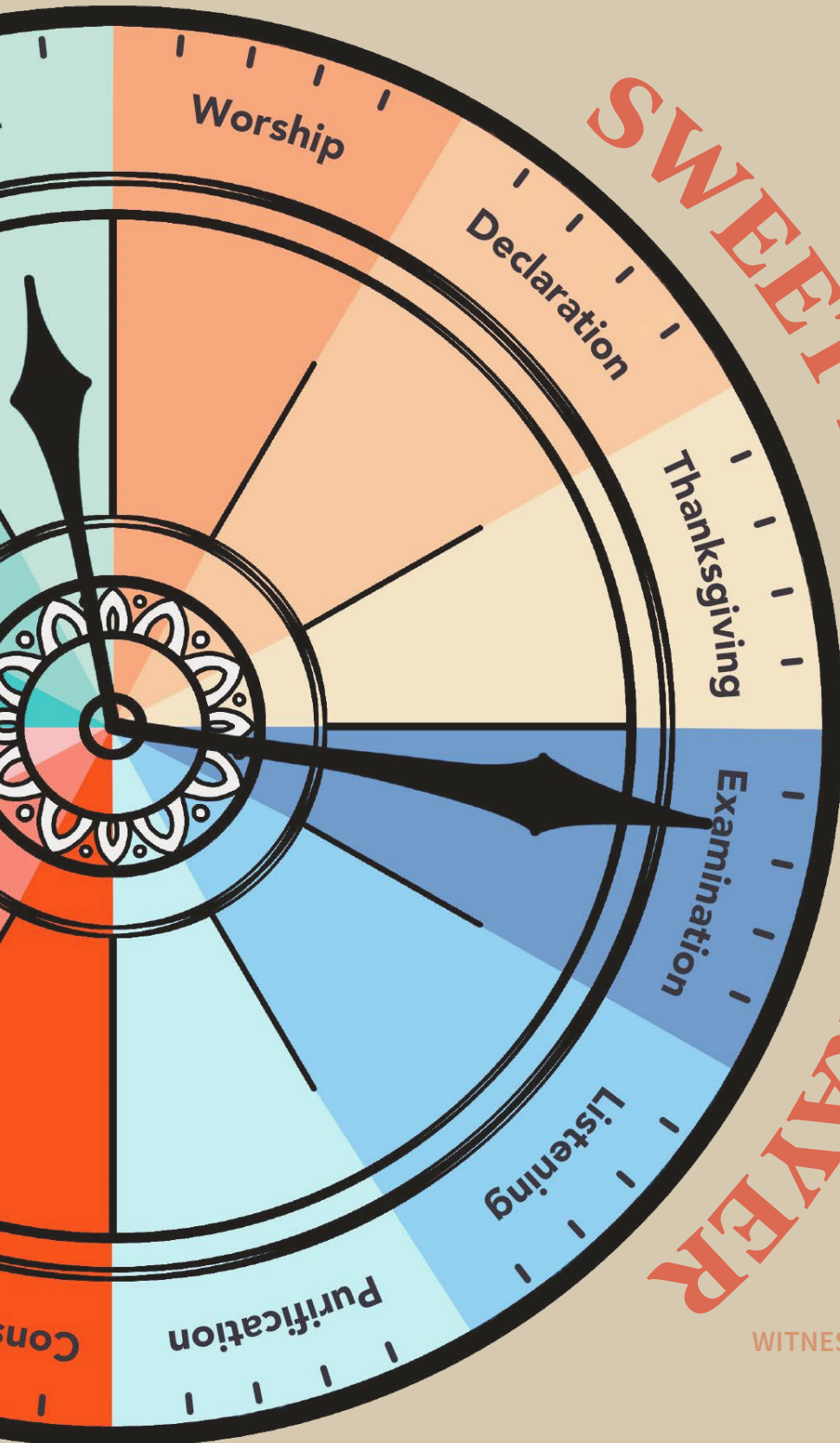


THE Apostolic Faith

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH—JUDE 3

APRIL – JUNE 2025



SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

WITNESS | BY MARK STALLER

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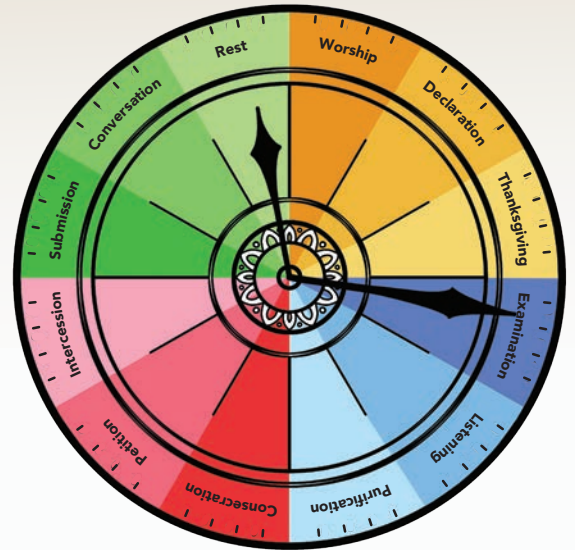
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VIEWPOINT

BY SOLA ADESOPE,
SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL

STRENGTHENING THE TIES THAT BIND

**THE FAMILY OF GOD IS A BOND
THAT DISTANCE CANNOT BREAK.**



I

In the previous edition of our magazine, I wrote about the beauty of the family of God. In this edition, I am inspired to write about one of the projects we are undertaking to ensure that the bond between Apostolic Faith family members remains strong regardless of where we may be on the globe.

The family of God is one of the greatest blessings God has given the Church. We love each member and cherish the fellowship and encouragement we derive from one another. Yet, there are some who have had to relocate for reasons beyond their control, settling in a location where there is no Apostolic Faith Church. I can speak from personal experience about the challenges this presents. In

2010, my family was living in British Columbia, Canada, and we worshiped at our church in Langley. That summer, through changes in my career, God led us to move to Pullman, Washington. Some dear friends drove with us to Pullman, but when we got there, we didn't know anyone in our new town. There was no family of God to gather with. Our nearest church was in Yakima, Washington, which meant commuting over seven hours round trip to attend church.

We greatly missed being near our church, but God had a plan. Seven months later, God led a couple from our church in Richmond, California, to move to Eastern Washington. Soon, another family came, and then another, until we

found ourselves surrounded by a beautiful family of God in Pullman. After years of commuting such a long distance to our church in Yakima, at last the Pullman Apostolic Faith Church was established, and we were thrilled to have a small part in its start and growth.

Sister Miriam Panganayi also faced the difficulty of living far from a church (read her testimony on page 22). After college, she joined the Zimbabwe Diplomatic Service. In her first assignment abroad, she did not attempt to connect with a church, and that decision proved to be spiritually disastrous. She learned from that experience, and in future assignments, she prioritized her connection to the saints of God. In Malaysia, her family regularly received Gospel literature from the saints in Zimbabwe. In Brazil, they joined a small Apostolic Faith group who were no doubt blessed by their support in the services. In the United Kingdom, the Panganayis opened their home in Aylesbury for cottage meetings, an effort which ultimately culminated in a church dedication in 2023.

Our desire is for every member of the Apostolic Faith family to be able to worship at our churches in person. However, God may have another plan in mind. In those cases, we want to support our remote members to the best of our abilities. On page 35, you can read about a recent effort to connect with those who are currently living far from our churches. God has started to bless that outreach and if the Lord tarries, in future editions of this magazine, we will report on new groups that are springing up because of this effort. We encourage anyone who does not live close enough to attend one of our branch churches to participate (see page 35 for more information). Though far away, each one is still part of the family of God! As we all keep these individuals in our prayers, we look forward to seeing how God will use their unique circumstances for His good purposes.



BY BILL MCKIBBEN

DIVINE HEALING THROUGHOUT HISTORY

From Old Testament times until now, God can and does heal.



God is the Great Physician. He is the omnipotent God, the Creator, and His knowledge of the human body, mind, and soul is absolute. He alone is able to make us whole, and He has made provision for our complete healing.

Divine healing is demonstrated throughout Scripture. We see it in the Old Testament where God protected His covenant people, the Israelites, from the plagues of Egypt. We also find other Old Testament examples of healing and references to it, including David's prayers in the Psalms for entire healing. In the New Testament, the Gospels portray Jesus as the revelation of God—the incarnate God—and the Healer of those with physical infirmities. Then, we see divine healing in the instructions given to the Early Church and in how God worked among those saints.

Looking into these four areas of Scripture reveals God's power to heal and gives insight into how healing is provided in our day through the atoning Blood of Jesus.

Healing for God's covenant people

Healing is first noted in the Old Testament as a benefit of the covenant relationship between God and His chosen people, the descendants of Abraham. In Exodus, chapter 15, we read that the Israelites had just escaped Egypt and walked for three days without finding water. Then they came to Marah where there was only bitter water. God cured the bitterness and gave the people a conditional promise of healing. Speaking through Moses, He said, "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee" (verse 26). If the Israelites would honor the established covenant through their loyalty and obedience to God, He would fulfill His part of the agreement, which included not bringing upon them the plagues of Egypt.

This promise of healing as part of God's covenant with His chosen people is reiterated in Deuteronomy, chapter 7. There, we read,



JESUS, THE HEALER

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE GOSPELS PORTRAY **JESUS AS THE REVELATION OF GOD—THE INCARNATE GOD**—AND THE **HEALER** OF THOSE WITH PHYSICAL INFIRMITIES.

PSALM 103:2-3

“BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL, AND FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS: WHO FORGIVETH ALL THINE INIQUITIES: **WHO HEALETH ALL THY DISEASES.**”

“Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he swore unto thy fathers. . . . And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee” (verses 12, 15).

The phrase, “If ye hearken . . .” indicates that access to divine healing was conditional. One of the conditions is hinted at in a song that Moses taught to the Children of Israel shortly before his death. Speaking to the generation of Israelites preparing to enter the Promised Land, Moses gave them this stanza: “See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand” (Deuteronomy 32:39). This verse highlights a unique characteristic of God’s divine nature: His sovereignty. Praying for healing should be done in the context of God’s will. Psalm 34:19 states, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivereth him out of them all,” and we believe this! However, deliverance does not always come in the way expected. God may heal outright, give grace to endure, or call the afflicted individual to the ultimate healing of eternity in Heaven.

Other Old Testament examples of healing

Throughout the Old Testament, there are examples of and references to God’s healing power. King Hezekiah had a terminal illness, but when he cried out to God, fifteen years were added to his life. Naaman was healed of leprosy when he obeyed the instruction to wash in the Jordan River seven times. Also, the Shunammite woman’s son died from some type of brain injury and was restored to life.

The prophet Jeremiah proclaimed God’s power to heal as a matter of fact, stating, “Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise” (Jeremiah

17:14). In the Psalms, we see references to God’s ability to heal in David’s petitions of Him. For example, in Psalm 6:2 David prayed, “Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed.” Another example is Psalm 41:4, “LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.” And a third example is Psalm 147:3, which states, “He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.” We see in these texts the need for not only physical and emotional healing, but for spiritual healing as well. God has provided for all three. Especially in the psalms, we often find that healing is spoken of within the larger concept of the atonement, or God’s mercy, grace, and redemption.

Complete healing provided through the atonement is a recurring theme in the New Testament as well. We see it in the three Greek words that “healing” is most often translated from. The first is *therapeuo*, which has a primary meaning of “to cure or heal.” The second is *iaomai*, which also means “to cure or heal” but applies more broadly to the spiritual as well as the physical and emotional. The third, *sozo*, means “to make whole” and most commonly refers to salvation.

The idea that Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross paid for our complete healing—body, mind, and soul—is not a new doctrine,





AND HE SAID
UNTO HER,
DAUGHTER,
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PLAGUE.”
MARK 5:34

THE WOMAN FROM MARK 5

nor are we unfamiliar with it. In 1961, the leader of our organization at that time, Raymond Crawford, preached that “in the atonement, healing is included for the body as well as the soul.” These things are intertwined. We have a clear picture of this in Psalm 103:2-3 where David said, “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.” Healing and salvation come from the same pool of grace, the same fountain of atonement and redemption. When God saved our souls, He healed the brokenness of our spirits, and that healing extends to our bodies and minds as well.

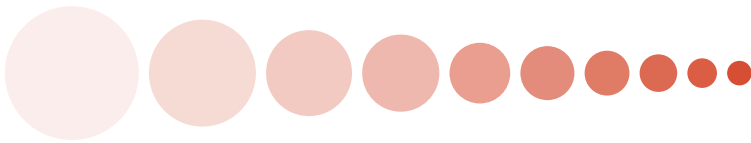
The prophet Isaiah foretold this. In speaking of Jesus’ death on the Cross, he said, “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4-5). Isaiah’s words were fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He was wounded and bruised for our committed sins and for our inherited sinful natures. He took our punishment so we could obtain peace, and He was beaten with stripes for the healing of our bodies.

Jesus, the revelation of God and Healer

The Gospel of Matthew confirms Jesus as the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy that the Messiah would be a Healer. We read in Matthew 8:16-17, “When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.”

This power to heal, demonstrated by Jesus, was one of the indicators that He was the Son of God. This is seen in Jesus’ response to messengers sent by John the Baptist asking if He was indeed the Messiah. Jesus said, “. . . tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached” (Luke 7:22).

Healing was an integral part of Jesus’ earthly ministry. This is summarized well in Matthew 4:23-24. This passage reads, “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and



- **GOD IS THE ULTIMATE HEALER.** He alone is able to make us whole, and He has made provision for our complete healing.
- **DELIVERANCE DOES NOT ALWAYS COME IN THE WAY EXPECTED.** God may heal outright, give grace to endure, or call the afflicted individual to the ultimate healing of eternity in Heaven.
- **IN THE OLD TESTAMENT,** we see the need for

not only physical and emotional healing, but for spiritual healing as well.

- Healing was an integral part of Jesus’ earthly ministry. **THERE IS NO PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, OR SPIRITUAL PROBLEM THAT JESUS CANNOT HEAL.**
- **THE DISCIPLES PROCLAIMED REPENTANCE FIRST.** Then, in addition to preaching, the disciples cast out

demonic influence and healed the sick.

- We believe in Jesus’ power to heal. We are the conduits, but **IT IS BY HIS POWER, SO WE LIFT UP HIS NAME AND GIVE HIM ALL THE GLORY FOR IT.**
- **ULTIMATE HEALING WILL COME IN HEAVEN** when believers receive incorruptible bodies.



BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED

JESUS' sacrifice on the Cross paid for our complete healing.

Soul



Body



Mind



they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.” It is notable in these two verses that as Jesus walked among the people teaching and preaching, He healed *all* manner of sickness and disease. There was nothing that He could not or would not heal.

The Gospel of Mark records many of Christ's healings, highlighting His compassion and His revelation as the divine Son of God. In the first chapters alone, we read that Jesus healed demoniacs, Peter's mother-in-law, a leper, a paralytic man, the man with the withered hand, the woman with the issue of blood, and Jairus' daughter. These accounts assure us that there is no physical, emotional, or spiritual problem that He cannot heal. Jesus—the One who said, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18)—is able to deliver from every affliction.

The priority of Jesus' healing ministry was the spiritual well-being of the people who flocked to Him. In Mark chapter 5, we read about the woman who had been suffering with an issue of blood for twelve years. Though physically weak, she pushed through the crowd that thronged Jesus and touched His clothing. Then, when He turned around and asked who had touched Him, she fell trembling at His feet. He told her, “Daughter, thy faith

hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague” (verse 34). Jesus' first emphasis was on her faith, which brought spiritual well-being. Then He acknowledged her physical need. The most important healing is that of our souls, and then God is interested in making us whole in body and mind as well.

We might note here that this woman had spent all her money on physicians to no avail. It is still the case that modern medicine can only do so much. We know God gives wisdom in the medical field and heals using the skills of people in that profession. However, we also know that God is sovereign, and ultimately all healing comes from Him. No matter what path we pursue when ill, our trust must always be in Him.

Healing in the Early Church

Jesus included His disciples in His ministry. We read in Mark 6:12-13 that He commissioned them and then “. . . they went out, and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.” In this text, we see that the disciples proclaimed repentance first. That is our priority as well; before anything else, we preach repentance and salvation from sin. Then, in addition to preaching, the disciples cast out demonic influence and healed the sick. All of these things were done at Jesus' instruction and by His empowering. We are also commissioned and empowered to pray for the healing of the sick and afflicted. However, we must be careful to carry it out in the right way—everything we do must be done in accordance with God's Word and for His glory.

After Jesus' ascension, healing continued as a ministry among the Early Church. Shortly after the power of the Holy Spirit fell at Pentecost, Peter and John went to the Temple to pray and encountered a beggar. Peter told the man, “Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.” Then he took the man by “the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength” (Acts 3:6-7). The next verse says the man entered the Temple with Peter and

John, “walking, and leaping, and praising God.” Jesus showed up in this man's life on this day, but it was in the persons of Peter and John. The crowd began to marvel at what they had done, but Peter corrected them, saying, “Why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus . . . And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong” (Acts 3:12-13, 16). Like Peter, we believe in Jesus' power to heal. We are the conduits, but it is by His power, so we lift up His name and give Him all the glory for it.

As a result of this healing, Peter and John were arrested and ordered to stop teaching in Jesus' name. Instead, they gathered with the brethren and prayed, “And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.” When they finished praying, “the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:29-31). We would like to experience that here—maybe not the building shaking, but certainly some demons quaking! We would rejoice to see demonic influences cast out of our communities. But again, it is by the Spirit of God and in the name of Jesus that we want to see these things happen.

With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts were given to individuals for the nurturing of the Church. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth concerning these gifts of the Spirit, and included healing among them. He told the congregation, “For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom;

A SIMPLE FORMULA: LET HIM CALL + LET THEM PRAY

JAMES
5:14-15



THE PRAYER OF FAITH
SHALL SAVE THE SICK



“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.”

to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:8-9).

Paul’s purpose in writing on this subject was to correct the church in their use of the gifts, and there is a caution here for us as well. This congregation was one of extremes and drawn to the spectacular. They regarded those with the more visible gifts as being more important and spiritual than other believers. Paul admonished them to work in unity as different but equal parts of one body, and under the direction of the Holy Spirit. That is our goal as well. We want our focus to be on yielding to God’s Spirit for the edification of the body of believers, and not on the manifestation of gifts.

Healing in our day

When Jesus gave Himself on the Cross, His sacrifice not only paid the penalty for our sin, but also provided for our healing. Under this new dispensation, we have access to divine healing for our bodies and minds as well as our souls.

A simple formula for those needing healing was given by James in his Epistle to the Early Church at Jerusalem. He instructed, “Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him” (James 5:14-15). This formula is a double promise offering healing for the body and salvation for the soul through three key ingredients: obedience, prayer, and faith.

“**Let him call.**” Many who sought healing in Biblical times were given an instruction to obey such as, “Rise, take up thy bed, and walk” (John 5:8). Whether the purpose of this was to increase the seeker’s faith, be a declaration of it, or evoke humility, obedience brought results. We too can expect results when we act according to God’s Word.

“**Let them pray.**” In nearly every Biblical account, those who received healing had expressed a desire for it, whether by pushing unnoticed through a crowd or crying out to Jesus from a roadside. We are instructed to do the same in James 4:2, which admonishes, “Ye have not because ye ask not.” Though God is aware of our needs, we must acknowledge our need for His help and make our requests known to Him.

“**The prayer of faith shall save the sick.**” We are told in Hebrews 11:6, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Since the founding of our organization, we have held faith as a key prerequisite for receiving

divine healing. The first Azusa Street paper stated, “Seeking healing, you must believe God is able to heal.” We do believe, and we have witnessed God’s healing power on numerous occasions. My wife tells of a time when she was a teenager and witnessed a healing that left an impression on her. A young woman came to the Portland tabernacle and went onto the platform, requesting to be prayed over. She had not been able to speak for a year. The ministers gathered around her, anointed her forehead with oil, and prayed. The Lord restored her voice and she went running the length of the tabernacle crying out with joy and looking for her parents to tell them she had been healed!

The ultimate healing

There is coming a day when we will no longer need emergency rooms, hospitals, or operating rooms, “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (1 Corinthians 15:53). As God’s people, we appreciate the provisions He has made for us now, and we look forward to that ultimate healing in Heaven. ♦



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BY DAVE LAMBERT



A TEACHABLE SPIRIT

Two vastly different responses to a wonderful miracle of healing provide a lesson for our day.

A leadership consultant named Andy Neale gives advice for success in business. One of his articles is titled “The Danger of Being Unteachable,” and it relates a true story about a couple who decided to open a franchise store in the fast-food industry. The franchise had existed for more than twenty-five years and its business model had a proven record of success. Yet, after just two years of operation, the couple had to close their doors. According to them, the failure was because of the franchise company—they said there was not enough corporate support. However, when they returned their proprietary materials to the company, the director of franchising noticed that an item called the “Playbook” was still in mint condition. The Playbook contained detailed, month-by-month instructions for running the business, but the couple had never opened it. The franchise director commented that the locations that fail all have one thing in common: the owners do not use the Playbook. In fact, in that same general region where this couple failed, some of the franchise’s most profitable locations were still in business. When those owners were

asked why they were doing so well, it was not because they had a novel strategy or special insight. According to them, their success came from simply following the Playbook.¹

The point of the article was that to succeed in business, owners must be eager to learn—they must be teachable. People who think they have nothing to learn have no way to realize they are wrong except through failure. Over confidence is a type of arrogance, which causes them to forfeit opportunities for growth and improvement.

Having a teachable spirit will help in every area of life, but especially in spiritual matters. The Word of God says, “Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured” (Proverbs 13:18). God has provided the Bible to teach us. In a sense, it is like our “Playbook” for spiritual success. However, if we leave it unread, it does us no good. If we read it but make excuses to dismiss what it says, it cannot benefit us. The outcome of an unteachable spirit is certain failure.

Being teachable means seeking the truth and then embracing it when we find it. That is what brings spiritual success. It is a choice that we make, and we do well to avoid the mistakes of the unteachable and to emulate the positive attributes of those who have been willing and eager to learn.

Disciples vs. Pharisees

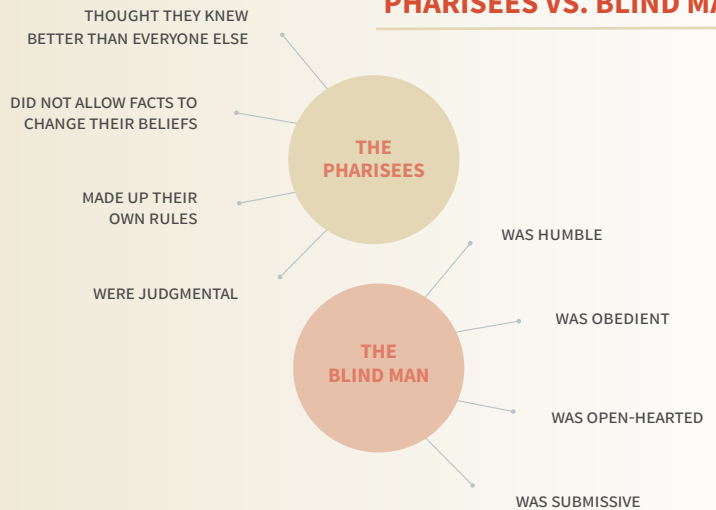
One of the greatest differences between Jesus’ disciples and the Pharisees was that the disciples were teachable and the Pharisees were not. In John chapter 9, we find an account that shows this contrast clearly.



PROVERBS 13:18

“Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.”

PHARISEES VS. BLIND MAN



It tells of a man who was born blind. Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" Christ quickly corrected their way of thinking. We might say that Jesus saw their question as "a teachable moment." He told them, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." This was a simple lesson for the disciples because they were eager to learn.

The account goes on to relate that Jesus healed the man, and then his neighbors began to ask questions. They were naturally very curious about the miracle that had just taken place. He told them what had happened: "A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight" (verse 11). He just stated the facts.

Next, we read about the unteachable Pharisees. They had already rejected Jesus before this healing took place, and they learned nothing from this encounter with Him. Their actions highlight four common downfalls of the unteachable.

They thought they knew better than everyone else.

The Pharisees studied the Scriptures more than most and prided themselves in how well they knew and obeyed God's commands. Based on their own understanding, they believed that God would not heal someone on the Sabbath. After hearing that Jesus had healed the blind man on the Sabbath, some of the Pharisees concluded that it could not have been God who had healed him, and therefore, Jesus was not of God (verse 16). They could not have been more wrong! Even worse, their pride made them closeminded to other possibilities. Rather than re-examining their interpretation of the Law, they insisted that the Man who had just performed a miracle was wrong. Those who thought they knew it all, knew nothing at all. Even with the Son of God Himself there to teach them, they were unwilling to be corrected.

They did not allow facts to change their beliefs. While some of the Pharisees decided that Jesus was not of God, verse 18 says that others concluded that the man who was healed had not actually been born blind! He gave his testimony himself, but they rejected it because it did not line up with their preconceived notions. Verses 22-24 explain



A TEACHABLE MOMENT

"Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered,

Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."

John 9:2-3

that these Jews had previously determined that Jesus was a sinner and that anyone who followed Him would be put out of their synagogue. In the face of a testimony that directly contradicted their beliefs, they remained intent on justifying their own way of thinking.

They made up their own rules. God did give restrictions about what could be done on the Sabbath, yet the Pharisees made up many more rules of their own. Several times during His ministry, Jesus taught that it is lawful to do good and to do God's work on the Sabbath. At times He also rebuked the Pharisees because they knew what the Law said but did not apply it to their lives. The Apostle Paul explained that the Law was meant to bring the Jewish people to Christ (see Galatians 3:24). But because of an unteachable attitude, the very thing that was designed to reveal their need of Christ became a self-imposed stumbling block that prevented them from seeing Him as their Savior. Rather than accepting God's ways, they added manmade rules to the Law, further distancing themselves from Him.

They were judgmental. The Pharisees were more interested in correcting others than in

learning from God. In this account, the religious leaders eventually barred the healed man from the synagogue, saying, “Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us?” (verse 34). Instead of reconsidering their own beliefs, the Pharisees condemned anyone who held different beliefs—even the one God had just chosen to heal. The Pharisees were wrong about so much, and their errors multiplied because they were unteachable.

An unteachable spirit did more than anger or frustrate the Lord; it broke His heart. One time, as Jesus approached the city of Jerusalem, He wept over it and said, “If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes” (Luke 19:42). The Lord had wonderful intentions for the Jews, and it grieved Him to see them push Him away and deny the truth. God feels the same way today when He tries to draw people to salvation and they ignore or reject Him, preferring to live according to their own rules and laws. Sadly, those who are unteachable in time become unreachable. Proverbs 15:32 tells us, “He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul.”

It is much more encouraging to consider what God does for those who are eager to learn. Along with the disciples, the man who was healed also demonstrated a teachable spirit. In fact, by the end of the account, he too was a follower of Christ. Four characteristics stand out in his actions; these qualities are what made him teachable, and what ultimately resulted in his healing and salvation.

Humility. One way that we know the blind man was humble is that he allowed the Lord to anoint his eyes with clay made out of spittle (verse 6). Scripture does not record that Jesus had ever done

that before, though He had healed others prior to this encounter. Yet, the blind man didn’t reject Jesus for working in an unexpected way, and that type of humility is key to being teachable.

Obedience. Being humble led the blind man to become obedient. He received an instruction from the Lord to go wash in the Pool of Siloam, and without questioning, he did what he was told. Verse 7 says that he came back with his sight restored.

Open heartedness. This man knew the Pharisees’ negative view of Jesus. However, his heart was open to other possibilities, and because of that he was able to learn valuable truths. After he was healed, he told the Pharisees, “Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. . . . If this man were not of God, he could do nothing” (verses 31, 33). In just a single encounter, this man learned something more valuable than the Pharisees had learned in their years of study! When a person gets to the place where his heart is open and truly teachable, it doesn’t take long at all for the Lord to share deep truths.

Submission. After he was kicked out of the synagogue, Jesus found the man and asked, “Dost thou believe on the Son of God?” He responded, “Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?” We can see that he was eager to learn more from the Lord—he had a desire to know the truth. Jesus answered, “Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee,” and the man replied: “Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him” (verses 35-38). This demonstrates a spirit of submission to God. When the Lord revealed that He was the Christ, he worshiped. He received the full blessing that God had for him.

A spirit of submission to God is critical to being teachable, and

BEING EAGER TO LEARN WILL HELP US

FOLLOW GUIDANCE



LEARN & GROW



HAVE SPIRITUAL SUCCESS



it was something the Pharisees lacked. In Romans 10:2-3, Paul wrote this about the Jewish religious leaders: “They have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.” Their pride, arrogance, and stubbornness caused them to be unteachable.

On the other hand, teachable people never stop learning. If we were to ask the oldest individuals in our congregation whether they have learned everything there is to learn about the Lord, the answer would certainly be no. The Bible says we are to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). Every day is a new experience with the Lord so there is always more to learn.

Learn from Christ

In Matthew 11:29 the Lord offered a wonderful invitation: “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Do you need rest for your soul? Do you need wisdom or guidance to navigate a difficult situation? Come and learn of the Lord. He is willing to teach you, and it is your choice whether or not to be teachable. Humble yourself, be obedient and open to Him, and submit yourself to God. He will help you with whatever you need. ♦



Reverend Dave Lambert is the pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Portland, Oregon.

¹ Andy Neillie, “The Danger of Being Unteachable,” *Neillie Leadership Group*, July 10, 2018, <https://neillieleadershipgroup.com/the-danger-of-being-unteachable>.

BY SEUN OGUNLEYE



2 Corinthians 5:19-20

**NOW THEN WE ARE
AMBASSADORS
FOR CHRIST**

“God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.”

ACTIVE AS AMBASSADORS

Ways to effectively represent Christ to the world.

W

hen the first man sinned in the Garden of Eden, that sin caused a separation

between mankind and God. From that point, God has been doing everything possible to reconcile all people to Himself. He will not force anyone, but He pleads with people to be reconciled to Him.

We read about this in 2 Corinthians 5:19-20, where we are told that “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as

though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.” These verses explain that those of us who have experienced reconciliation with God have been entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation, and for that purpose we have been made “ambassadors for Christ.”

An ambassador is one who is sent to a foreign land as a representative. He does not act of his own volition, but on behalf of and in the interests of the government that sent him. As ambassadors for Christ, we are indeed foreigners in this land. This world is not our home; our true home is the one in Heaven that Christ has gone to prepare for us. While we live

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An ambassador is one who is sent to a foreign land as a representative. He does not act of his own volition, but on behalf of and in the interests of the government that sent him.

here as ambassadors, our job is to represent Christ to lost souls. We act in His interests, which is to carry out the ministry of reconciliation—to help others be reconciled to God as we were.

This assignment from God is wonderful and a great privilege, but it is not always easy. Much of the world today is not friendly to the Gospel message. Jesus Himself told us in Matthew 10:16, “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves.” Jesus went on to declare that Christians would be delivered up to councils and brought before governors. That sounds like the world we live in today—society does not generally accept the message of Christ and in many ways condemns righteousness.



HOW TO BECOME AN EFFECTIVE AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST

I cannot speak about every location, but in European and Scandinavian countries, I can tell you that none of their policies are friendly toward Christians. The governments today are moving in a direction that is anti-Christ.

Does that mean that as ambassadors, our job is done? Not at all, because among those who oppose the Gospel, there are some who will turn and receive it. Recall God's words in Ezekiel 33:11, "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live." How would the wicked of Ezekiel's day turn, unless somebody would tell them? And how can people today turn, unless they hear the Gospel message? You and I are the carriers of that Gospel message. Though many do not want to hear it, some will embrace it just as we did.

Being an effective ambassador for Christ is the central calling of our lives. As people who love the Lord, we do not want to be only potential workers for Him; we want to use everything God has given us to win souls for Him. To be more effective, after being saved we consecrate our lives fully to Him and experience sanctification. Then, we seek to be filled with His Spirit, God's power for service. These three experiences are the basic preparation God has designed for His ambassadors. From there, we take on our role in earnest and serve faithfully. Here are just a few practical ways we can be effective ambassadors for Christ to those He came to save.

Pray

We read in 1 Timothy 2:1-4, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." To carry the Gospel message to the world around us, we must spend time in prayer interceding for others.

I was the beneficiary of someone's prayers. Like many who were born into this glorious Gospel, I had a mother who prayed fervently for me before I was saved. I am the firstborn of six siblings and she believed that my siblings were likely to follow my example. She felt that if I would ask God to save me, the others would follow, so she focused more on praying for me. I remember hearing her cry in prayer to God for me. Thank God, she saw me get saved before He took her to Heaven at a very young age. Now, I have joined that cause of praying for the lost. Even those who came from unsaved homes had people who prayed for them, and now it is our turn to pray for others.

Our prayer time is not limited to our daily quiet times with God and at the end of church services. We can pray in the morning when we wake up, at work or school, as we run errands, and when we pillow our heads at night. Of course we pray for the needs that arise, but consider praying

PRAY



PRAYER IS A KEY WAY THAT WE CAN PERFORM OUR DUTY AS AMBASSADORS.

TALK ABOUT JESUS



IF WE ARE LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES, WE WILL FIND WAYS TO LET PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT HOW JESUS HAS CHANGED OUR LIVES.

USE WHATEVER GOD HAS GIVEN YOU



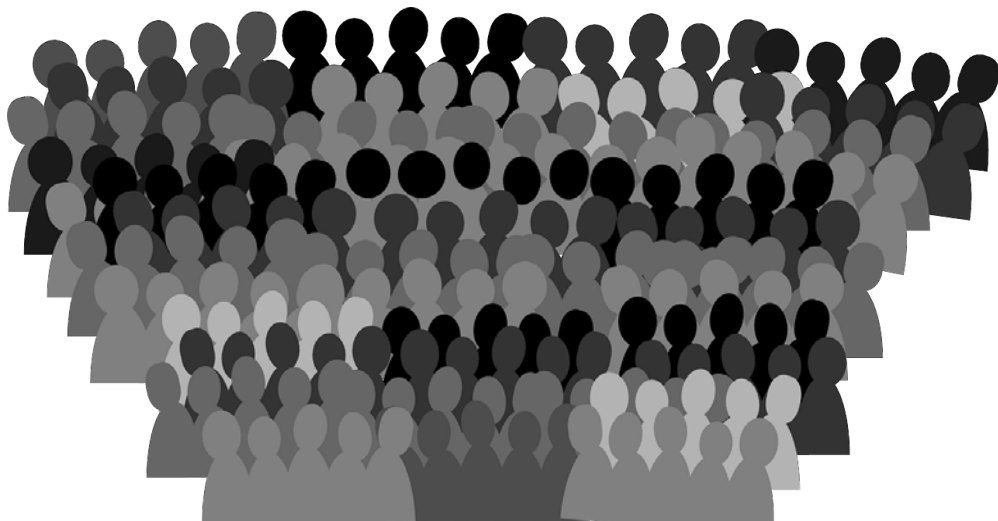
WE HAVE ONLY A SHORT TIME BEFORE JESUS RETURNS. WE WANT TO USE WHATEVER GOD HAS GIVEN US NOW.

TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE



WE HAVE RECEIVED SO MUCH FROM GOD, AND NOW HE ENTRUSTS US WITH THE WONDERFUL MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION.

*IF WE COULD REACH ONE SOUL
WITH THE GOSPEL EACH DAY, IN A
YEAR THAT WOULD BE 365 SOULS!*



**Consider praying
this prayer:**

“Lord, lead me to a
soul today. Just one
soul today.”

this prayer: “Lord, lead me to a soul today. Just one soul today.” If we could reach one soul with the Gospel each day, in a year that would be 365 souls! Imagine the impact in our community if we all did that, and the effect we could have as a global church body. Great revivals have started out of prayer meetings, including the Azusa Revival in 1906 that resulted in the founding of our own church. Prayer is important, and it is a key way that we can perform our duty as ambassadors.

Talk about Jesus

Jesus told us, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:14, 16). Considering these

words, we must ask ourselves, Is our light shining? Do the people around us see Christ in us? We may prefer to blend in when we go to our campuses, offices, or other places, but Christianity by nature will stand out. The Lord wants our lights to shine brightly, so we will be noticed.

In casual situations, strangers often ask, “How is your day going?” This could happen while riding an elevator together, waiting in line somewhere, or checking out at a grocery store. That common question can be an opening to share about the Lord. We might respond, “My day is going great. I’m getting ready to go to church.” Or we could share something we are grateful to God for on that day, or something we are praying about. Let’s take every opportunity to let others know that we are blessed of the Lord.

My office colleagues know what to expect when they see me on Monday morning and ask, “**How was your weekend?**” I tell them, “**It was wonderful. We went to church yesterday.**”



My office colleagues know what to expect when they see me on Monday morning and ask, “How was your weekend?” I tell them, “It was wonderful. We went to church yesterday.” Some of them will ask, “Oh, really? So what happened?” and I will tell them about everything we heard in church and about salvation. It is an opening to be an ambassador for Christ.

Even with the restrictions on evangelism that we experience in Western societies, we can preach the Gospel by the way we live. If we are looking for opportunities, we will find ways to let people know about how Jesus has changed our lives.

Use whatever God has given you

Whenever I think about winning souls for the Lord, I remember the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. Three



LET US REMEMBER THAT GOD ONLY REQUIRES FAITHFULNESS ON OUR PART.

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

John 15:16

servants were entrusted with different amounts of talents. The servant who received five talents used them to earn five more and the servant who received two talents earned two more. In the end, they both got the same response from their lord: “Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of thy lord.” They were rewarded not for the total number of talents they ended up with, but for their faithfulness as stewards of what they had been given. The third servant had been given one talent, and he did nothing with it. As a result, his one talent was taken away and he was cast into outer darkness.

We must consider, “What am I doing with the opportunities God has given me?” We have only a short time before Jesus returns. He could come at any moment, and our chance to work for Him will then be over.

We want to use whatever God has given us now.

In Mark 16:15-16 Jesus told His disciples, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” This was Jesus’ final instruction for His disciples, commonly known as “The Great Commission.” Some may think that preaching is only the work of a pastor or minister of the church, but everyone who has been reconciled to God has been given the same ministry of reconciliation. The Great Commission was a charge for the disciples who were physically present that day as well as us who follow after.

I love the verse in Proverbs 11:30 that tells us, “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.” We also know from Daniel 12:3 that “they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” Here again, Scripture does not stipulate that “pastors” or “ministers” who win souls are wise. It does not mention Sunday school teachers or any other role. These verses are a promise to anyone who will win souls for Christ. We can and should use whatever resources God has given us to accomplish this goal.

Take up the challenge

Though we may feel underqualified, God is the One who makes us qualified. He said, “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you” (John 15:16). Let us remember that God only



We cannot impose reconciliation to Christ upon others. It is not our responsibility to make them believe. Our duty is only to **share the Gospel and allow the Spirit of God to do His work in their lives.**



As we seek to represent Christ in the world, if we lack courage, strength, or anything else, **God is more than able to supply what we need.**

requires faithfulness on our part. A diplomatic ambassador can represent his government in a foreign country and share its proposals, but he cannot force the foreign government or its citizens to agree. Nor can we impose reconciliation to Christ upon others. It is not our responsibility to make them believe. Our duty is only to share the Gospel and allow the Spirit of God to do His work in their lives.

Another wonderful promise is given in 2 Corinthians 9:8, “God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.” As we seek to represent Christ in the world, if we lack courage, strength, or anything else, God is more than able to supply what we need. He will make all grace abound for us to perform what He has called us to do.

We have received so much from God, and now He entrusts us with the wonderful ministry of reconciliation. With His help, we can be faithful ambassadors for Christ, and our reward will be great when we meet Him in Heaven. ♦



Reverend Seun Ogunleye is pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Stavanger, Norway.

BY TAIWOO PARK

MY JOURNEY TO JESUS

Step by step, God led this young Korean man from ancestor worship to a life centered on Jesus Christ.



“Through everything, God was with me and my family and has added to our testimony piece by piece.”

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rowing up in Seoul, South Korea, my only early childhood memory of hearing about

Jesus was at a nearby church at Christmas time. The people at the church gave away small gifts and candies to neighborhood children, and there I heard the name of Jesus in Christmas carols. At some point, I also heard a few Old Testament stories like the walls of the city of Jericho coming down, though I didn't know why that happened. Now, I believe God was preparing something in my heart, even way back then.

Like most other families in my home country, our family's religion was a mixture of Buddhism, Confucianism, and Shamanism, which includes worship of ancestors. We were taught respect for elders and how people should respond to the challenges and tragedies that happen in their lives. From a logical perspective, it seems great. But the problem is, it is not the answer people need in life.

My parents tried to teach my sister and me to live the right way, but they had a worldly perspective. My father was a police officer, and he really



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Two years into my college career, **my life seemed to fall apart—my relationships, plans for the future, schoolwork—everything came crumbling down at once.** I was miserable! The only good thing was that in my distress, I looked to God.

wanted us to do everything right. He taught us to be honest and to be blameless in our behavior. As a good son, I tried to be diligent at school and study hard the way he wanted me to.

When I was twelve years old, my mother passed away from an illness. Two years later, my father married again to a woman who was a widow. She had a Christian background and my dad worried about the impact of Christianity on me and my older sister. Before they married, he told her, “Don’t talk about Christ to my kids.”

The following year, my sister was invited to a church by some of her friends and she started attending with them. After that, I also started going to church with some friends I met playing basketball. They did not even invite me—I just noticed that they did not come to play on Sundays, so I asked them where they had gone. They told me they went to church, and I decided to go too. That all happened without my stepmother saying anything to us about Christ. Although I did not grasp the message of the Gospel at that time, I established

I started to talk to God. Though the preacher’s call had been, “Give your *heart* to God,” I **ended up praying, “I give my life to You, Lord.”**

a pattern of attending church regularly and learned more and more about the God of the Bible.

During my high school years, I decided to move away from my family for college. My parents were a little too strict from my perspective, and I felt I could do well on my own without adult guidance. I really wanted to plan my own life. I had an engineering school in mind that was located in Daejeon, which was about ninety miles away. The fact that it was a prestigious school gave me a good excuse to move away from my family.

Once I moved to Daejeon, I was happy to be able to make decisions on my own, and things went well for the first two years. I attended a Baptist church near the college, but the Gospel message continued to go over my head. I could pray “in Jesus’ Name,” but I didn’t really know what that meant. When I prayed, I just listed all my wishes to God through the Name of Jesus. I didn’t understand that the only Son of God gave His life to save all mankind, including me. I still had no idea what it meant to repent and receive forgiveness of sins.

Two years into my college career, my life seemed to fall apart—my relationships, plans for the future, schoolwork—everything came crumbling down at once. I was miserable! The only good thing was that in my distress, I looked to God. In July of that year, the church I had been attending held a youth retreat. One night, the preacher led a few songs and then said, “God wants you to give your heart to Him.” I didn’t know what that meant, but I felt like I had no other options. I knew my own way was not the answer, so I just started to talk to God. Though the preacher’s call had been, “Give your *heart* to God,” I ended up praying, “I give my *life* to You, Lord.” I didn’t realize it at the time, but that prayer was life changing. It was a couple years later, after I understood more about Christian doctrines, that I was able to look back and realize, *Ah! That was my moment of salvation!*

From then on, my life changed drastically. I enthusiastically started attending the Bible studies and prayer meetings at my church, as well as activities with the Christian groups at college. I joined outreach programs and began helping to support missionaries. It brought me such joy to participate in those activities.

The following year, God allowed a distressing situation at my church to lead me to the experience of sanctification. I



I NOTICED THAT [MY FRIENDS] DID NOT COME TO PLAY ON SUNDAYS . . . THEY TOLD ME THEY WENT TO CHURCH, AND I DECIDED TO GO TOO.



THAT PRAYER WAS LIFE CHANGING. AFTER I UNDERSTOOD MORE, I WAS ABLE TO LOOK BACK AND REALIZE, *AH! THAT WAS MY MOMENT OF SALVATION!*



JEEYAE AND I MARRIED ON MARCH 14 OF 2009 AND OUR SON WAS BORN THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

GOD GAVE US A DAUGHTER IN 2011 AND WE BECAME A FAMILY OF FOUR.

conversation because I knew my dad would be hurt by my decision. He felt that my birth mother's illness had happened because he had not honored his older brother's spirit well after that brother passed away. So, after my mother passed away, our family faithfully went to the Buddhist temple every year on the anniversary of her death to worship our ancestors' spirits through Buddha. It was very important to my father that we all go and serve my mother's spirit correctly. After I was saved, I joined my family at the temple once, but I felt the spiritual warfare between the two beliefs and knew I could not continue going.

During that trip home I told my dad, "From now on, I want to worship my own way." He asked me what I was going to do on the anniversary of my mom's passing and I told him, "I will do a service with my God on that day." He was not happy. He said, "Why are you going to do that? Your mom passed away because of spiritual faults. I don't want anybody in my house to get sick again and die." Then I told him, "Dad, there is Someone greater than those spirits, and He is God. And through the Name of Christ, He can help us. I will ask Him for the health of our entire family."

Finally, my dad agreed. God helped me to step away from our family traditions in a way that was still respectful of my

I cried out to God, **"Please do something,"** and God did do something in my heart. After that, it was a lot easier for me to handle trying situations and ungodly thoughts that would sometimes come—I **could just dismiss them from my mind!**

Later on, I realized **that moment was when God sanctified me.**

was participating in ministry work and conflict came up among the workers. I thought to myself, *They're all saved, so why is there conflict?* People started to blame each other and to argue with each other. It got to the point that the team of workers was breaking apart, and my heart broke too.

I couldn't understand how this situation could happen, but at the same time, I realized that I had the same unholy nature as the people who were fighting. I cried out to God, "Please do something," and God did do something in my heart. After that, it was a lot easier for me to handle trying situations and ungodly thoughts that would sometimes come—I could just dismiss them from my mind! Temptations that had been challenging before became easy to resist. I was so grateful that I was getting deeper in the things of God. Later on, I realized that moment was when God sanctified me.

During college I also joined a team to visit members of the underground church in China. In that group was my future wife, Jeeyae. She was a member of the Apostolic Faith Church, but she was attending a seminary and was participating in the outreach program as part of her studies. She invited me to visit

the Apostolic Faith church in Daejeon, which was her home church and where her parents attended. There was a small youth group there, and I enjoyed being with them.

After visiting several times, eventually I came across the doctrinal books and testimony tracts published by the church. I'd never seen doctrinal explanations written so clearly before. I thought back over my spiritual journey and could see that I had experienced everything they taught: conviction, godly sorrow for sin, repentance, salvation, and sanctification. Everything was exactly what had happened to me! I understood how I had been helpless and hopeless on my own, but then God saved me, and later He made me holy. I really loved the way the Gospel was presented with clear doctrinal structure, because I had never seen such complete teaching anywhere else. It was wonderful!

That year, I decided to become part of the Apostolic Faith and soon Jeeyae and I became engaged. I had not been home very much since leaving for college, but around this time I returned to let my dad know that I would not be participating in family worship with him ever again. It was a very difficult



OUR CHILDREN AT MIDWEST CAMP MEETING IN 2015.



DURING COLLEGE I ALSO JOINED A TEAM TO VISIT MEMBERS OF THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH IN CHINA. IN THAT GROUP WAS MY FUTURE WIFE, JEEYAE.

father. Every year since then, on the anniversary of my mother's passing, our family holds a godly remembrance for her. And although my father was initially very opposed to Christianity, over the years we have seen his heart softening.

Jeeyae and I married on March 14 of 2009 and our first child was born the following year. At that time, I was seeking God for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I had not heard of that experience until I read in the church's literature that it comes after salvation and sanctification, and it gives divine power. I thought, *If there is some good thing God has reserved for me, then why not seek for it?* So, I started praying for the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

One night in 2010, my wife and I were praying by a couch in our home while our son was sleeping in the other room. Suddenly, as I was praising the Lord, God touched my heart and baptized me with the Holy Spirit, and I spoke in a different language. It was a wonderful experience. After that, I found it was easier to work for the Lord as a Sunday school teacher and in other ways. In time, my pastor asked if I felt called to be a minister. I let him know that from the year I was saved, I'd had a subtle feeling that God might want me to be a minister of His, so I said yes and began preaching.

As I was praising the Lord, **God touched my heart and baptized me with the Holy Spirit, and I spoke a different language.** It was a wonderful experience.

God gave us a daughter in 2011 and we became a family of four. Then in 2014, I completed my doctorate in Computer Science and began applying for jobs. God directed us to move to the United States, and we settled in East Lansing, Michigan, where I taught as a professor at Michigan State University. That was a challenging time because there was no Apostolic Faith Church nearby—the closest one was in Chicago, Illinois, which was over three hours away by car. We attended there as often as possible and the church family was wonderful to us, but

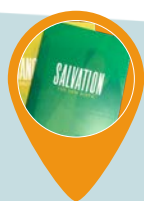
we longed to live close enough to be fully involved at church. In 2018, we were so happy when I got a new job in Seattle, Washington, and we could be part of the Apostolic Faith Church there.

Through everything, God was with me and my family and has added to our testimony piece by piece. I am so grateful to God for what He has done for us, and I want to continue to serve Him for the rest of my life. ♦

Taiwoo Park is a minister of the Apostolic Faith Church in Seattle, Washington.



OUR FAMILY,
CHRISTMAS 2024.



EVENUALLY I CAME ACROSS THE DOCTRINAL BOOKS AND TESTIMONY TRACTS PUBLISHED BY THE CHURCH. I'D NEVER SEEN DOCTRINAL EXPLANATIONS WRITTEN SO CLEARLY BEFORE.

BY MIRIAM PANGANAYI

WORKING GLOBALLY, BUT ANCHORED IN GOD

A Christian diplomat testifies to God's mercy and guidance in her life.



“After our wedding, I came to the realization that sin could destroy our marriage.”



In the home where I grew up, we attended church and read the Bible regularly, though our family didn't fully grasp the concept of Christianity. Our life-altering encounter with the message of a born-again experience began in 1978, in my hometown of Masvingo in southern Zimbabwe. My mother was drawn to the faith by a radiant woman who exuded genuine joy, and her testimony of salvation and healing was compelling. Hearing it, my mother, who was dealing with numerous health problems, was moved. Traditional and modern medicine alike had failed to alleviate her pain. Seeking healing and solace, we began attending services at the Apostolic Faith Church with this woman. God healed my mother, and a few weeks later, she was born again, then sanctified, and then baptized with the Holy Spirit. I was about thirteen years old at the time, and the transformation in her life was inspiring, igniting a desire in me to get to know the Gospel better.

Since our family had been part of a different church, my father was hesitant about our



involvement with the Apostolic Faith, but my mother urged us on. There, I saw young people whose lives had been remarkably transformed by salvation, and their dedication to pleasing God was evident. Although their testimonies touched me, my heart was hardened against change. It was not until June of 1981, when my mother survived a horrific car accident, that I began to reconsider. I was supposed to be in the car with my mother that day, which made me realize that God had spared my life because He wanted me to be saved.

In July 1981, I found myself in church, crying and confessing my sins with a truly repentant heart and Jesus graciously saved me. I turned away from my old sinful ways, cutting ties with my unsaved school friends. Since I was one of the first students from my school to be saved, I chose to instead spend time with older, more spiritually mature individuals from church. They encouraged me to live righteously, and my behaviour improved dramatically. They also urged me to join the church's youth activities and to participate in street evangelistic outreaches, where I had the opportunity to tell others about the transformative power of salvation.

Missteps at the start of my career

After high school, I attended college and then started working, eventually joining the Zimbabwe Diplomatic Service. In 1988, when I was in my early twenties, I was assigned to work in Tanzania as a diplomat. Regrettably, while living far from my church family, I also neglected to read the Bible and pray. My lack of spiritual discipline led me back to a path of sin, though I tried to hide my backslidden state from my

mother and the brethren in Zimbabwe. I was living a double life that was filled with worldly pleasure but devoid of happiness.

Despite my failings, God's conviction never left me. I also thank God for a pastor who continued to enquire about my spiritual walk and always communicated that he was praying for me. I was too ashamed to tell him that I was no longer saved, but God's Spirit led him as he sent me Bible verses. One of his letters quoted from Revelation 2:4-5 about those who "left thy first love," referring to those who leave the Lord. That letter haunted me for a long time, and I knew that despite the distance between us, my pastor knew that I was not saved.

In December 1992, I returned to Zimbabwe after my diplomatic tour of duty in Tanzania. The following year, I married a high school friend, Felix. We both shared a past with the Apostolic Faith Church. After our wedding, I came to the realization that sin could destroy our marriage. I made a vow to God, promising that if He would save me again, I would serve Him faithfully for the rest of my life. In October 1993, I attended a church service in Harare, Zimbabwe. With a truly repentant heart, I surrendered everything to God, and He graciously saved me again. I can hardly express the immense joy I felt, and I pledged to devote my life to God. Some months later, my husband also gave his life to the Lord.

Using the lessons I learned

In April 1994, Felix and I moved to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for another diplomatic assignment. Since there was no Apostolic Faith Church there, we decided to hold fellowship in our home, using materials we received from our church in Zimbabwe and the world headquarters office in Portland, Oregon. I did not want to repeat the mistakes I had made in Tanzania and I knew that sanctification would help me resist turning away from the Lord again. Our children were born



Felix and Miriam on their wedding day in 1993.



in Malaysia, and the desire to raise them in a godly way also intensified my prayers for sanctification. In September of 1995, God sanctified me wholly, and later, in 1996, I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The fear of backsliding disappeared, and I was filled with a renewed vigour to testify and spread the Gospel.

Over the years, our family has faced several health scares, but God has always been our Healer. Our firstborn son, Daryl, was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) at around two years old. Despite medical interventions, his condition did not improve. However, after fervent prayer and faith, God miraculously healed him at the age of nine. Even as recently as last year, I again witnessed God's power to heal. In 2024 I became sick to the point that I could not walk, sit, or even sleep, but when I prayed, Jesus miraculously healed me.

God also helped our family in a time of great sorrow. In 2005, my world came crashing down when Daryl passed away in a car accident at the age of eleven. The comfort of the Holy Spirit and the prayer support of the saints sustained us during that dark time. Our consolation is in knowing that Daryl had confessed his faith in Jesus before his passing, and we will see him again one day.

Eternally thankful

I am grateful for the opportunity to work in several different countries as a diplomat for thirty-four years. Though at times we faced difficult and trying situations, God's guidance was ever present. My greatest joy has been the grand opportunity to serve the Lord in those countries. He gave our family the privilege to be part of the establishment of the Apostolic



🔥 Felix and Miriam sing at a 2007 church service in Brasilia, Brazil, with (left to right) their niece (Jane), daughter (Primrose), and son (Dylan).

Faith work in Brazil and in Aylesbury, a small town in the United Kingdom.

Today, I am profoundly grateful to God, for He has truly guided my life in wondrous ways. As I look to the future, I am eager to keep working in His vineyard, spreading the Gospel, and sharing the love of Christ with others, especially my own family. I am eternally thankful for His mercy, love, and faithfulness. I remain committed to living out the Gospel message, trusting in God’s plan for me, and staying steadfast in the journey ahead, looking forward to meeting Jesus at the end of it all. ♦

Miriam Panganayi is an Apostolic Faith minister serving at our Hatcliffe church in Harare, Zimbabwe, and her husband is the Director of Pakistan Work.

EVIDENCE



WILSON CANNING ENGLEE, NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA

IN 1958, I CAME TO THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH AT ENGLEE, NEWFOUNDLAND. I was nineteen years old at that time, and I came with the woman who would later become my wife. Camp meeting was taking place, and we sat in the back. Everyone was having a good time but I was so unhappy. The pastor made his way back to where I was and encouraged me to pray. After making my way to the altar and kneeling there in prayer, Jesus took my sins away. My wife also received salvation that same night. Since then, God has been so good to us.

A few years ago, my back failed. It was so bad that sitting in a chair was impossible. I would kneel or stand by the table at mealtime. Traveling I would have to lie down in the back seat of the vehicle. I came to church on a Wednesday night and was anointed and prayed for. I was expecting the pain to be gone, but I left church a cripple. At home, I went to bed also crippled. Then as I woke the next morning, I realized something

had happened. Praise God, the pain was gone! Sometime in the night Jesus had passed by and I was healed. I could resume my everyday activities, take my chainsaw and go in the woods without any discomfort.

A few years ago, my wife of sixty-three years fell and broke both her arms. We were devastated. Both her arms were placed in slings and braces. She was unable to even use a spoon to feed herself. I cared for her, along with our family. It seemed the bottom fell out of our world. Once again, we are so thankful for prayer. God saw us through those months until my wife could use her arms again.

On May 3, 2024, my wife passed on to her Heavenly reward, but God has comforted me and sustained me through this time of grief and adjusting to life without her. I am looking forward to meeting her some glorious day in Heaven.

Yes, God has blessed. He gives strength each day. I will say as I always do, “I am happy because . . . I am happy.” ♦



FLORIN BAROS Port Angeles, Washington

The Lord brought our family from Romania to America, and I am grateful. I am also thankful for the sacrifices my parents made in getting us nine children here and for all the blessings that followed. I appreciate what God has done for us, how He goes before us, and the plans He has for us.

Upon arrival in the United States, we were invited to the Apostolic Faith church in Sacramento. One brother there was willing to pick us up in a bus, not only for Sunday school, but for Sunday morning and evening services and Bible studies. I am thankful for the pure Gospel we learned here. We had the opportunity to understand God's plan of salvation.

I saw the love of God in the church people's lives, and I wanted it for myself. However, it was not so easy for me to get saved. For over a year, I sought the Lord. I thought I had to cry to get saved, so I cried until there were no more tears, but couldn't get through. I found that it takes more than tears. I lacked the faith to believe that God would give me the gift, because I didn't value myself. God loved me, but I couldn't see it. However, I could feel the love from the saints, and that encouraged me.

When I was thirteen, I went to youth camp and decided to tell the truth and admit that I wasn't saved. The Bible says the truth will set you free and that is what happened. God saved me! He gave me peace and joy that are so wonderful, so amazing! I could not have done that for myself. God helped me realize that receiving salvation isn't complicated. We just need to receive the gift He has for us.

At times, I look back on my life and wonder why it took me over a year to get saved. I wonder why I had to go through that. I don't know the answer, but I am thankful for it. That time of seeking God established me. It helped me to know God and value Him. I might have felt alone, but God loved me and He was with me, guiding the way. God continued to lead me—seven months later, He sanctified me, and two or three months after that, He baptized me with the Holy Spirit.

God has taught me how to trust Him, how to accept His love and His gifts. I love Him and want to serve Him for the rest of my life. ♦



ANTONIA SCHLEICHER Madison, Wisconsin

I would like to thank God for the power in the Blood of Jesus to deliver us from spiritual bondage and from physical bondage. When I was growing up, my biggest problem was lying. I didn't know how to stop. I also had a physical affliction called rheumatism. When I was very young, I would roll on the ground in pain. There was no solution—I tried everything. Then, when I met people from this church at my high school, they told me God could deliver me from sin, including lying. I prayed that night, and amazingly, God set me free. I went back to my parents and confessed the lies that I had told them, saying God had delivered me. God also delivered me from rheumatism. It's been fifty-two years now, and I've never had that sickness again. I'm so grateful for the power in the Blood of Jesus.

God has kept me; He has kept my tongue. He put truth in my mouth. Ten years ago, I had a situation where I was required to get an attorney. The case took two years and over that time, the lawyer called me regularly to ask questions. Then he would talk to the other people who were accusing me. In a miraculous way, God delivered me. I didn't know the lawyer had been observing my words. He would ask me questions and I would just tell him what I knew. However, as I was thanking him at the end, he said, "Antonia, what I appreciate about you is that you never change your story." For two years, I had remained true to what I had said at the beginning. I didn't have to remember what I had already told him, because God put truth in my heart. I'm so grateful for the power of God, the power to deliver us so that our "yea" would be "yea," and our "nay" would be "nay." ♦

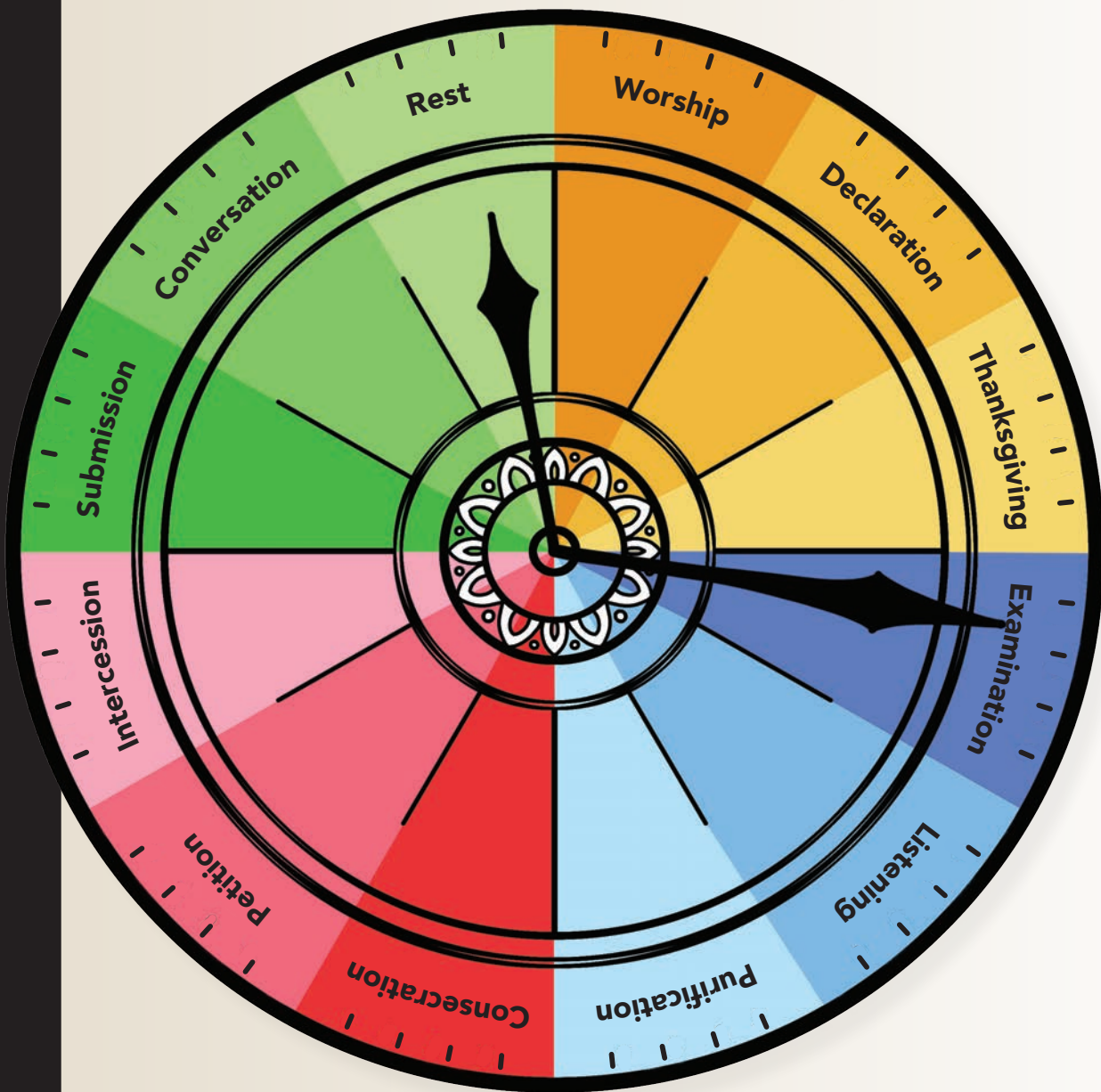
BY MARK STALLER

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

Twelve activities to enrich your communication with God.



“I found that if a prayer pattern is used as a general guide, it can quicken and enliven my prayers rather than ‘quenching the Spirit.’”



*Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
that calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known!*

*In seasons of distress and grief
my soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer.*

– William W. Walford



The hymn “Sweet Hour of Prayer” has been part of my Christian life for over fifty years. As a young boy, I remember singing these lyrics during church services (see above). As a young teenager, I could relate to praying to God “in seasons of distress and grief.” I would take all my angst and anxieties, and pour out my heart at the altar of prayer. God was faithful to meet me there. I have precious memories of the many

A HELPFUL WAY TO REMEMBER THE TWELVE DAILY PRAYER ACTIVITIES IS TO CORRELATE EACH WITH FIVE-MINUTE INTERVALS ON A CLOCKFACE.

times He heard and answered by providing “grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

As my faith has matured, I have come to realize that prayer can and should be much more than taking my burdens to the Lord and making requests of Him. Studies on the topic of prayer tend to focus on petitioning God, suggesting that if we learn to pray the right way (for example, with integrity, faith, persistence, or fasting), then God will grant specific needs. In fact, even the song “Sweet Hour of Prayer” has a focus on making requests.

To be sure, petitionary prayer is important. Jesus taught His followers to pray every day, “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11). However, there are other types of prayer we can engage in to enhance our prayer times. In my personal study, I have identified twelve basic prayer activities: worship, declaration, thanksgiving, examination, listening, purification, consecration, petition, intercession, submission, conversation, and rest. A helpful way to remember them is to correlate each with five-minute intervals on a clockface. They can also be grouped into four general categories, which would be fifteen-minute intervals on the clock: the first

quarter hour is for looking **upward** to God; the second focuses on looking **inward** at ourselves; the third looks **outward** at the world around us; and the last is a time of looking **downward** in repose. Of course, it's not necessary to literally spend five minutes on each activity, but if we do, we experience a new way to have a “sweet hour of prayer.”

Initially, I doubted the usefulness of a prayer aid like this one. I wondered if it might be too regimental, resulting in empty, lifeless prayers. That is certainly something we want to avoid. However, in thinking about it more, the Lord encouraged me by reminding me of others who found a systematic approach to prayer to be helpful. For example, when I was a young family man, my pastor taught me to think of the word “ACTS” when praying: the letters were a reminder to spend time in **A**doration, **C**onfessing faults, **T**hanking, and making **S**upplications. On another occasion, a sister in our church was asked to share advice about prayer, since she was a true prayer warrior for the Lord. I was surprised that she shared a simple strategy called the “prayer wheel” that she had learned from her elders. It involved about eight prayer activities, and she said she had used it for most of her adult life to pray more effectively. Of course, many use the Lord's Prayer as a pattern for daily prayer.

Personally, I have enjoyed learning about and utilizing the many ways to communicate with God. I found that if a prayer pattern is used as a general guide, it can quicken and enliven my prayers rather than “quenching the Spirit.” In addition, it can help us follow the instruction, “Let all things be done decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40).

With that thought in mind, on the following pages is a brief definition and explanation of each of the twelve prayer activities noted above.

There are times and seasons when we should focus on one type of prayer more than others, but establishing and maintaining a well-balanced approach to prayer will strengthen us spiritually. May God help us to pray wisely and more effectively than ever before, and may He make each minute spent in prayer truly sweet! ♦

Reverend Mark Staller is the pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Tehachapi, California.

12 PRAYER ACTIVITIES



Looking UPWARD to God

WORSHIP. To *worship* is to express or show reverence to God, including through praises and adoration. Psalm 29:2 says, “Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

As we bow before God in prayer, we can express our reverence for who God is. He is the Creator and Sovereign of all, so He is worthy of worship. We can bless God for all He has done and praise Him for His wonderful works.

DECLARATION. To *declare* is to openly and explicitly state what we believe to be true; to affirm what we whole-heartedly accept, support, or intend to do. Psalm 145:5-6 says, “I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness.”

Whereas worship expresses reverence for God, declaration explains why He is worthy of such reverence. When we pray, we declare what we know to be true about God, about Jesus, and about the Holy Spirit. For example, we can say, “I know You keep Your promises.” We can declare what we know to be true about ourselves and our place in the Church. In addition, we can declare our love for God and our trust in Him.

THANKSGIVING. *Thanksgiving* is an expression of gratitude or appreciation. We read in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Thank God for all He has done for you. Since “all things work together for good to them that love God” (Romans 8:28), we can even thank God for our trials and the difficult things that have happened in our lives. As we develop a true attitude of gratitude, we will find it easy to mix thanksgiving with our supplications and requests.



Looking INWARD at ourselves

EXAMINATION. *Examination* is to consider and evaluate whether our beliefs, behaviors, and motivations are right or wrong. It is a time for introspection and soul-searching. Psalm 26:2 says, “Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.”

It is good to ask God to examine our hearts. In our human weakness, we often are not able to clearly see the truth about ourselves. However, God can shine the light of His truth on our hearts to show us who we really are.

LISTENING. To *listen* is to focus on the voice of God. It is being alert and ready to hear, comprehend, and respond to what God has to say to us. Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still, and know that I am God.”

Prayer is more than talking to God; it is also listening to God. We should listen to what He has to say to us and about us. Silence is a companion to listening; sometimes we need to quiet the noise around us to hear the voice of God and sometimes we need to quiet the noise *within*. Stop talking, be still, and listen.

PURIFICATION. *Purification* is allowing God to cleanse our hearts and minds. Romans 12:2 says, “Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Living in this sinful world, we are surrounded by ungodly attitudes and behaviors. They can negatively impact our walks with God, even after we have received the experience of entire sanctification. Because of that, we must regularly ask God to purify our hearts and minds.

for a Sweet Hour of Prayer



Looking OUTWARD at the world

CONSECRATION. To *consecrate* is to dedicate oneself to God, setting oneself apart for His use and service. Romans 12:1 says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

Consecration begins the “looking outward” section. When looking outward, we see many problems and needs in the world, or even in the church. In prayer, we can consecrate ourselves to God’s work, setting ourselves apart for God to use in His solutions to problems. Consecration also allows us to give something to God (ourselves as a living sacrifice) before we ask for His gifts and blessings.

PETITION. To *petition* is to come to God with specific prayer requests. Philippians 4:6 says, “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

God expects us to bring our personal needs and requests to Him. In addition, wherever God has placed us on this earth, it is our responsibility and privilege to pray for our family members, church workers, fellow citizens, and government leaders. It is good to ask God to help us ask for what is most important—spiritual blessings and spiritual riches.

INTERCESSION. To *intercede* is to intervene in prayer on behalf of others, advocating for them before God. We read in 1 Timothy 2:1, “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men.”

Paul taught that intercession is the work of both Jesus (Romans 8:34) and of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26-27). As we pray on behalf of others, we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us, and we take on more of the character of Jesus Christ.



Looking DOWNWARD in repose

SUBMISSION. A prayer of *submission* is yielding to God, even if His will is in conflict with our personal desires. It is surrendering to whatever God deems best. James 4:7 says, “Submit yourselves therefore to God.”

Like Jesus at Gethsemane, we can offer a prayer of submission and say, “Not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42). Jesus also taught us to pray, “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). We want to let go of our own desires and let God have His perfect way in our lives, even if His perfect way includes our diminishment or temporal suffering.

CONVERSATION. *Conversation* is talking informally to God, as to an intimate friend. Exodus 33:11 says, “And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.”

Like Moses, we can talk to God (and God can talk to us) as to a friend. In conversational prayer, no agenda is required. It is a way to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) as we carry on the conversation with the Lord throughout our day. When we do that, it makes us aware of (and allows us to enjoy) the presence of God continually.

REST. To *rest* is to cease to engage in strenuous or stressful activity, freeing us from anxiety or disturbances. In Matthew 11:28-29, Jesus said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

In prayer, we can rest in the arms of God. Sometimes prayer takes a lot of effort, but Jesus’ invitation is to find rest for the soul. He is the Good Shepherd who makes us lie down in green pastures, and He will restore our souls (Psalm 23:2-3).

A HISTORIC VISIT TO AFRICA

Encouraging reports from the first visit to our churches in the DRC and Lesotho by a representative from the Portland headquarters.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



John Musgrave, Director of Africa Work, visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from January 23-26. This was the first visit from the Portland headquarters to that country, though previous representatives had met with DRC delegates in various other locations. He was joined on the trip by Isaac Adigun, District Superintendent

for West and Central Africa (WECA), and Mathieu Bobo, who pastors our church in Paris, France.

Upon arrival, the visitors were welcomed by Leon Guba Pakasa, the DRC Country Leader, and a delegation of board members and provincial leaders. In addition, a smiling family of four, including two beautiful young children, sang “Happy Welcome” and presented a bouquet of flowers.

Our work in the DRC originated in 1981 when Kuntuala Daniel picked up an Apostolic Faith paper at a bus stop in Kinshasa. He shared the paper with Simon M’Bengani, who wrote to Portland for more information. His letter was forwarded to Lagos, Nigeria, and he was invited to the annual camp meeting. In August 1981, he attended the Lagos camp meeting and was healed of an illness he had suffered for thirty months. Then he prayed, “God, if You save me, I will take this Gospel to my country so my people can be saved also.” The Lord answered his prayer, granting him salvation, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. With encouragement

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a former Belgium colony. It is the second largest country in Africa, and the fourth most populous.



Left: Our headquarters location in Kimbanseke; Sunday service at the National Museum location in Kinshasa.

Right: A group of brothers at the camp meeting site in Ngandapio, outside of Kinshasa.



from Timothy Oshokoya, the first Africa Overseer, he remained in Lagos for doctrinal training. Then he returned to Kinshasa, where he established an Apostolic Faith group with five other people. The group began meeting in his home on September 28, 1981, and by 1982 had grown to include sixty members. Today, there are thirty-one Apostolic Faith churches in the DRC.

During the January visit, the team had the privilege of meeting Reverend M'Bengani. Reverend Musgrave later commented, "At ninety-one years old, he is still active and mentally sharp. He expressed deep gratitude at having a representative from the Portland headquarters visit for the first time, saying it was an answered prayer."

An evening service was held at our headquarters location in Kimbanseke on January 24. It began with an organ prelude of "My Tribute," and included beautiful music throughout. For the sermon, Reverend Bobo referenced Psalm 37:5-6, emphasizing that God desires to bless those who trust Him. After the closing song, the congregation prayed earnestly,

reflecting their great enthusiasm for the Gospel.

On January 25, the visiting delegation was taken to our DRC camp meeting site in Ngandapio, about ten miles outside of Kinshasa. Though the land is lush and beautiful, this location presents a challenge. The only access to fresh water is a fifteen-minute walk to the river, and potable water for drinking and cooking must be transported in. The saints are praying for the resources to drill a well and make other necessary improvements to accommodate five thousand attendees. In addition, they hope to eventually use the land for growing crops to support the ministry financially.

During the morning service on Sunday, January 26, Reverend Guba was formally installed as the DRC District Superintendent (Country Leader), as this was the first opportunity since his appointment. The morning message from Reverend Musgrave was based on 1 Samuel 17:20 and had a theme of "Having a Shout for the Battle." The account of David and Goliath was used to remind all to keep their eyes on the Lord rather than the enemy.

As the sermon was ending, many rushed to the altars and prayed fervently. Then at the evening church service, two sisters testified of being healed following the morning meeting, and one young man from Angola shared that he had received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

A visit was also made to the Kibonga church in Kinshasa. The congregation and community extended a warm welcome and sisters thoughtfully laid out table runners along the dirt road for the visitors to walk on. After a tour of the building, everyone gathered in the sanctuary for a brief greeting and prayer, and the saints shared pineapples and melons before departing.

Reverend Musgrave closed his report saying, "The faith of the people in the DRC is inspiring. Their enthusiasm for the Gospel and dedication to the work of God is a powerful testimony. Truly, they are rich in faith and a wonderful part of the family of God."

Despite the war, economic hardships, and sufferings, it is heartwarming to know that the saints in the DRC continue to wax stronger in the Lord. ♦



Left: Rev. Leon Guba Pakasa speaks during a service in Kimbanseke. Brethren from the Kibonga branch joyfully welcome the visitors.

LESOTHO



Lesotho is a land-locked country located within South Africa. It has a beautiful mountaneous landscape, as well as the coldest climate in Africa. It is one of the smallest and least populous countries on the continent.

✧ *Rev. Isaac Adigun with Sister Mampolokeng, one of the first converts in Lesotho.*



A

fter leaving the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Reverend Musgrave and

Reverend Adigun traveled to Lesotho, arriving on February 1. They were accompanied by Onias Gumbo, District Superintendent for Southern and Eastern Africa (SEAR).

Lesotho is a mountainous, landlocked country within South Africa, with a population of 2.1 million. Maseru, the capital and largest city, has a population of approximately 470,000. The country's primary export is water, which is transported to South Africa from large mountain reservoirs. Lesotho is also known for its cattle, goats, and sheep, as well as having the coldest weather in Africa.

The visiting team was greeted in a special way by a children's choir singing "Welcome! We are happy to see you." The Lesotho Country Leader, Edmond Makwiramiti, was also present. He pioneered the Lesotho work with his wife, Memory, in 2017, when they moved there with

their children as missionaries. Today, there are three Apostolic Faith groups in the country: two in Maseru and one in a nearby village. Sadly, Sister Memory went home to be with the Lord last June.

The visit took place during a weekend of revival services held at Cenez High School, a private institution. The team arrived in time to join about one hundred others for an afternoon service. One of those in attendance was Sister Mampolokeng who is ninety-two. She was among the first converts in Lesotho.

The service featured music in Sotho and Venda. During the testimonies, an older brother thanked God for the strength to attend three camp meetings last year. He had been at the point of death, but God healed him. The sermon was based on John 2:1-5 and brought out the importance of bringing problems to Jesus and doing "whatsoever he saith unto you."

In the evening, Nicolus Moholwa, the pastor at Diepsloot, South Africa, testified that God had delivered him from alcohol and drugs. He said that he

✧ *A ladies' group sings during the special services.*





➤ *A group photo with some of the Lesotho saints at a rented hall in Maseru.*

repented of his sins and God saved him, sanctified him, and filled him with the Holy Spirit. Then Reverend Gumbo delivered the message from Acts 4:10-12, highlighting “The Power in Jesus’ Name.”

The Sunday services began with children marching in while singing “Keep Your Eyes on God.” Later, a combined choir uplifted with several songs, including “Praise God, Alleluia.” The focus of the morning message, by Reverend Musgrave, was John 15:5 and being “Connected to the True Vine.” At the afternoon

service, Reverend Adigun took his text from Matthew 5:6 and emphasized having “A Spiritual Hunger.” All of the services closed with wonderful times of prayer at the altars.

The last stop of the trip was to see the rented space currently being used as the headquarters church. It is small, only able to accommodate about forty-five people. A larger building nearby was used for Lesotho’s first camp meeting in 2023.

Before departing, the team was presented with gifts: traditional wool blankets and

hats. Reverend Musgrave concluded his trip saying, “Lesotho is a beautiful country known for its excellent water. Now the Lord is blessing it with Living Water. We trust that ‘He who began a good work’ in Lesotho will continue it until His return.” ♦

➤ *(Left to right) Revs. John Musgrave, Edmond Makwiramiti, Isaac Adigun, and Oniyas Gumbo.*

➤ *The Lesotho congregation.*



SHORT TAKES

BRIEF REPORTS FROM OUR CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP PASSES IN GHANA



ON DECEMBER 15, JOHN BEKOE RETIRED FROM HIS POSITION AS LEADER

OF OUR WORK IN GHANA, A ROLE WHICH HE HAS FILLED SINCE 2017, AND THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP PASSED TO JOSEPH ANSAH. At the same time, Samuel Agbovi was appointed as a Ghana board member.

The installation ceremony was held at the Ghana headquarters church in Aplaku, and was conducted by Isaac Adigun, the District Superintendent of Western and Central Africa (WECA). Prior to the event, support for the new appointments was expressed by the Ghana board members, the Portland Board of Directors, and WECA board members, as well as the Ghana ministers and workers.

During the service, Reverend Adigun first announced Reverend Bekoe's retirement at age seventy-five, after years of faithful service marked by humility and generosity. In addition, Reverend Adigun thanked him and his wife, Monica, for their dedication to the Gospel work.

Reverend Adigun also spoke of Reverend Ansaah and Reverend Agbovi, stating that each has served in the church faithfully and has met the Biblical criteria for leadership positions. He invited the congregation to show support for the appointments by standing, and everyone stood.

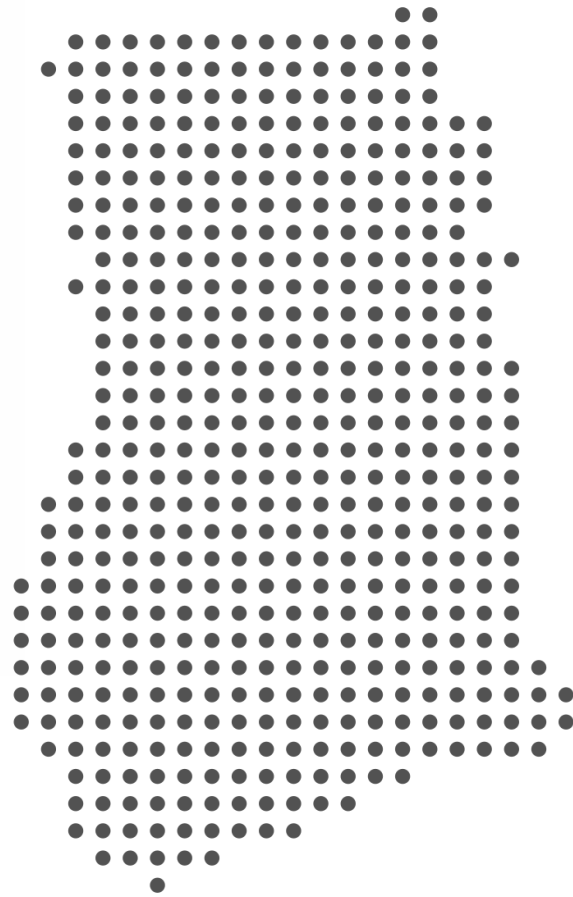
Following this, Reverend Ansaah and Reverend Agbovi were each prayed over. Laying hands on them, Reverend Adigun and the board members petitioned God for His blessings on their lives, families, and service.

Then Reverend Ansaah addressed the congregation. While thanking God for the opportunity to serve in this capacity, he requested prayer for the ability to fulfill the assignment. He expressed optimism that God, who helped him serve under previous administrations, will help him in his new role as leader of the church in Ghana. He also acknowledged the importance of upholding the Gospel standard and continuing the Great Commission, and his hope to launch out into new areas to win more souls for God's Kingdom. ♦

While thanking God for the opportunity to serve in this capacity, he requested prayer for the ability to fulfill the assignment.



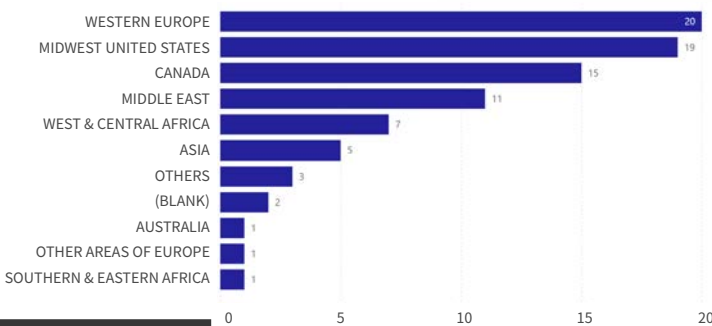
⤴ *Reverend Ansaah and his wife, Anna.*



CONNECTING REMOTE MEMBERS OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH FAMILY



A BREAKDOWN OF RESPONDENTS BY WORLDWIDE DISTRICT (EXCLUDING THOSE ALREADY NEAR ONE OF OUR CHURCHES).



TO DATE, OVER 100 HAVE RESPONDED FROM 24 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. INCLUDING FAMILY MEMBERS, THESE REPRESENT OVER 300 INDIVIDUALS.



IN DECEMBER OF 2024, AN EFFORT WAS MADE TO REACH OUT TO APOSTOLIC FAITH CONGREGATION MEMBERS WHO ARE NO LONGER LIVING NEAR ONE OF OUR CHURCHES.

This group includes individuals who relocated for work, school, or some other reason, to cities where we do not have a church. The goal is to find a way to connect them to an Apostolic Faith congregation again, either by informing them of an existing nearby branch, helping them relocate to a place where we do have a church, or perhaps helping them start a new Apostolic Faith group in their current location.

The first step of this endeavor was to distribute a digital survey collecting basic information about these individuals. The survey included questions about their current location, the number of people living with them, and how long they expect to be there. To date, over 100 have responded from 24 different countries. About 30 respondents are already living near one of our churches, and they will be assisted in getting in touch with the branch

closest to them. Over 85 are not near one of our churches. Including family members, these represent over 300 individuals, including 41 living in Canada, 14 in the United Arab Emirates, 23 in the United Kingdom, and 55 in the United States.

In addition to the survey, a team of workers from every region of our work is being established to help network with these remote members of our church family through our district superintendents.

The final survey question asked what the church could do to help these individuals. Responses included: "Gospel publications in the Italian language," "Help me get fellowship," "I will be glad if the church can be sending church magazines and tracts for the use of evangelism," "We need Gospel tracts in Spanish and French languages," and, "I'll love to be constantly checked on, I feel like I'm alone here and do not have so many friends around."

May God strengthen these saints who are living far from a church family, give wisdom for how to proceed in each case, and open doors for the Gospel to reach new areas. ♦



If you or someone you know is interested in filling out the survey, you can do so by scanning the QR code above.

BY INETTA STALEY

WALKING WITH GOD THROUGH THE VALLEY

Despite the seeming tragedies which rearranged her life, Inetta found that God's ways are best.



FROM THE TIME I WAS BORN, MY PARENTS DID THEIR BEST TO TEACH ME THE

RIGHT WAY TO LIVE. I was raised under the sound of the Gospel and heard the story of Jesus, but I only listened with my ears and not with my heart. As a child, I decided that someday I would leave that Christian home, go my own way, and do the things I wanted to do.

However, in 1931, my mother and I came to the Apostolic Faith camp meeting in Portland, Oregon. The Lord began to speak to my heart, and for the first time, I experienced real Holy Ghost conviction for my sins. If I ever expected to find happiness, I realized it would only be in serving Him. At the end of a service, I made my way

down to the altar of prayer. In the sawdust and straw, I knelt and asked God to be merciful to me a sinner, to take the sin out of my life, and to save me. I am glad we are never too old or too young. In simple childlike faith I believed, and the Lord made a real change in my life. He put love and peace in my heart where there had been turmoil and strife.

My grandmother was there when I was saved. She said to me, "Keep praying." I did, and the Lord sanctified me! I felt so clean inside and out. The following Sunday night the Lord baptized me with the Holy Ghost. Through everything that has happened in my life since then, the Lord has been near and has helped me.

Going to school that fall, I was tempted not to pray over



In 1931, my mother and I came to the Apostolic Faith camp meeting.

my food because of what someone might say. However, I did pray, and that was a victory. When the other girls talked about the worldly places they went, I could just walk away, because the Lord had taken the desire for those things out of my life. In my teen years, I took piano lessons and, in time, played the piano for church services.

After I was out of school, I began working for one of the people from the church. When that employer moved away, I started my first job where I worked among people who were not Christians. I was amazed at the language I heard! Those who cursed the worst worked at a different table than I did, and I thanked the Lord that the woman I worked with most directly was very nice.



I knelt and asked God to be merciful to me a sinner, to take the sin out of my life, and to save me. I am glad we are never too old or too young. In simple childlike faith I believed, and the Lord made a real change in my life.

Then after about two weeks, the boss asked me to move to the table where those whose language was so bad worked. My heart sank! I wondered, *Could I handle that?* I went home and prayed until I knew that the Lord would be with me, and He worked it out for me to be at the opposite end of the table. The Lord is good, and He pays attention to each detail.

Marriage and family

When I was twenty years old, I became acquainted with Don Dibble. He was a wonderful Christian man, and we were married in 1943. He had a good business, and after we had been married a couple of years, we had a daughter. In 1952 we moved to Portland, and Don worked at the Apostolic Faith printing plant. He was very happy doing that. I started to play the organ at church, and we had a wonderful life serving the Lord with all our hearts. Then Don's health started to fail, but we were young—he was forty-six years old and I was thirty-seven—and we trusted the Lord to heal him. However, as time went by, he grew worse.

Trials and faith

One day he came home a very sick man, and a week later the Lord took him to Heaven. Because he seemed too young to die, it was hard for me to accept. To be widowed at only thirty-seven years of age—I thought God must have made a mistake. It was the darkest time in my life. I was left without money and with a very limited education. How could I support a fourteen-year-old daughter and clothe and feed both of us? My life was in a shambles, and it seemed there was no way out.

At that point, I could have lost my sanity. Instead, I reached out to the Lord. He took my hand and helped me back to my feet. Soon I had a job offer which made it possible for me to earn a living. I proved that God never makes mistakes, and He is the answer to every problem. The best friend I have is Jesus.

Just over a year after my husband died, my daughter and I were involved in a terrible car accident. It was only the mercy of God that we were not killed. My daughter



At that point, I could have lost my sanity. **Instead, I reached out to the Lord. He took my hand and helped me back to my feet.**

was hurt so badly the doctors did not expect her to live through the night. Twice her heart stopped and they started it again. Her facial bones were crushed, her jaw broken in two places, her leg and pelvis crushed, and she had numerous other injuries. The doctor said all he could do was put her in a body cast that extended down one leg and over the foot, and then let it heal. She spent six months in bed. Then she used crutches for a while, but in the end, God caused her body to heal so perfectly that she did not even have a limp. We had many people praying for us, and God hears the fervent prayers of the righteous. All the glory goes to God.

Not too long after that accident, I met John Staley. He had been invited to a camp meeting and liked the service because it made him think of the services held by evangelist Billy Sunday that his mother had taken him to as a child. He kept attending the church, even though he did not completely understand everything. I was working in a restaurant that he frequented, and I started talking to him about the Lord. One night after a service, someone asked him to pray. He did, and the Lord saved him. He got right into the Gospel and received his sanctification and was baptized with the Holy Ghost. In 1962, we were married, and our lives were built around the Gospel.



The sun was shining and there were beautiful white clouds in the sky. She looked up at them and remarked, **“Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the Lord would come and take us up through those clouds today?”**

My daughter was married to a Christian man in 1966, and they had two beautiful children we loved very much. Then on March 8, 1978, my daughter was with a group from the church who visited nursing homes to sing, play instruments, and testify. She had just resigned from her job so she would be free to do this. The sun was shining and there were beautiful white clouds in the sky. She looked up at them and remarked, “Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the Lord would come and take us up through those clouds today?”

The Lord had plans for that day. In about three hours, she and her two children started driving from Dallas, Oregon, to Portland for a Friday night service at the church. The road went up a steep hill. At the top, she met a car on her side of the road, and there was no chance for her to swerve out of the way. My daughter and her two children went to be with the Lord.

John and I were in Florida at the time, and while we flew toward Oregon, tears flowed down my cheeks. As I looked up to the heavens, the Scripture came to me, “The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD” (Job 1:21). What a comfort to know that God was still in control. He wiped away the tears, the heaviness, and the grief. God’s ways are the best ways even when we don’t understand them.

The Lord is always by my side

About five years ago, John passed away. We had been married for thirty-three years. Now I live alone, but I am not lonely or

afraid, for God is only a prayer away. He has never failed me.

The Lord has been my Healer. Some time back, I awoke in the morning with such a sore and swollen throat that I could hardly swallow. As I started my morning worship, I told the Lord how I needed His healing touch. I laid my whole situation out before Him. After praying for some time, I got up and sat in my chair, still asking for His help. I knew He could heal me if I would furnish the faith, so I quoted some promises: “For I am the LORD that healeth thee” (Exodus 15:26), and, “With his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). God heard me. At that moment, I felt a hand on my shoulder, and it startled me. I looked up expecting to see Jesus standing there. Although I could not actually see Him, I knew I’d had a visit from the Lord, and I was healed. What a wonderful Friend the Lord has been to me, and I thank Him. ♦

Inetta Staley was born in 1922. She was a faithful member of the Apostolic Faith Church in Woodlake, California, where she passed away in 2008.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

ACKNOWLEDGE

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” *Romans 3:23* “God be merciful to me a sinner.” *Luke 18:13*

CONFESS

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

REPENT

“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” *Luke 13:3*

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.” *Acts 3:19*

FORSAKE

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him...for he will abundantly pardon.” *Isaiah 55:7*

BELIEVE

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

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

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.*

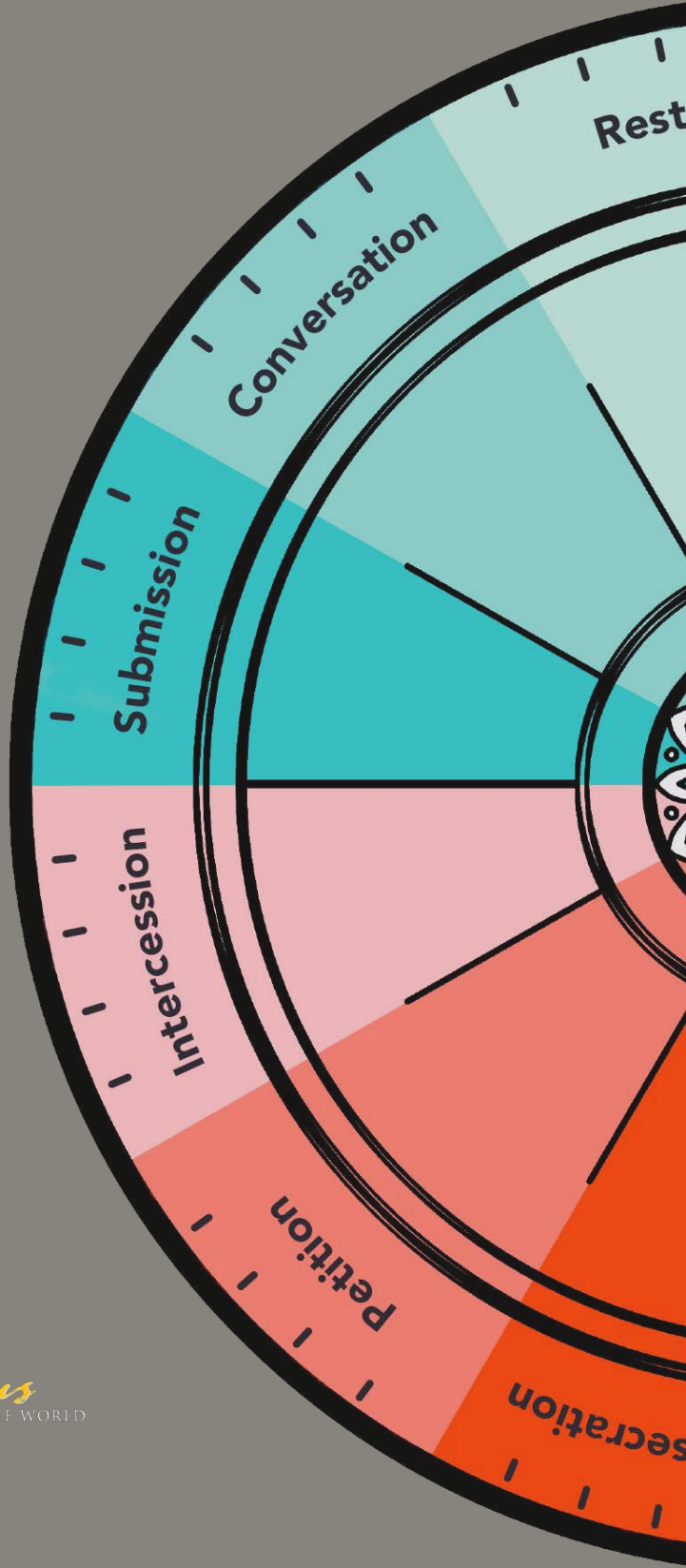
WATER BAPTISM is by one immersion "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." *Matthew 3:16; 28:19.*

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