded that God's assurance to Joshua back then is His promise to Brother Sola now. We read, "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (Joshua 1:5-8).

Following the statement, Reverend Lee invited the congregation to show their support for Reverend Adesope's appointment by standing, and they demonstrated unanimous support. After everyone was

again seated, the Board of Directors, representing the congregation, gathered around Reverend Adesope and laid hands on him as all prayed together for God to help him and his family in every way as he takes on this new role.

Then Reverend Lee walked with his successor to the pulpit and stated, “With gratitude to God and with thanks to all of you, I present to you Brother Olusola Adesope.” The congregation responded with a resounding “Amen!” and applause for God’s choice. Reverend Adesope addressed the congregation next, reading from his own prepared statement:

To the Apostolic Faith Church saints worldwide:

First, I want to thank God for this day and for His leading of our church over the past 118 years. I also want to thank Brother Darrel Lee, under whose leadership the Apostolic Faith Church has expanded exponentially across the globe. More than ever in the history of our church, there are branch churches dotted across the globe and a greater sense of connection between the headquarters church and other churches around the world. On behalf of a grateful church, we say a BIG thank you to Brother Darrel and his good wife, Sister Debbie, for their hearts of love and service. Our church will forever be grateful to God for you. Thanks also to all the Board Members, all our district superintendents, pastors, and leaders who have worked with Brother Darrel over the past twenty-four years, and many who worked with previous superintendents—may God continue to bless you all.

I hereby humbly accept this responsibility with a burning



⤴
Rev. Adesope with his wife, Tolu, and their three children: Florence, Felicia, and Josiah.

desire to continue to live for God, be a lover and a preacher of this old-time faith, and a humble servant to you all.

I want to thank God for giving me the privilege to serve Him in the Apostolic Faith Church. I want to thank God for my wife, Tolu, and our three children—Florence, Felicia, and Josiah—who have always served God together with me in serving His people. We also thank God for our parents and family members who have supported us in prayer down through the years.

While growing up in the Apostolic Faith Church, on every first Sunday of Lagos camp meeting, I had the privilege of hearing Brother Josiah Soyinka read camp meeting greetings from Portland, especially from Brother Loyce Carver and Sister Ruth Ashwell. In addition, God gave me the privilege to read almost all the “Studies in the Scriptures” of Bible teachings given here in Portland, Oregon, from the 1940s up to the 1990s. These “Studies in the Scriptures,” as well as greetings from leaders in Portland, built such a desire in me. I started to pray that if it were the Lord’s will, He should please give me the privilege to attend Portland camp meeting at least once in my lifetime. My desire was to experience the blessings of God that those who

sat under the blazing teachings of God’s Word experienced, and to fellowship with the leaders who gave such powerful Bible teachings, as well as the saints of this church from all over the world. All I prayed for was just to step into this tabernacle and experience camp meeting blessings.

God answered that prayer in 2004. After some years living and attending camp meetings in the Midwest United States, God opened the way for us to move to the West Coast and we attended our first Portland camp meeting twenty years ago. I came with Tolu, a three-year-old Florence, and a two-and-a-half-month-old baby Felicia. Even though our new baby was just a little over two months, the excitement of being at Portland camp meeting that year overrode any concerns about bringing a new baby to sleep in a cabin. God had finally answered our prayers to step our feet on this holy ground. Since then, God has given us the privilege to attend every camp meeting here in Portland—with a desire to come and lay our lives on the altar. We had no thought at all that a day like this would come.

About two years ago, Tolu and I began to re-consecrate every aspect of our lives. The Lord began to help us pray and move toward total submission of our lives. The possibility of a

day like this was far beyond our comprehension. I could not bring myself to accept that something like this would happen. When Brother Darrel told me what God had been laying on his heart concerning the future of our church, and that God had chosen me to serve in this role, I wept profusely and asked the Lord, “Why me?” The Lord repeatedly answered, “Why not you?” I compiled a list of more qualified ministers and I gave those names to Brother Darrel, but repeatedly it was apparent that the Lord has once again chosen the weak, as He mostly does. Through repeated confirmations, God has shown that this is His will for me and for His church. Therefore, I humbly accept this call to serve and request your daily prayers and support to move this Gospel ship forward.

As I step into this role, with God’s help I promise to be a shepherd to this flock—showing love and kindness, teaching and practicing the undiluted Word of God with humility, and most importantly, living and breathing our faith anywhere we go around the world. Please pray that God will give me the courage, boldness, and passion of Paul the Apostle, the meekness of Moses, and the wisdom of Jesus, who is greater than Solomon.

Once again, I am thankful to God. I am also thankful to Brother Darrel, all the Board Members, all the pastors who taught me along this good old-time way, and the ministers, workers, and congregations that I have been privileged to work with and learn from. Special thanks to the entire Pullman church family—thanks for loving us and letting us serve you. Thanks also to all the staff at the headquarters



office—the last time I checked, our wonderful staff there have several hundred years of combined experience of being saved and working at the headquarters office. Some of them have worked there for over fifty years. Indeed, I will have a lot to learn from them. To the many other saints that I have not had the privilege to work with and learn from, I look forward to working with and learning from you. We depend on your prayers in the days and years ahead if the Lord tarries.

As we see the coming of the Lord is at hand, we all have work to do, and the work is very urgent. For us to preserve the old landmarks of this Gospel, for us to keep this Gospel pure and moving forward, we each need to rededicate our lives to God and be willing to do whatever the Lord would have us do.

Young people, may God bless us as we arise spiritually and pick up the mantle that is falling on us. Older saints, may God bless you as you continue to pray for us to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).

May God bless all members of our church family all over the world, as we desire to continue in this good old-time faith.

After Reverend Adesope’s remarks, he directed the

⤴
The Adesopes with
Rev. Lee and his
wife, Debbie.

remainder of the service, which included the congregation singing “Trust and Obey,” and Andy Chasteen of Medford, Oregon, singing “Come, Jesus, Come, We’ve Been Waiting So Long” as the last special. The morning sermon was given by Reverend John Baros, the pastor of our church in Medford. He read Isaiah 6:1 and spoke about the vision that Isaiah had following the death of King Uzziah. He saw God seated on His throne, high and lifted up. He emphasized three points: God’s sovereignty, His holiness, and His heart of love for mankind. The congregation was encouraged to seek to have a fresh glimpse of God and to be all they can for Him in the days ahead.

Reverend Florence Crawford was General Overseer of the Apostolic Faith Church from the time of the first Portland camp meeting in 1907 until her passing in 1936. At that time, the mantle of leadership passed to her son, Reverend Raymond Crawford, and he filled the role until his passing in 1965. The next General Overseer was Reverend Loyce Carver, who served until 1993. He was followed by Reverend Dwight Baltzell, and at that time the position was re-named as Superintendent General. Reverend Darrel Lee was appointed in 2000, and now in 2024, Reverend Olusola Adesope becomes the sixth person to fill the position since this work began.

We thank God for these and the many others who have answered God’s call to serve in the Apostolic Faith, and we trust that as God has guided our work over the past 118 years, He will continue to guide until Jesus returns. ♦



GOD'S PLAN FOR THE BABY IN THE SNOW

Placed into a snowbank to die as an infant, this Inupiat Eskimo was miraculously spared and grew up to become a witness for God to his own people.

AMONG THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE remote North Slope of Alaska are the Inupiat, a group of indigenous Alaskans whose way of life has long been tied to the land, water, and animals of the region. While the extreme conditions three hundred miles north of the Arctic Circle have always been challenging, at no time in Inupiat history was survival there as marked by tragedy as it was at the end of the nineteenth century. Commercial whalers had discovered the riches of the northern seas, and this led to excessive harvesting of the abundant whales, seals, and walrus that provided sustenance for the Inupiat people.

By the end of the 1800s, disease and starvation were driving many families away from their villages.

The Alasuuraq family was one of them. In November of 1891, all the other people of their small Inupiat village had left. But this family, which included Adam and Eve, their children, and Adam's mother, were waiting in the family igloo because Eve was about to give birth. By the time the baby boy they named Patkotak (later called Paul) was born, the family had no food and was reduced to boiling and eating their boots, which were made of skins.

After the birth, the malnourished family finally began the long walk in search of food. But after just one day, they reluctantly had to move ahead of the grandmother, as her slow progress could mean the difference between life and death for the rest of the family. Soon they faced another agonizing choice: what to do about the infant, as Eve was unable to produce milk for him. Knowing the newborn would be better off dying quickly from exposure than slowly from starvation, they placed little Patkotak in a snowbank and went on.

Miraculously, the grandmother came upon her day-old grandson. Thinking it would be better for them to die together rather than alone, she retrieved the baby from the snowbank and wrapped him inside her own parka. She continued walking for a few more hours, but at last her strength was gone and her legs were giving out. Just then, she spotted caribou hunters coming her way. The hunters brought the two to a hunting camp, where the grandmother fed the baby with milk from a caribou cow. Later that same day, they were reunited with their family who had never expected to see them again.

This is Paul Patkotak's story, in his own words.

From the depths of my heart, I praise the Lord for what He has done for me. I am an Eskimo, and I come from the "top of the world." The youngest of six children, I was born on November 24, 1891, in the foothills of Alaska, back of Wainwright on the Utukok River. In my boyhood days, we were always short of food in the village. During some of our winters, the people would almost starve to death because all they had to share was an occasional kill of a grouse or a quail.

When I was a teenager, some missionaries came to where we lived. The wife taught us in school. When I read from the Bible, I had a hard time understanding the big words. I was encouraged to go to a school of higher learning somewhere and get more education, but we had no money.



Left to right: Paul Patkotak in the 1970s; Paul's daughter, Elizabeth, in Alaska; A dog sled.



I felt such a hunger for what I heard, and I wanted the preacher to stop preaching so I could pray and call on God to have mercy and take the sin out of my heart.

I knew that if I trapped enough foxes I could pay my fare to the Outside (the world beyond Alaska). My older brother showed me how to use the trap in the snow, and my dad made me some snowshoes. I walked about ten miles over tundra to where the foxes were. The government allowed only six months for trapping, but when the trapping season was over, I had nineteen white fox pelts. I was so happy. I asked my dad, "Can I go Outside, so I can go to school?" He said, "Yes, you can go; your older brother will take care of us."

The government boat took me down to Nome for nothing. When I got to Nome, there was the Alaska Shipping Company boat. At the dock, I told some of the officers that I wanted to go Outside, down to Seattle, Washington, by their boat. They said, "You can go if you have money to pay your fare." I said, "I have no money, but I have fox pelts." One officer said, "Yes, you can go; we like fox pelts; they are worth money." I asked him how many he wanted, and he said, "Five."

That was in 1911, and I attended a seminary in Seattle. One day, in 1913, I stood on a street in Seattle, and looked around at the many churches that were there. As I stood, an old man came up to me and asked, "Why are you standing here? What are you thinking? Where are you from?" I told him, "I am from Alaska, and I came down here to get an education so I would be able to understand the big words

in the Bible. I am wondering which of these churches are closest to the Lord."

He asked, "Are you hungry for the Lord?" I told him that I was and that I had read in the Book of Revelation that the Lord does not want "lukewarm" people; He wants them "hot." I said, "I want to be among those who are hot." He said to me, "I will show you where to go. The name of the church is the Apostolic Faith."

As soon as I opened the door of that church and stepped inside, I felt as though someone said to me, "These are the people you are looking for." I glanced around and saw a long bench below the pulpit; nobody sat on it, and I wondered what it was for. Each person who came into the church went to his seat, but knelt to pray before sitting down. I watched them closely, and said to myself, *There is something to that.*

When the preacher came to the pulpit, the service started. Then came testimony time, and many people got up (sometimes five stood at once!) and told what God had done for them. One sister said that she thanked God for saving her soul, and that she was glad He doesn't look on the color of the skin but looks right down into a person's heart. Something began to move in my heart, and I felt condemned for the sins I had committed against God. I was surely under conviction! I felt

such a hunger for what I heard, and I wanted the preacher to stop preaching so I could pray and call on God to have mercy and take the sin out of my heart.

At the altar call, I went forward and knelt at the long bench that I had wondered about. With a cry in my heart, I asked God to forgive me of my sins. God heard my prayer and forgave me. I faced the people of the congregation and told them I had found Jesus! I wanted to keep talking about Jesus; it was so wonderful what the Lord had done for me. I remembered the words that Jesus said to His disciple, Thomas, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29). From that day to this I am happy.

After I had completed six years of schooling in Seattle, I wanted to go back to Alaska to see my old dad and mother before they died. When I arrived home, I said to my dad, "I have found Jesus, the Son of the living God, and He has made me happy." I told my dad to call on God and ask Him to have mercy and take the sin out of his heart as He had done for me. I told him I wanted him to go to Heaven.

My dad did pray. From his heart he called on God, and the Lord saved his soul. It made me so happy. He said, "I am ready to go like you, Sonny;



out, she said, “Araa, nanut” (meaning, “disgusting polar bears”). A mother polar bear with her cubs had tried to get into the igloo, and my wife had used the rifle for protection.

The Lord has done so much for me, and when I needed Him most He never failed me. He has rescued me from accidents and healed me from affliction, and I could tell of many other miracles, but time will not allow me. I feel like traveling on. ♦

Paul Patkotak attended the Apostolic Faith Church in Seattle, Washington, until he completed his schooling there. On August 6, 1913, while attending the Apostolic Faith camp meeting at the Fulton campground in Portland, Oregon, he was among the many who were baptized in the Willamette River. From 1913 on, Brother Paul prayed for revival among the Eskimo people. For a time, he traveled from place to place in Alaska to tell his fellow Alaskans of God’s love. He would also broadcast tape-recorded sermons on a small transmitter set, and those who tuned in would hear the message of salvation pointing them to Jesus. Over the years, Brother Paul received our church papers and thousands of copies of our tracts and handed them out wherever he could. He and his wife provided a Christian home for their children, and several times he was able to return to Portland and attend our camp meetings. One of his granddaughters referred to 2 Timothy 4:7, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith,” and told us that was his victory in the end. On November 25, 1980, Brother Paul peacefully and quietly went Home to be with Jesus.

I have found Jesus too. You put such a hunger in my heart to find God, although I am an old man eighty years old.” From that day, he never stopped talking about Jesus, until he was called Home—no more worry about food or anything else. God saved my mom also before He took her. Oh, how I thank God that I had the privilege to tell both of my parents about salvation!

Whenever I need the Lord to help me, He always answers my prayer. At Barrow [now called Utqiagvik], Alaska, we have no trees; it is just bare land covered with snow and ice for many months of the year. In the spring, after the snow melts, we always look for driftwood and blubber for our fuel. In the fall of the year, a big blow starts. One fall, when a storm was over, there was a lot of coal on the beach. We went down and sacked it up, and some people packed it on their backs and put it on top of the bluff right away. I put mine on the sand because I didn’t want to work so hard and tire my body. I thought I would take it home before the next storm, but before I could do that, another one had already started to blow. I took a few sacks to the top of the bank, but it was getting too stormy. I prayed, and asked God, “Protect my coal; and don’t let the waves bother it.” Then I went home.

The wind blew hard, and I thought perhaps the coal



Paul (front row, center) at the 1913 Portland camp meeting. The founder of the Apostolic Faith work, Florence Crawford, stands just behind him.

would be gone. But then I said, “I have prayed; God has never failed me.” As soon as the wind had gone down, some of the men went to the beach and looked at my pile of coal that was still there. They said among themselves, “That is too much of a miracle!” They wondered why the waves of the sea went around that pile of coal, and said, “This coal must belong to a praying man!” It made me praise the Lord because even the waves obeyed Jesus.

Another time, I traveled with my wife and my little daughter, who was not quite a year old, to hunt at a place about seventy-five miles east of Barrow. We stayed in an old sod igloo that someone had made many years before. In the morning, after our devotions, I heard a still, small Voice saying, “Paul, you had better leave your rifle with your wife.” I said “No! My dad always told me not to leave my rifle home.” I heard the Voice again, “Something will come today!”

I left the rifle with my wife and had only been gone about ten minutes when the Voice spoke again, “Paul, turn back quick! QUICK!” I turned the dogs around and headed home. When I got there, my wife was slow to come out of the igloo. I saw cartridges scattered on the snow, and I thought surely a bear had hurt her. When she finally came

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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Jesus
THE LIGHT *of* THE WORLD