

# THE Apostolic Faith

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH—JUDE 3

JANUARY — MARCH 2026



ARE OUR TIMES  
*the End Times?*

Examining the world through the lens of prophecy.

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Apostolic Faith

JANUARY – MARCH 2026

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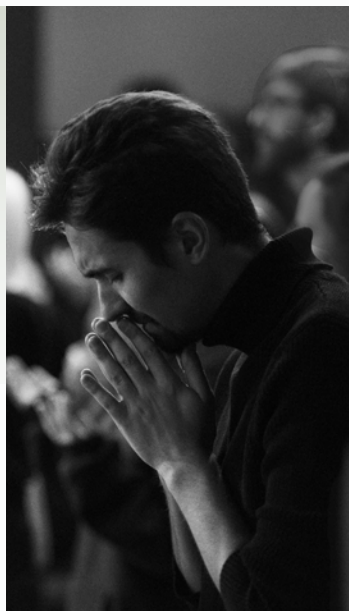
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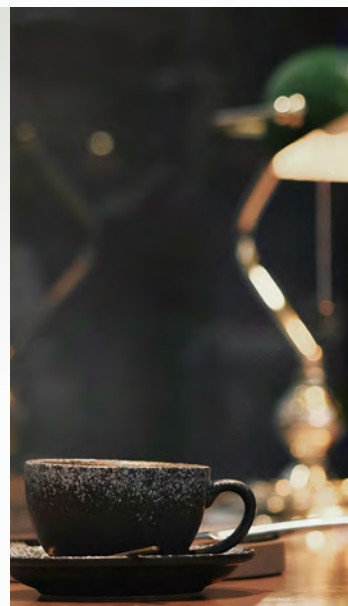
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## VIEWPOINT

BY SOLA ADESOPE  
SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL

THE GOSPEL THAT CIRCLES THE GLOBE







## The signs of the times are not cause for us to fear, but reminders that our redemption is near!

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s we step into a new year, our hearts are stirred by the unmistakable evidence that God is moving across the world in powerful, life-changing ways. The cover article of this edition of the magazine (see page 14) is a study of the signs of the last days, and truly the words of Jesus in Matthew 24 feel closer to reality than ever before. When His disciples gathered around Him on the Mount of Olives, asking for signs of His coming and the end of the world, Jesus spoke of events that would shake nations and challenge the faith of many. Among those signs, He also declared a glorious certainty: “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14).

That declaration is not a distant hope—we are witnessing the unfolding of that prophecy in our generation. The Gospel message is circulating the globe with a momentum that only Heaven could generate. Evidence of that fact can be seen in the recent report on our global work (see page 32). From the bustling streets of London to remote villages of Alaska, from large congregations in Africa to pioneering works in Asia, Australia, and Canada, the message of Jesus Christ continues to reach hearts that long for truth, hope, and salvation. The Gospel is not confined by borders, cultures, or circumstances. Persecution and poverty have not stopped its spread, but serve to highlight the resilience of God’s people and the unstoppable power of His Word. Whether through digital platforms, printed pages, or whispered conversations in regions where professing Christ is costly,

the Gospel continues its steady march across every continent.

Jesus’ words in Matthew 24:14 are both a prophecy and an invitation: the Gospel will be preached in all the world, and we are called to help carry it forward. We are not meant to be merely spectators, but participants in what God is doing. Each Gospel meeting held, and each sermon preached, each church planted, and each soul saved is another milestone in the fulfillment of Christ’s promise. These are not just statistics—they are examples that we are part of something eternal and divinely orchestrated. The challenge before us is to contend earnestly for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints, to stand firmly on God’s promises, and to consecrate our lives anew to the cause of Christ.

Though the world around us is filled with uncertainty, conflict, and moral decline in these last days, believers have every reason to lift our eyes with hope. The signs of the times are not cause for us to fear, but reminders that our redemption is near! For us, these are days of anticipation, purpose, and renewed urgency. May the contents of this magazine inspire you to remain steadfast and courageous, and may you be reminded that the Gospel *is* advancing—and you have a place in God’s story.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adalberto". The signature is stylized with a large, circular flourish at the beginning.

BY SOLA ADESOPE

# CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

The Epistle of Jude gives clear instruction on a topic vital to all Christians.



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he importance of earnestly contending for the faith is a topic that is dear to our church and to our hearts. Jude 1:3 reads, “Beloved, when I gave all diligence

to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

While contending for the faith is our topic, this message could be titled, “Earnestly Contend for the Apostolic Faith” because this verse refers to the faith of the Apostles of Jesus Christ. This is where the name of our church came from, and Jude 1:3 is also our motto. Its words are inscribed on the cornerstone of the headquarters church in Portland along with the words “Founded 1906, Built 1983,” and have appeared on the magazine we have published since our founding.

Like every book of the Bible, the Epistle of Jude has some key themes. In verse 3, Jude reminded believers of the need to contend for the faith. In verses 4-19, he warned against false teachers and apostasy. In verses 20-22, he challenged believers to build up themselves in the most holy faith, to be prayerful and compassionate, and to keep themselves in the love of God. Finally, in verses

24-25, Jude assured believers that God was able to keep them from falling despite the threats and spiritual battles they faced.

The fact that our church is still here today is a testament to God’s ability to keep His people from falling. I love the way Jude added to verse 24, “and to present you *faultless* before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” (emphasis added). We like the sound of that!

Let us consider four questions addressed in this Epistle of Jude. What is the faith that we need to earnestly contend for? Why do we need to earnestly contend for this faith? How do we contend for the faith? And finally, what are the rewards for earnestly contending for the faith?

## What “the faith” is

What is the faith that we need to contend for? There is a difference between “believing faith” and “*the* faith” that we read about in Jude.

Believing faith is having assurance and confidence that God can do what He has said He will do. Hebrews 11:6 says, “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.” That is believing faith.

## KEY VERSE

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

— Jude 1:3



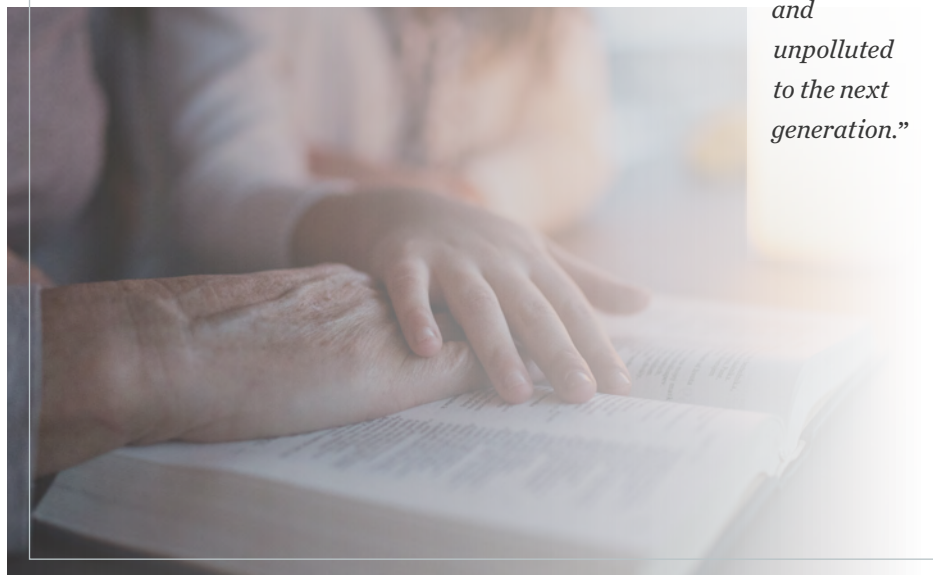


in his life, Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, because he believed that God could raise him from the dead. What wonderful faith!

Mark chapter 5 tells of a woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years. The Bible says she had suffered many things of many physicians. She had spent all she had seeking help for her affliction, but she was not better in any way; she only grew worse. Then something happened—she heard about Jesus! You and I have heard of Jesus, but it is not enough to just hear about Him. Believing faith will motivate us to act on what we hear. Believing faith causes us to come to Jesus. Believing faith will say, “Jesus is able to do it for *me*.” This woman came to Jesus and said, “If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.” That is believing faith! She touched His garment, and she was immediately made whole.

In the second chapter of Mark, we read of four men who came to Jesus bringing a friend who was sick of the palsy. When the four saw that the crowd

There are many examples of believing faith in the Bible. We read about Abraham in Genesis chapters 12, 15, and 22. He left his homeland to travel to a place he had never seen because he believed God and obeyed His commandments. Later



## Four Key Questions



### What is “the faith”?

The faith is the core teachings, principles, and doctrines of the Word of God—the faith of the Apostles.



### Why must we contend for it?

This faith is under attack from the enemy of our souls, so we must protect and fight for it diligently.



### How do we contend?

By remembering, believing, and passing on the sound doctrines of the Bible.



### What are the rewards?

God will keep us and present us faultless before His presence with exceeding joy.

*“Thank God, the faith once delivered to the Apostles has been delivered to us, and by the grace of God, we will also deliver it undiluted and unpolluted to the next generation.”*

around Jesus prevented them from reaching Him, they broke through the roof and let the sick man’s bed down at the feet of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he healed the man both physically and spiritually.

Believing faith is powerful! Through it, you can bring your friends to Jesus. You can bring yourself, your problems, your families. In believing faith, release them at the feet of Jesus. He will do something for them.

However, what we are focusing on is even more powerful than believing faith. It includes believing faith, but it also encompasses the core teachings, principles, and doctrines of the Word of God. We are to contend for *the faith*—the faith of the Apostles. Even when healing or physical deliverance did not come, they were willing to give their lives for *the faith*.

The faith we are contending for is not a new faith. It is not a new age faith or a contemporary faith. It is not a set of beliefs that aligns with modern philosophies and ideas. Jude said it is the faith that

# Contending in Daily Life

## PRACTICAL TIPS

- **UPHOLD truth with humility when conversing with others**
- **KEEP a consistent prayer life.**
- **ENCOURAGE others by giving your personal testimony**
- **LIVE with integrity as a witness.**

Lord, help me to hold fast to the faith You've given, to live it daily, and to pass it on unchanged to those who follow.

was once delivered unto the saints. Could we be satisfied if what we received was not what was initially delivered to the Apostles and believers of the Early Church?

Thank God, the faith once delivered to the Apostles has been delivered to us, and by the grace of God, we will also deliver it undiluted and unpolluted to the next generation. This is the faith that Sister Florence Crawford preached, the faith that Brother Raymond Crawford preached, the one Brother Loyce Carver and others before us preached. They led us to this point. They kept preaching the faith, and by the grace of God, we will hear the same faith preached here until Jesus returns.

## Why we contend

Why do we need to contend for the faith? Jude explained that certain ungodly men had crept in unawares and were undermining the apostolic doctrines. They were telling the believers something different than what the Apostles had taught.

That can happen in our day as well. This faith is under assault—it is under attack from the enemy of our souls. You and I will have to rise up and do something to maintain the faith. We must do much more than casually support it; we must *contend* for it. We must earnestly and with all our hearts protect and fight for this faith.

Some may tell our children that adhering to the faith does not matter, that they do not have to seek the Lord so earnestly or pray like those of old prayed. By the grace of God, we reject such teaching. If Jesus tarries, we are going to earnestly contend in the same manner and for that same faith that was once delivered unto the saints.

Many people today desire “another gospel” (Galatians 1:6),

such as a “Crossless” Gospel—a social Gospel that is devoid of truth and without power over sin. They are running after a Gospel that has strayed far away from the foundational doctrines that were once delivered unto the saints. They adopt a form of godliness but do not contend for the faith.

The church of God must not become a place where people come to enjoy themselves for two hours on Sundays and then go back home without experiencing the power of God. We must not become a playground for sinners; this is a workroom for sinners! This is a place where God will save souls. It must not become a casual gathering place where the altars of prayer are no longer in use. No, these altars still mean something to us! They are where we meet with God.

If there were ever a time when we needed the power and the presence of God, it is now in our generation. In a world of moral and spiritual breakdown, God wants the church to continue to earnestly contend for the faith. The generation before us contended. There are people in our congregations who have been contending for over seventy years, and they are still doing so. We want to follow their good example.

We want this generation to be defined by revival. May our young people—and our older generation as well—rise up and earnestly contend for the faith of the Apostles! If this generation does not do so, we will leave little for the next generation to stand for. We cannot afford to compromise, because the compromise of today can become the high standard of tomorrow. We must keep on contending by the grace of God.

## How we contend

How do we contend for this faith? Jude told us in verse 17,



## The Rewards of Contending



**“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and**

**majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”**  
— JUDE 24–25



**“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have**

**kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”**  
— 2 TIMOTHY 4:7–8

“Beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.” We contend by remembering, believing, and passing on the teachings of the Apostles. We continue to uphold the core truths and doctrines of God’s Word against all challenges and false teachings.

This Word of God is so precious. By the grace of God, in this church you will continue to hear the same apostolic teachings that were preached in the beginning. You will hear about salvation, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. You will hear from God’s Word about endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit, consecration, overcoming trials and temptations, the beauty of Christian fellowship, and preparation for Heavenly citizenship. Those are apostolic teachings! Jude said to remember them.

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16–17). This Word of God is wonderful! This Word of God is powerful! We will profit spiritually if we remember and practice its precepts.

Jude went on to say in verse 20 that believers should build themselves up in this most holy faith by praying in the Holy Ghost. That’s how we contend—we pray! How many times have you been blessed when you have heard a brother or sister pray? How many times has a brother or a sister told you, “I’m praying for you” and that encouraged you? We are building ourselves up in this “most holy faith.”

### The rewards of contending

What are the rewards of earnestly contending? Verses 24 and 25 of Jude tell us, “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” What a wonderful reward for contending for the faith! The Lord will present His Church before the presence of His glory. The Bible says it will be a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing. It will be holy!

Contending for the faith is a way of victory. At the end of Paul’s life, he said, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7–8). When we keep the faith, a crown of righteousness will be given to us as well. That crown is waiting for us!

## JUDE IN SUMMARY

### REMINDER (1:3)

Contend for the faith.

### WARNING (1:4–19)

False teachers, apostasy.

### CHALLENGE (1:20–22)

Build up, pray, love.

### ASSURANCE (1:24–25)

God will keep you.

Will you contend for the faith in the days ahead? If you have not embraced this faith, today is your opportunity. If you are saved, why not contend and be sanctified? If you are sanctified, why not contend and be filled with the Holy Spirit? The Rapture of the Church will soon take place. Until that great day, the Lord will bless us exceedingly, abundantly, above all that we can ask or think as we purpose to keep contending for the faith that was once delivered to the saints.

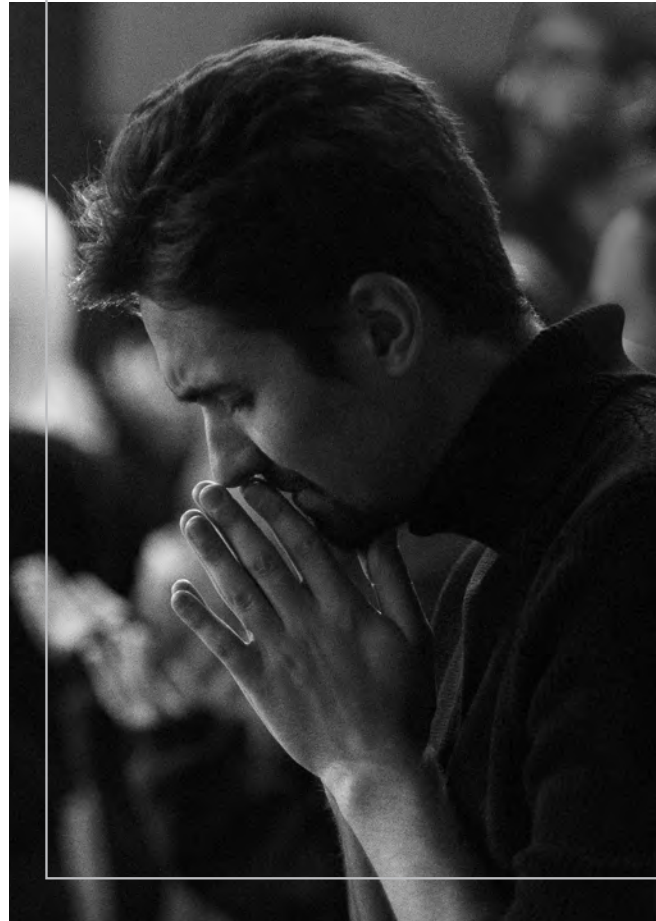


Sola Adesope is the Superintendent General of the Apostolic Faith Church.

BY RENE CASSELL

# THE BLESSING OF CONSECRATION

Dedicating our lives to God opens the door to receiving from Him.



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n account in Exodus 32 highlights a great spiritual lesson regarding consecration. In that chapter, Moses was distressed because he had just discovered that the Children of Israel had sinned by making a golden calf and worshipping it. Moses asked those who were still on the Lord's side to come to him, and when the tribe of Levi came, he told them: "Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day" (verse 29). The word *consecrate* means "to make or declare something as sacred; to dedicate formally to a divine purpose." In other words, Moses was telling the Levites, "Dedicate yourselves and your families entirely to God, set yourselves apart for Him, and then He will bestow upon you blessings."

With God, consecration is a gateway to blessing. If we want His blessing, consecration is required. And if we consecrate ourselves to God, we are assured of His blessing. At times, we may have doubts or fears about what will happen if we yield a specific area of our lives to God. When we understand that consecration opens the door for His blessing, we realize that we have nothing to be afraid of! We never lose by offering ourselves to God.

In Romans 12:1, the Apostle Paul gave a description of what our consecration to God should look like. He said, "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." Each of our lives is meant to be a "living sacrifice." That indicates a complete surrender—nothing held back. When we meet God's standard for consecration, His blessing is sure to follow. Let's consider some specifics about what this means in a practical sense.

## No limits

At times, people try to set boundaries for God, as if to tell Him, "You can go this far, but not that far." I was once guilty of doing that myself. When I was first saved, I had reservations about consecrating my life fully to God, so I tried to set limits on what He could call me to do.

In 1978, I went to Portland camp meeting with the sole purpose of being filled with the Holy Spirit. At that time, I was preoccupied with many things—working fulltime, serving as mayor of my town, being active in church work, and so on. I felt that if I could just get to the tabernacle and set myself to seek God there, I could receive the baptism. However, one day as I was praying at the altars, God showed me a





## THE CALL TO CONSECRATION

**"Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD . . . that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day."**

- *Exodus 32:29*

**"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."**

- *Romans 12:1*



## A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

**Consecrating our lives to God means becoming a living sacrifice.**

It is not a one-time offering, but a continual surrender.

**Consecration is all-inclusive.**

God will bless whatever we give to Him. To receive His full blessing requires full consecration.

**Consecration is a gateway to God's blessing.**

It opens the door for God to work freely in our lives. There is no need to fear consecrating because God's intention is to bless.

vision of an empty pulpit. It was the pulpit at my home church, and on either side of it were people from my community who were unsaved. God's message to me was: "If you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit, you have to be willing to help those people."

God was calling me to the ministry, but I was very shy. I could not imagine myself standing at the pulpit, leading public prayer, or making a visit to a hospital or to someone's home to pray for the sick. So, I attempted to set some limitations for God. I told Him, "I will do this, and this, and this . . .," and then ended: "But I will not be a pastor." Of course, I went home from camp meeting disappointed, having not received the baptism because I was not willing to say yes to God.

For two years, I struggled with making that consecration. I spent many hours in prayer, trying to get around God's will—trying to find an alternate route to receive the blessing without making the consecration He required. Instead, I found out that I could not change God's will. His gifts and callings are without repentance (Romans 11:29). In August of 1980, the same vision came to me again, and that day I told God yes, but not

with my whole heart. Still, my blessing did not come. It was not until October 12 when I finally said it from my heart: "Yes, I will do whatever You call me to do!" The Holy Spirit came in and filled me to overflowing.

Though I had not told anyone about God's call on my life, two days later I received a call from my district superintendent, Sister Dolly Walker. I preached my first sermon the next Sunday. I soon found out that when God calls us to do something, He gives us power to do it. His commands are His enablings. We cannot count on our own strength, wisdom, or understanding to answer God's call, but we can count on God. He will supply all we need.

We must not attempt to tie God's hands. God knows better than we do what He is doing in our lives. When we offer ourselves to Him with no limits, He can work through us in any way He wants.

### All-inclusive

Another common misunderstanding is that we can give God some areas of our lives but not others. The prayer of our hearts should be, "Not just myself, but my time, my plans,



### A Turning Point

"I told God yes, but not with my whole heart. Still, my blessing did not come. It was not until I finally said, from my heart: 'Yes, I will do whatever You call me to do!' The Holy Spirit came in and filled me to overflowing."

my possessions, my family . . . I give You *everything*.” It must be all-inclusive. If our plans and ambitions are not what God wants for us, then we need to allow Him to change them.

We read about this in Matthew 10:37-38 where Jesus said, “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.” Jesus wants us to love God more than we love anything else, even our families. Our love for Him must surpass even what we count as most precious in this life. That is what a consecrated life looks like.

Over the years, there were times when I had to choose to put the Lord before what I wanted for my family. Once, nearly forty years ago, our family made plans for the Labor Day weekend, which is the last weekend of summer recess for school children. My youngest son was about five years old at the time. The four of us decided to spend the day berry-picking and then have a picnic.

Just as we were getting ready to leave the house, there was a knock at the door. It was a man I

knew, and he had a reputation as an alcoholic. Whenever he got into trouble, he would try to pray and ask God for help, but it was never long before he was back to his old habit again. And there he was at our door, saying he wanted to get saved right when we were about to leave for a family picnic.

I really didn’t want to disappoint my children. It was tempting to tell the man, “Could you come back later? We’re on the way out the door.” However, I reminded myself that there would be other opportunities for a family picnic. I told the kids we needed to wait and invited the man into my office. We talked and prayed together. After a time, he said he felt he was saved, and then he left.

Today, that man is in his eighties and he is still saved! And what happened to our family? We still went berry-picking; our outing was just a little delayed. We still had our picnic lunch. When we came home that day, I was a happy dad, a happy husband, and a happy pastor knowing that a soul had been won for Christ! When we put God before every other priority, He will come through with the blessing.

Consider Abraham, who gave us one of the most profound

examples of putting God first. Genesis 22:2 says, “And he [God] said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.” How must Abraham have felt when he received that instruction? In all the years I’ve served the Lord, I never faced a consecration that difficult. Isaac was Abraham’s long-awaited, promised son. Yet, verse 3 says, “And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son.” Abraham did not lose any time at all in obeying what God told him to do, and he followed God’s instructions all the way. He took Isaac to the mount, built the altar, bound Isaac to it, and took the knife in his hand. At the last moment, God let him know that was enough. Abraham’s consecration and commitment to God were such that he trusted God with what was most precious to him. Because of that, He was able to receive a blessing from God that reached to all nations of the earth.

Our consecration is to be all-inclusive, and there is no need to be afraid of that type of commitment because God’s intention is to bless.

## What a Living Sacrifice Looks Like

No limits — nothing held back.



Ongoing — daily, continual offering.



All-inclusive — every area surrendered.



## Ongoing

As a living sacrifice, our consecration is not a one-time event. It must be ongoing. Once we have laid our consecration on the altar, we need to keep it there, continuing to offer ourselves on a daily basis.

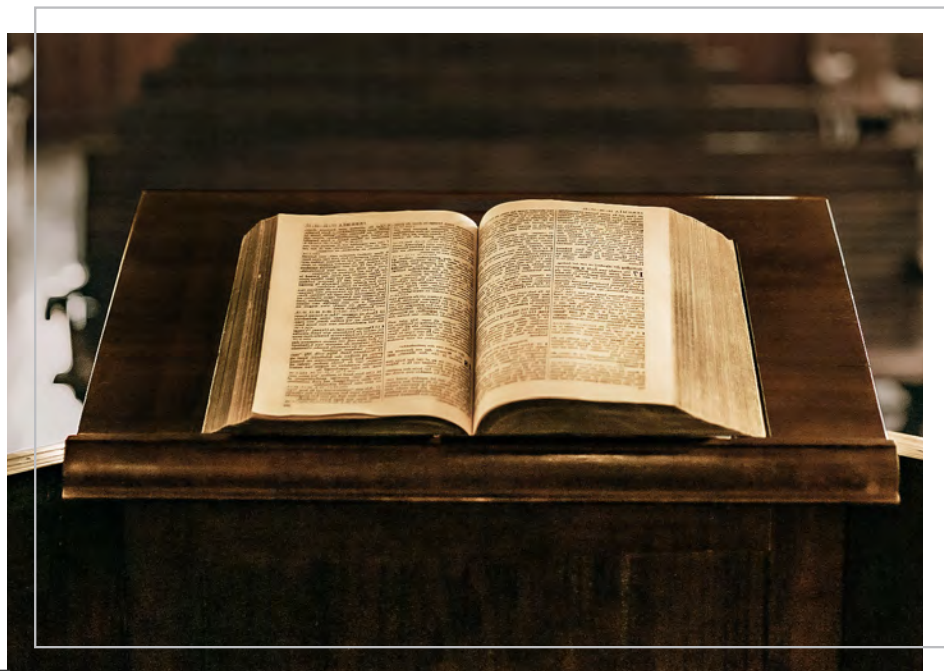
In Genesis 15, we read about a time when Abraham prepared an animal sacrifice for God. Verse 11 tells that before God accepted the sacrifice, fowls of the air tried to eat it. What did Abraham do in response? He drove them away! He was not going to allow the fowls to defile or steal away what he had prepared for God.

We have to do that too, in a sense. The enemy of our souls



## The Blessing of Consecration

- The blessing comes when we hold nothing back.
- When we consecrate ourselves fully, God will work through us in ways that are beyond what we could ask or imagine.
- The blessing is both now and in Heaven. In this life, we see God's provision, power, and presence. In the life to come, we receive eternal joy.
- The blessing is always greater than the sacrifice.
- We cannot out-give God. We never lose by offering ourselves to Him.



wants to diminish what we have given to God. He will tell us, "You need to lighten up a little. You don't need to go to church so often. You don't need to read your Bible every day—you need more rest. It's okay if you don't pray today; you are busy." He can go on and on. He is like a fowl of the air pecking away at our offering to God. He may also try to plant doubts in our minds about whether or not God will even bless our consecration. He will say we won't miss out on anything by offering God a bit less. We have to actively resist the enemy's lies.

Abraham guarded his offering until the end of the day. As the sun went down, he was still keeping a vigil, and his effort was not in vain. God honored his sacrifice, and just as surely, God will honor ours as we continue to keep it before Him.

### The blessing

Mark 10:28-30 records a conversation between Peter and Jesus about the reward for making sacrifices for the Gospel. It says, "Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say

unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

From this we understand that whatever we may give to God, it will be very small compared to what He gives us. In Peter's case, we know that the disciples were exceptionally blessed. They witnessed many miracles by Jesus—blind eyes opened, lame feet walking, lepers cleansed, food multiplied, storms calmed, demons cast out. Then, at the end of their journeys, the reward of eternal life awaited.

We cannot out-love God and we cannot out-give God. I'll share an example of what I mean. As pastors, one of our responsibilities is to pray for the sick, and requests for prayer sometimes come at inconvenient times. Once, I got a call at 3:00 in the morning in the midst of a snowstorm. My natural inclination was that I did not want to get out of bed at that hour, especially not to

venture into a storm. However, it was a brother saying that his mom was sick to the point of death. When we arrived, his dad was there weeping. His mom was not responding. We anointed her with oil and prayed over her, and within a half hour, she was sitting up, talking, and praising the Lord! What a blessing I received that day. I went home rejoicing; I had seen the handiwork of God with my own eyes.

There is nothing better than praying alongside someone who receives a needed answer from Heaven. Yet, the greatest blessing is still to come: when we stand before God and hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Truly, nothing we offer God could compare to what He gives us.

Moses' words from Exodus still resonate today: "Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD . . . that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day." We want to consecrate all we have to God so we can receive all He has for us. We have everything to gain and nothing to lose, and the blessings are out of this world!



Reverend Rene Cassell served as the Apostolic Faith District Superintendent of Canada from 1988 to 2013.

He currently serves as a Canada Board Member and minister at the church in Bide Arm, Newfoundland.

BY ERIK CALHOUN

# ARE OUR TIMES THE END TIMES?

Examining the world through the lens of prophecy.

**I**n Luke 4:16-21, we read that in the early days of Jesus' ministry on earth, He entered the synagogue in Nazareth on the Sabbath and stood up to read. The Scripture portion for that day was Isaiah 61:1-2, a prophecy about the Messiah. When Jesus was handed the scroll of Isaiah, He read, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound. To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." Stopping mid-sentence, Jesus sat down and then said to the astonishment of the onlookers, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears" (Luke 4:21). Jesus had come to earth to fulfill the first half of the prophecy: the "acceptable year of the Lord," by setting people free. It was not yet time to fulfill the second half: "the day of vengeance of our God." That day in Nazareth, God's final judgments were yet in the future, as they are today.

We are living in the middle of that sentence—between "the acceptable year of the LORD" and "the day of vengeance of our God." In the dispensation of grace in which we live, the door of forgiveness, salvation, and restoration is still open. This will not always be the case. There will come a day when that door will close, and a day of judgment will begin. We are in the final days, or maybe hours, of the dispensation of grace. We must take advantage of this time while the opportunity is still available.

**"Bible prophecy is precise history written in advance by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit."**



Today, we are looking for Christ's Second Coming, which will take place in two parts. First, Jesus will come to catch away His Bride—both the dead in Christ and the living body of believers worldwide. Second, He will return with His saints at the Battle of Armageddon to execute judgment on the ungodly and set up His earthly Kingdom for a millennium.

Many people have questions regarding Christ's return and the events surrounding it, but God did not intend for this important period in time to be shrouded in uncertainty. The prophecies in His Word tell us all we need to know. Let's look at some common questions regarding the end times and the answers given in the Scriptures.

## How do we know Jesus is coming again?

*It is revealed in Scripture.* For every prophecy in the Bible concerning the Lord's first coming nearly 2,000 years ago, there are eight referring to His Second Coming. It is mentioned in at least seventeen Old Testament books, and in twenty-three of the twenty-seven New Testament books. Jesus Himself spoke of His return twenty-one times. In His final days on earth, He told His disciples, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also (John 14:2-3).

**"God has ordained a certain number of days for humanity to turn to Him, and each passing day is counting down to Jesus' return."**





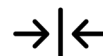
*Bible prophecy has been proven accurate.* Every prophecy concerning the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus was fulfilled exactly as written. Bible prophecy does not offer possible outcomes or one of many options; it is not a “best guess” of what will happen next. Bible prophecy is precise history written in advance by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. With God, there are no mistakes and there is no randomness. He is deliberate and orderly. *God has established a timetable.* In

Leviticus 23:4, Moses declared to the nation of Israel, “These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.” He then went on to name seven annual feasts that the people were to observe. Each feast looked back to and commemorated an actual event while pointing forward to a correlating spiritual event. When Jesus came to earth the first time, He fulfilled the first four feasts, which take place in the spring. He became our Sacrifice for sin during Passover,

His sinless life was reflected by the Feast of Unleavened Bread, He rose again on the day of First Fruits, and He sent the Holy Spirit to bring about the birth of the Church on Pentecost. There are three fall feasts yet to be fulfilled: Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles. This calendar that was revealed 3,500 years ago lays out in advance the most significant dates in human history. It shows that God is following a timetable. That means He has ordained a certain number of days for humanity to turn to Him, and each passing day is counting down to Jesus’ return.

The Apostle Paul alluded to this in his letter to the Ephesians saying, “Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: that in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him” (Ephesians 1:9-10). In the “fulness of times”—when the preordained times are fulfilled—Jesus will return and gather His saints.

Ultimately, nothing of prophecy will be left undone. That which was damaged or destroyed by sin at the Fall of Man in the first days of the Genesis record will be completely repaired and restored in the “last days” of Revelation and the final consummation of all things (Revelation 21:5).



## We Live in the Middle of a Sentence

Jesus read from Isaiah 61:1-2,

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to . . . proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God.”

Jesus stopped reading at that comma—the pause between mercy offered and judgment yet to come. That pause is where we live today, in the age of grace, while the invitation to salvation still stands.

## How do we know we are living in the last days?

Near the close of His ministry on earth, Jesus was asked by His disciples, “What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Matthew 24:3). After listing several signs to watch for, He said, “Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.” (Matthew 24:32-33). In several Old Testament Scriptures, the fig tree was used symbolically to represent the Jewish nation, thus indicating that Jesus was telling His disciples to watch Israel to discern the times. Certainly, many prophecies concerning that nation are tied to end-time events. Looking at some of these events gives insight into where we are in the timeline of history.

## The Feasts and the Future

The seven Jewish feasts are part of God’s prophetic calendar.

**FULFILLED:** Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Pentecost.

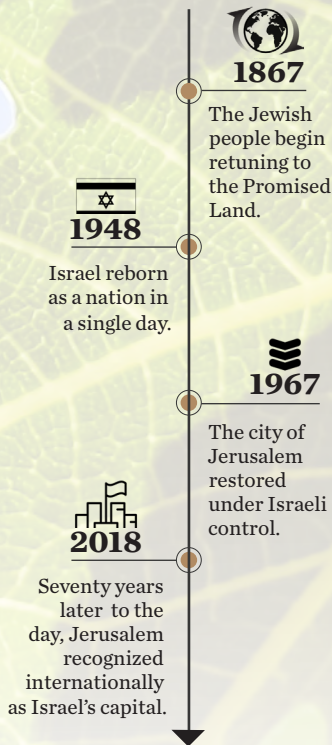
**AWAITING FULFILLMENT:** Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles.

God’s timeline is deliberate—and nearing completion.



## The Fig Tree and Israel

In Scripture, the fig tree represents the nation of Israel. After centuries of desolation, its branches have begun to bud once more:



Each of these moments shows the fig tree putting forth her leaves—reminding us that the season Jesus spoke of is drawing near.



### What's Next on the Prophetic Timeline?

- A global leader will rise to power
- A peace covenant will be confirmed
- A brief period of peace will be followed by tribulation
- Christ will return with His saints to reign

**Every prophecy points forward with perfect precision.**

*God's people will return to their homeland.* The prophet Jeremiah wrote, "And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase" (Jeremiah 23:3). The Jewish people returned to the Promised Land of Canaan following the Babylonian exile. However, in 70 A.D., the Roman Empire attacked their capital of Jerusalem, destroying the Temple and most of the city. The population was scattered to other nations and remained without a homeland for nearly 1,800 years. Then in 1867, the empire ruling the region passed a law allowing foreigners to purchase property there.<sup>1</sup> Jewish people began doing so, and this was the beginning of the return of the Children of Israel to the Promised Land.

*Israel will become a nation.* The prophet Isaiah foretold an incredible event by asking, "Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children" (Isaiah 66:8). This prophecy was fulfilled on May 14, 1948, when the Jewish Agency, led by David Ben-Gurion, proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel. On the same day, President Truman recognized Israel as a sovereign nation. The rebirth of Israel in a single day was nothing less than a miracle. The moment the declaration was made, the armies of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen attacked the new nation, trying to destroy it. The battle was seven armies against one, but God gave Israel the victory, and she remains a nation to this day.

*Jerusalem will be restored as the capital.* God chose Jerusalem to be the center of worship for His people, declaring, "In this house [the Temple], and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever" (2 Chronicles 33:7). However, in 1948, the Arab coalition captured the portion of the city containing the Temple Mount, and Jordan was given oversight of it. This changed in June of 1967 when Israel made a surprise and preemptive but defensive military strike on the

combined forces of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. Though outnumbered two-to-one in troops and three-to-one in aircraft and tanks, Israel prevailed. Not only that, the nation regained full control of Jerusalem. Then on May 14, 2018, the United States became the first nation to formally recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, exactly seventy years after Israel had miraculously become a nation.

*The third Temple will be built.* Daniel 9:27 states in part, "... and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease ... ." This indicates that during the Tribulation period, the Temple sanctuary will be in existence. As of today, the third Temple has not been built. However, the priests have been trained, the instruments have been prepared,<sup>2</sup> and the red heifer needed for purification purposes has been obtained.<sup>3</sup> The fig tree is putting forth her leaves just as Jesus said. The end-time clock is counting down.

### How will end-time events unfold?

Several passages in the Bible outline the sequence of events that will take place in the last days, including Daniel 9:24-27, Matthew 24, and Revelation 6-19. From these and other Scriptures, we understand that a world leader, identified as the Antichrist, will rise to power through the means of peaceful diplomacy. Then, according to Daniel 9:27, he will confirm a covenant with Israel. The word translated *confirm* in that verse means "to make stronger." This suggests that when the Antichrist comes to power, there will already be an agreement in place, which he will strengthen.

Currently in the Middle East, there is an effort to normalize



relations between Israel and the surrounding nations through agreements called the *Abraham Accords*. Each agreement is a declaration emphasizing peace, and states in part, “We believe that the best way to address challenges is through cooperation and dialogue, and that developing friendly relations among States advances the interests of lasting peace in the Middle East and around the world. We pursue a vision of peace, security, and prosperity in the Middle East and around the world.”<sup>4</sup> These declarations could be the next step in preparing the way for the Antichrist.

The confirmation of the covenant will mark the onset of the seven-year period commonly known as the Tribulation. John the Revelator foretold that during the initial phase of the Tribulation, when the second seal is opened, “power was given to him that sat thereon to

► “When all seems lost, the Revelation of Christ will take place.”

take peace from the earth” (Revelation 6:4), suggesting a time of peace, perhaps worldwide. Additionally, the Apostle Paul wrote that “when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them” (1 Thessalonians 5:3), likely referring to the Tribulation. That period, also known as “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7), will be marked by unthinkable destruction on earth dominated by war, famine, natural catastrophes, and death. Jesus said of this period in history, “And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved” (Matthew 24:22). Just prior to the start or during the initial stages of the Tribulation, Israel will build the third Temple and reinstate the sacrificial system. However, at the mid-point, the Antichrist will break the covenant, cause the Temple sacrifices to cease, and require the world to worship him.

During the first half of the Tribulation, with the Antichrist governing, Israel will have had a false sense of peace and security. The second half of this time period, known as the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21), will culminate with the kings of the world launching an attack

on Jerusalem that leads to the Battle of Armageddon. When all seems lost at this battle, a remnant of the remaining Jewish people will cry out to God, and the Revelation of Christ will take place. Jesus will return to earth with His glorified saints to defeat the Antichrist and world powers, and the surviving Jews will at last acknowledge Him as the true Messiah (Revelation 19:11-21; Zechariah 14:1-4).

## What is our hope?

Some people worry about who the Antichrist is and whether he is already on the earth and rising to power. However, we don’t need to be concerned with that. Those of us who have repented of our sins and maintained our allegiance to Christ will be raptured before God’s judgments are poured out on the Antichrist’s evil reign.

In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul wrote of a glorious event awaiting us. He said, “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

We have hope that this event, the Rapture of the Church, will take place before the Tribulation begins. One of many reasons is found in the Book of Revelation, which records a vision given to the Apostle John while he was in exile. He was shown an overview of earth’s history from the time of the Early Church and told to write down what he saw. In chapters 2 and 3, he referenced the Church seven times. Then, in chapter 4, he “looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter” (verse 1). From that point onward, as the events of the Tribulation unfolded before his eyes, John did not mention the Church.

By observing that nearly all the prophetic signs pointing to the Tribulation have been fulfilled, we can be certain that the return of Christ is



## OUR BLESSED HOPE

- 16 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
- 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

— 1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-17

imminent. At any moment, we could hear the sound of the Trumpet and be caught up to meet Jesus in the air. That is an event we do not want to miss! Are you ready?



Reverend Erik Calhoun is the youth pastor at the headquarters Apostolic Faith Church in Portland, Oregon.

<sup>1</sup> Ruth Kark, “Consequences of the Ottoman Land Law: Agrarian and Privatization Processes in Palestine, 1858-1918,” *Societies, Social Inequalities, and Marginalization: Marginal Regions in the 21st Century*, ed. Raghbir Chand, Etienne Nel, Stanko Pelc (Switzerland: Springer Cham, 2017), pages 101-119.

<sup>2</sup> Temple Institute, “About Us,” Temple Institute, accessed October 7, 2025, [www.templeinstitute.org](http://www.templeinstitute.org).

<sup>3</sup> Dvir Amar, “Israeli News,” *Israel National News*, March 28, 2024, [www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com).

<sup>4</sup> United States Department of State, *The Abraham Accords Declaration*, Washington DC, [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov).



BY ZAC OYEDOKUN

# “ANYWHERE HE LEADS ME, I WILL GO”

Zac’s lifelong journey with Jesus began when he found the peace he longed for as a troubled teen.

A

s I was growing up, my family only attended church occasionally. We mainly

went during holidays like Christmas, New Year’s, and Easter. My mother loved God, but she had not found real salvation. My father was polygamous, so there was competition in the family. Because of that, my mother felt her need for a Savior and had a personal interest in God. She would tell me to go to revival services, and that planted a love for church in my heart, though I was too young to understand what the Gospel was about.

In our community in Nigeria, many people worshipped idols and practiced spiritualism. As I grew older, I began to fear evil spirits and realized my need for protection from them. I knew that was beyond my abilities; it would take supernatural power to give me security and peace of mind. All my peers were seeking power from dark sources, but my mother told me, “No, you must pray.” Still, I really didn’t know how to overcome my fear of evil spirits.



*Zac with his wife, Comfort. »*

## Fear vs. Freedom

### BEFORE SALVATION:

Anxiety about evil spirits, insecurity, searching for protection.

### AFTER SALVATION:

Peace of mind, security in Jesus, no more fear.



*“God told me, ‘Don’t worry.’ That really put my mind at ease . . . He gave me the promise, ‘I am your exceeding great reward.’”*

When I was about age fifteen, an American missionary came to my school to teach a religious studies class. She went the extra mile to teach not only the letter of the course, but the spirit of the course. Often when she taught, she would be so moved that she would cry. We students actually made fun of her for that, but her tears registered as conviction in my heart. I remember her telling us, “You need to give your life to Jesus.” She also said that if we had Jesus, we would have no reason for fear, and that was exactly what I needed to hear.

### No more fear

I decided to give my teacher’s message a chance, to see if Jesus could take away my fear and insecurity. One day I prayed and gave my life to God. Afterward, I found I was different. My speech and conversation were better, and I started paying attention in class. All of a sudden, I realized my fear and insecurity were gone! I was so happy. Then I

knew that what our teacher had told us was true.

Although I did not have much guidance about how to be a Christian, God helped me. Reading my Bible and praying became regular habits in my life. I would always start my day by praying and would pray again before sleeping.

I had been popular at school and was a DJ (disc jockey), so I was used to going to a lot of parties. There were some Christian students around who were very careful about their lifestyle—they did not have boyfriends and girlfriends, and they never went to parties—but that seemed too strict to me. That was not the type of Christian I wanted to be. However, God soon changed my

### Key Scriptures



#### PSALM 91:4

“He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust.”



#### Genesis 15:1

“I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.”



#### 2 Timothy 4:7-8

“... I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.”

mind. At the last party I went to, a riot broke out, and I could have been killed if God had not protected me. Through that, God showed me that I *needed* to be holy. I told God I did not want worldly things in my life anymore, and He helped me to stop going to clubs and to stay away from relationships that would have been detrimental to me. Then I was able to focus on my studies, and my grades improved exponentially.

## The value of sound doctrine

In my town, I met some older students who were also Christians. They felt a burden to know God more, so we started studying the Bible together. Soon, we began to experience a spiritual awakening, and my life began to change even more. I started going to revival services and loved them. Wherever they were held, I would go.

Our group gathered regularly for worship and fellowship. After our meetings, most people would just go home, but one brother was from the Apostolic Faith Church and he would invite people to his house for prayer. He also encouraged us to go to his church’s camp meeting in Lagos, even offering to pay our way. I resisted and found excuses not to go, but a few others went. When they returned, they started telling me about the doctrine of entire sanctification. I didn’t understand the doctrine and did not think it was a real experience. I fully rejected what they were saying, telling them, “You’ve just become dogmatic theologians.”

Thank God, the brother from the Apostolic Faith was patient with me and continued to be a real friend. An Apostolic Faith branch was just starting in our town, using his house as the place of worship. God helped me

## Sound Doctrine Matters

“In His goodness, God helped me to understand the sound doctrines of the Bible, without which I never would have lasted as a Christian.”





Scenes from the 2025 Namibia camp meeting.

see that the people there lived stable Christian lives. Even the younger ones lived faithfully, both during school and after school. My desire was to be like that, and God made it clear to me that I could not benefit from something if I rejected it. He showed me how I had been arrogant and stubborn, and that I was actually in the wrong.

In 1971, when God revealed that to me, I humbled myself and said, “If that is the case, I will start over from the beginning, because I want to be like these people.” I asked the Lord to help me to understand. I studied the church literature, and the teachings registered in my heart. I was willing to start over and do my first works again, and God renewed the experience of salvation in my heart. I asked Him to sanctify me, and He let me know without a doubt that I was sanctified. He actually showed me that He had already sanctified me a couple of years before—when I had prayed to be holy after the party that turned into a riot. Back then, I had not known that asking to be holy was the same as asking to be sanctified, but it is, and that is what God had done. Once

the question of sanctification was settled in my heart, it was not long until God baptized me with His Holy Spirit. That empowerment saw me through high school successfully with a clean record.

Looking back, I really thank God for the way He humbled me. Before that time, I was reading the teachings of several different evangelists, and I might have ended up joining any of their churches. In His goodness, God helped me to understand the sound doctrines of the Bible, without which I never would have lasted as a Christian. The sound doctrines are what have kept me in the faith for over fifty years. They are the reason the Apostolic Faith Church has stood the test of time for more than one hundred years—not just holding steady, but growing! This Gospel is wonderful and I thank God for it.

### It pays to serve Jesus

In 1973, I proceeded to a university located in the city of Zaria. A small Apostolic Faith branch was just starting near the school, and the same brother from my hometown traveled hundreds of kilometers

to introduce me to the pastor! Meetings were first held in the pastor’s home and then moved into a primary school building until we could erect our own place of worship. Some people called us “The Weeping Church” because we were often moved to tears during church services. Some of my peers would even tease me, saying, “Who is beating you?” or “Be a man.” My response was, “No, it’s the Spirit of God making me cry.”

Early on, I decided to leave the matter of marriage in God’s hands. One day, when I was in my mid-twenties, a sister entered our church and the thought came to me: *That is your wife*. The thought seemed like a distraction to me, so I pushed it aside. But in prayer, God let me know the thought was from Him. Her name was Comfort. I was hesitant to contact her initially, but the Spirit of God was faithful in urging me to do so. When I did, she confirmed that God had been dealing with her in the same way. We married in 1978, and Comfort has been the best partner I ever could have had. In time, God also gave us four children.

After finishing university and completing a year of compulsory government service, God called our family to serve at the church in Zaria, so we returned there. At the time it felt as if the decision was an offering to the Lord, but He had a blessing in store for us. It pays to serve Jesus! In a miraculous way, I received a scholarship to complete a PhD program at Cardiff University in England. During the three-year program, I traveled to attend church services at our Peckham church in London. I have never regretted making a decision for God.

Over the years, I have experienced God’s protection many times, but one incident

## God’s Protection in the Air

In June 1995, Zac boarded a small plane with about eighty passengers for a short flight to Lagos. As the aircraft attempted to land, the pilot lost control, and it overran the runway. Panic broke out as people rushed to the front of the plane, but Zac cried out, “Jesus!” and felt the Spirit of God urging him to remain calm. Moments later, the plane crashed into a ditch and caught fire. Sixteen passengers died, but Zac escaped without even a broken bone.

**“It seemed like a dream, but God’s protection was real.”**





*The 2024 Christmas concert at the Namibia headquarters church in Windhoek.*

stands out. In June of 1995, I needed to take a flight to Lagos. It was a short flight and we were in a small aircraft with about eighty people on board. As we were landing, the pilot lost control of the plane and we overran the runway. Everyone knew we were in imminent danger. Immediately I called out, “Jesus!” and the Spirit of God just urged me to keep calm. People began rushing forward to get to an exit, but I did not rush. Some of those people who ran to the front were killed when the plane crashed into a ditch and then caught on fire. I waited until I was directed to an exit, and then jumped from the plane and ran to safety. Sixteen people died in the accident, but I did not even have a broken bone! I could hardly believe what had happened; it seemed like a dream. But the crash was real, and God’s protection was just as real.

## **A new country**

In the late 1990s, our family was happily serving God together in Zaria. Our children were all in school, we were helping a few new churches become

established, and I was working at the university and running my own business. It seemed everything was going so well. Then, God told me, “Get ready for relocation.” He also put a song in my heart: “To the regions beyond I must go.” This call from God was difficult because it was the first time He asked me to make a commitment before revealing when or where He was leading. He was calling me to make a proactive consecration! He was teaching me to pray, “Anywhere He leads me, I will go.”

Soon, there was a need for assistance at our church in Namibia, and I was asked to go there for a year. It seemed too difficult to step away from my responsibilities in Zaria, but God let me know that He wanted me to go. He opened doors in such a way that there was even a job waiting for me there. After wrestling with the decision, I finally surrendered to His will. In that moment, the peace of God flooded my heart—it felt like when I was first saved. I was so happy! There was no doubt that was the right decision.

My plan was to stay in Namibia for two years and

*“It seemed everything was going so well. Then, God told me, ‘Get ready for relocation.’ He also put a song in my heart: ‘To the regions beyond I must go.’ This call from God was difficult because it was the first time He asked me to make a commitment before revealing when or where He was leading.”*

then return home to my family. In fact, the week I left, the foundation was laid for our new house in Nigeria. However, God had a different plan. I arrived in Namibia in 2002 and was leading a program called Christian Aid Volunteers, an initiative God gave us to explore. Through the program, students would come to study in Namibia and also support the church there.



(Left) Zac with  
 children from  
 the Windhoek  
 church.  
 (Right) A 2017  
 youth service in  
 Namibia.



*“God is  
 wonderful!  
 His plans  
 for us are  
 always best.”*

To my surprise, two fellow ministers allowed their sons to join the program. Then my son also decided to join, so he came to live with me. Then another of my children also applied and was granted admission. Soon, all of my children had joined me in Namibia! My wife had been visiting frequently and started looking for employment. Once she was hired, she was able to relocate as well. Rather than me returning to my family, God had put us all together in Namibia. Over twenty years later, we are all still here serving God.

### **Not worried**

By remaining in Namibia, I had to walk away from my pension at the university I had worked for in Zaria. Initially, that troubled me. It seemed like a great loss because I had been working toward that pension for twenty-five years. But while praying about it, God told me, “Don’t worry.” That really

put my mind at ease, and I was able to decide not to return for the pension but to stay where God wanted me to be. He gave me the promise, “I am your exceeding great reward.” Now, every time it comes to mind, I feel very happy because it reminds me that God told me I have nothing to worry about! That is worth much more than a pension.

Our congregations in Namibia are mostly immigrants and refugees, so there are many challenges among us. Even so, the people have generous hearts and God has been our Provider. He proved Himself again recently while I was at camp meeting in Portland, Oregon. During the camp, a message came from home saying that the audio mixer at our church had stopped working. We needed that equipment for the online services that some of our congregations depend on, so I was concerned. After praying about the matter,

the Lord reminded me that I do not need to worry. This is not my work; this is *God’s* work. When He calls and commissions, He will also support.

Before camp meeting ended, I was told that someone had given an offering for the church in Namibia! Even before the mixer had broken, God already knew how He would provide a new one. He is so good. I told our church members, “Don’t worry, I am bringing a new one home with me.”

God is wonderful! His plans for us are always best. We may encounter challenges, but this is a victory road and I am rejoicing with Jesus along the way. The balance of my life I have given to Him.

Reverend Zac Oyedokun is the Apostolic Faith District Superintendent of Namibia, and pastor of the headquarters church in Windhoek.



# Evidence

**RICH BARRETT**  
Portland, Oregon

## PERSONAL TESTIMONIES OF THE POWER OF GOD



*“God saved me, and the song ‘Trust and Obey’ came to my heart. That sentiment has held me through the years. God doesn’t ask any more of us really than to trust and obey Him.”*

### **WHEN I WAS ABOUT ONE YEAR OLD, MY PARENTS HAD A PARTY AND I DECIDED TO LEAVE IT ON MY OWN. I**

don’t know whether I crawled or walked, but I made my way to the train tracks thirty feet from our house. My parents have said that their party was going full force when they heard the train whistle start to blow. Suddenly, they thought, *Where is Richie?* The train could not stop right away and flew on by with the horn blowing the whole time. When it did get stopped, the conductor came running back, thinking he had killed me. He said I had been sitting in the middle of the tracks. My parents didn’t see me anywhere at first, but then found me about five feet away from the tracks sitting in a little stream. The Lord preserved my life that day.

Shortly after that incident, my grandmother passed away, and then my grandfather invited my parents to attend a Portland camp meeting service. My dad, who had been saved as a boy but had backslid, agreed to go out of respect for his father. After the service, he went to the altar and prayed, and God saved him. He went home that night and placed his wet handkerchief on my mom’s lap and told her, “I’m saved.” She wasn’t very happy about that and said, “You go your way and I’ll go mine.”

A day or two later, my dad went to another church service and my mom went outside to the rose garden to do some pruning. My dad’s conversion, as well as my grandmother’s passing and my close encounter with death, were weighing heavy on her mind. As she

cut away the dead blossoms and leaves from the rose bushes, God showed her these were like the sins in her life. It wasn’t long afterward that she too went to church and was saved.

From that time forward, I grew up in a home where the Gospel was everything. We went to church three or four nights a week. When we were not at church, we played church. Sometimes Mom and Dad hired a babysitter from down the street, and we would hold a little church service with her in attendance. I would preach, and she heard the full Gospel, though I don’t know what impact it had.

When I was about ten years old, tragedy struck our family. While on vacation at the beach, my sister drowned right in front of me. My brother Rob was also pulled from the ocean more

dead than alive, but he survived. This was a traumatic experience, but it did not turn me against God, because I saw God’s love for us demonstrated in our home.

While I was still young, I asked God to come into my heart. It was camp meeting time, and on one hot evening, I looked for a place to be alone. I don’t remember if I was bashful about praying or if I just wanted to get away from the noise of the campground. I went to my dad’s 1956 Pontiac, got inside and knelt on the seats covered in plastic, and prayed. God saved me, and the song “Trust and Obey” came to my heart. That sentiment has held me through the years. God doesn’t ask any more of us really than to trust and obey Him. I am thankful for this Gospel and everything He has done for me.

– Rich Barrett



BY ROLLAND DELER

# A HEART FOR HAITI

The founder of the Apostolic Faith work on the Caribbean island of Haiti tells his story.

W

hen I was a child growing up in Haiti, my parents were idol worshipers. One night my

dad took me to the cemetery where his father was buried. At the gravesite, he prayed to my grandfather, asking him to guide and protect me. Then he gave me a lit candle to place on the grave. We returned home before dawn so that no one would know that we had been out.

Later, the Lord sent an elderly Christian man to our house to share the Gospel with us. My mom was at the market, but the man spoke with my dad as I listened. My dad said that he would wait until his wife returned to make a decision. When she came home, they both agreed that they wanted to come into the Gospel. However, my parents had a concern. Their house was built on my grandmother's land, and she was an idol worshiper. In Haiti, children are expected to follow the path their parents take. This could have been a major obstacle for them, but the Lord laid it on the elderly man's heart to give my parents a portion of his land. Within just a few days, my







*The Aquin church was dedicated in 2010 as the second Apostolic Faith Church in Haiti.* [↗](#)

dad built a little house on that land without my grandmother's knowledge. Then we fled our home during the night and moved to the new location. After we were in the new house, my parents gave their hearts to Christ.

When I was fourteen years old, God helped me realize that I needed to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. He saved me, and from then on, He kept His hand on me for guidance, keeping me from doing wrong things as I grew up. Truly, God protected and loved me. Later, I was water baptized and also received the experiences of sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

When I finished school, I became a tailor. Then in 1973, I married my wife, Rosita, and the Lord blessed us with seven children.

### **From Idols to Christ**

Rolland's family once worshiped idols and visited the cemetery to pray to ancestral spirits. But when the Gospel came to their home, they left everything behind to follow Christ.

Eventually I became a Sunday school superintendent at the church where I attended. One day, I was very ill. A group of people from the church came to spend the night praying for me. While they were praying, I fell asleep and had a dream that the pastor of the church came and offered me a plate of sweet potatoes. As he did, he said, "Brother Rolland, the Lord has sent this to you. Take it and eat it." I ate what was on the plate. Then the pastor said, "Your work is done, but God has something extra for you to do." He showed me a plate with a sweet potato on it that was bigger than any I had ever seen. He said, "The Lord says that you will eat around it, but you will never finish it." When I awoke, I shared my dream with those who had been praying. One of them said, "The Lord has some bigger responsibility for you." A few months later, I became the pastor of the small church that the elderly Christian man who first witnessed to my family attended.

After becoming a pastor, our financial situation suffered, and I began seeking God's help in prayer. In 1980, He opened

## **Haiti at a Glance**

### **RELIGION**



Largely Roman Catholic blended with Vodou practices, but evangelical Christianity has grown steadily in recent decades.

### **RESILIENCE**



Despite poverty and political instability, Haitians are known for their strong community life, music, art, and faith.

### **POPULATION & LANGUAGE**



With nearly 12 million people, it is the largest Creole-speaking nation in the world.

### **ECONOMY**



Poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with most people living on less than \$3 a day.

### **CURRENT CRISIS**



Armed gangs have overtaken large parts of the country, displacing thousands. Many live in hiding or face severe food shortages.



# OUTREACH MINISTRY IN HAITI

**1995**

Apostolic Faith work begins in Haiti.

**2003**

First church dedicated in Mirebalais.

**2010**

Second church dedicated in Aquin.

**2012**

Third church dedicated in L'asile.

**2010s**

Steady growth to about thirty churches across the country.

**2020**

Work hindered by political unrest and gang violence, with leaders unable to reach several congregations.

**Today**

Believers remain scattered but steadfast; prayer and support for Haiti continue.

## A Call to Pray for Haiti

The challenges facing Haiti today are immense—political instability, violence from armed gangs, poverty, and hunger. Many believers have been displaced, and in some areas churches have been cut off from contact for years.



⤴ *The Savane La Coupe church in Mirebalais was dedicated in 2012.*

a door for our family to move from Haiti to St. Maarten, where I found work as a land surveyor.

We attended a church there for five years, but eventually felt we had to leave because they were doing some wrong things. For a time, we were not attending church, so I started a prayer meeting in my apartment. The first meeting was attended by sixty-four people, and within two months, we had built our own meeting place.

We did not have a name for our church, so we prayed about it. During this time, I met a man who shared with us the teachings of the Apostolic Faith Church. Through our conversations, I realized that I had not understood all the true doctrines of the Bible before. I began meeting with the pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in St. Maarten to study doctrine, and I have not regretted that decision for one day.

In 1986, Reverend Algernon Blyden came from the Apostolic Faith Church in St. Thomas to visit our group and to share with us a greater understanding of the Bible doctrines. He was a mentor to me and taught me how to seek God's favor and draw closer to Him.

While we were living in St. Maarten, the Lord continued to speak to my heart about

the spiritual needs in Haiti. I wrote a letter to the leader of the Apostolic Faith work in Portland, Oregon, asking him to establish churches there. He wrote back that the leaders of the church would pray about it, and if it was God's will, it would be done. Then he passed away. When his successor made a trip to St. Maarten, I brought the needs in Haiti to his attention, and he agreed to help me carry the Gospel work there.

We started the Apostolic Faith work in Haiti in 1995 and dedicated our first church there in 2003. Our second church was dedicated in 2010 and our third in February of 2012. The Lord blessed and continued to prosper the work, and in time we grew to about thirty churches.

Meanwhile, God has had His hand over me personally, sparing my life many times. In January of 2003, as I was working on our first church building, the brakes went out on a truck I was driving. I was at the top of a hill, so I began looking for the best place to die, but the Lord told me to shift into first gear. I did what the Lord said, and the truck stopped in the middle of the hill.

In recent years, the political situation in Haiti has declined drastically as armed gangs have gained more and more



## PLEASE PRAY

- For **safety and provision** for scattered believers.
- For **peace** to return to Haiti.
- For the **Gospel** to **continue to spread** despite opposition.

control of the country. Consequently, for around six years we have not been able to contact the leaders and believers in about twelve of our churches which are in the eastern side of Haiti. It has been impossible to travel safely across the country to see them. Then in 2024, the gangs took over the capital of Port-au-Prince, which made everything even more unsafe.

My hometown is Mirebalais, and we had just completed the construction of our headquarters church there.

Then at six o'clock in the morning on March 31, 2025, while I was in my home sleeping, I heard somebody call, "Pastor Rolland, you'd better wake up because those gangsters are taking over the city!" The police station had been taken first, and then the gangsters broke into the jail and let all the criminals out.

Thank God, my wife was already safe in the United States with our daughter. I also thank God that I had a car, so myself and the four other people who were in my house at the time quickly put what we could into the car and fled for our lives. We chose the road to Cap-Haitien, the second largest city in the country. That trip is 144 kilometers (90 miles) and would normally take about four hours to travel, but that day it took us until 10:30 at night.

When the armed gangs come into an area, they burn houses and property, take everything they can get, and kill people. So the people in the cities, including those from our churches, scatter. Now we have no way to find out where many of them are or how they are surviving. Many are existing in the bush and starving. Please pray for Haiti and God's people there.

I thank God for miraculously sparing my life that day. The gangs took my home, but one thing they cannot take is my testimony. I know victory is mine and I will continue with God to the end. My heart is, and always will be, consecrated to God. We are trusting Him to help.

Reverend Rolland Deler became an Apostolic Faith pastor in 1985 and served several congregations in both Haiti and St. Maarten. He also served as District Superintendent of Haiti from 2003 to 2025. Over the years, he oversaw construction of twelve church buildings and two schools, laboring as a hands-on contractor in each project. He is unable to return to his homeland indefinitely due to the threat of violence, but he and his wife were able to relocate to a safe location. At the 2025 Portland camp meeting, Brother Rolland was honored for his many years of service to the Lord and formally retired from his leadership role, though he continues to serve as a Board Member for the Eastern Caribbean work and supports the believers in Haiti whenever he is able to make contact with them.

## 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 NEW DAILY DEVOTIONAL SERIES

The new series offers brief lessons from God's Word with practical application.



We are excited to be launching a second **Daily Devotional** series on January 1, 2026. The lessons are a simple way to help believers stay focused

on the truths of God's Word throughout the week. Each one begins with a focus verse from Scripture, followed by a short illustration that relates a basic principle for Christian living. Topics will have real-life application in areas such as planning for the future, staying in tune with God's Spirit, protecting our faith, finding ways to serve God, and more. And on special occasions like Easter and Christmas, the topic will be related to the themes of that holiday.

This **Daily Devotional** series will be published in addition to our current *Daybreak* series, allowing the option to use either one, or both. The lessons in this second series are shorter and simpler than *Daybreak*, making them suitable for young or old, or for families to read together. It is also shareable on all platforms, so you can easily forward them to a friend or family member who might need encouragement.

The **Daily Devotional** is a great way to start or end your day—in God's Word. We pray these brief lessons from the Bible will inspire and encourage you in your walk with the Lord, one day at a time!



## THREE WAYS TO ACCESS THE DAILY DEVOTIONAL SERIES



### Listen on your favorite podcast platform.

The Daily Devotional will be available in audio format on all major podcast platforms, including:

- Apple Podcasts
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Search for *Apostolic Faith Daily Devotional* and click “Follow” or “Subscribe” to have each new episode downloaded to your device daily.



### Read on our website or app.

The full text of the Daily Devotional (with an optional audio player) will be published on our website and app.

- **Website:** Bookmark [apostolicfaith.org/daily-devotional](http://apostolicfaith.org/daily-devotional), and check back each day.
- **App:** Open the Apostolic Faith app and look for the *Daily Devotional* button on the “Study” tab. If you don’t already have our app, you can find it by searching for *Apostolic Faith* in your app store, or use the links at [apostolicfaith.org/app](http://apostolicfaith.org/app). It is available for both phones and tablets.



### Subscribe by email.

The text and audio version of the Daily Devotional can be sent to your inbox each morning if you sign up for an email subscription.

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3. Enter your name and email address.
4. Click “Subscribe.”
5. Look for a confirmation email and be sure to open it and click “Yes, subscribe me to this list.”

## SAMPLE DEVOTIONAL

### Our Daily Planner

January 1, 2026

**FOCUS VERSE:** “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.” – Psalm 37:23

Several years ago, one of the gifts I found beneath our Christmas tree was a daily planner for the new year. My husband always wraps one for me that I use as a kind of journal. It helps us remember when we need to have the furnace checked, get the fireplace chimney cleaned, make dental appointments, etc. When the year has passed, it is helpful and interesting to be able to look back and see when special events were celebrated, where we were on a certain day, or what the weather was like on this day

last year. These planners are meant to help arrange one’s day, week, and even year.

It is good to have a plan, yet, in the end, it is God who plans a Christian’s day. He is looking at a bigger picture than just our lives—God has a plan for the whole world as well as for each individual in it. We do not always know what He has planned next, but what a wonderful and confident feeling it puts in our hearts to know that God is in control. When something goes differently than what we were counting on, we can trust that He

has already decided on something else for our day, and it will be far better in the end than what we were expecting.

We want our lives to accommodate God’s plans, and not to stubbornly insist on our own. When we are submitted to God, He can change our direction in a moment, and that is a good thing! If circumstances make us miss an event that we had wanted to be at, we can trust that we did not really miss anything at all. We might have even avoided something harmful,

or perhaps God wanted us somewhere else for a purpose of His own. God could be directing us to someone who needs to hear the Good News that Jesus saves!

Make your plans for today or next week, but always with the knowledge that they are subject to change if God so chooses. He has the very best plan for every day, and as the focus verse promises, we will be delighted in our way when we are following God’s path for us.

# Evidence

**ELIZABETH MIXER**  
Chehalis, Washington

**JANICE CALHOUN**  
Portland, Oregon

## PERSONAL TESTIMONIES OF THE POWER OF GOD



*“I don’t think I was at the altar for more than ten minutes when the Lord just poured His Spirit upon me, baptizing me.”*

**IN 2019, I WAS IN A BACKSLIDDEN CONDITION WHEN I CAME TO THE PORTLAND CAMP MEETING.** I had planned to get saved while there, and I am so thankful God did that for me. On July 10, 2019, God also sanctified me. Since then, I have gone through a lot of ups and downs spiritually.

I have had a lot of doubts, but God has been so good to assure me and keep me. During this year’s camp meeting, I felt that I needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I prayed on Friday, knowing that we were leaving on Sunday and there wasn’t much time left to receive it. I didn’t feel God’s Spirit much

as I prayed, but I just kept praising Him. I knew that even when I didn’t feel God’s presence, He was there, and His blessings would come down. I didn’t get my baptism on Friday night, but I kept praying. I couldn’t stop thinking about how I needed it. On Sunday morning, God dropped faith into my

heart, saying, “I’m going to baptize you today.” I don’t think I was at the altar for more than ten minutes when the Lord just poured His Spirit upon me, baptizing me. I am so thankful for everything God has done for me. I want to serve Him for the rest of my life. – Elizabeth Mixer



*“I felt His presence in the middle of tremendous stress. It was like He was saying, ‘I’ve got your back. I’m with you, you’re going to make it.’”*

**IT’S SO GOOD TO BE A CHRISTIAN.** My mom got saved in her twenties and started coming to this church along with myself and my sisters when I was about ten years old. I gave my heart to the Lord when I was a child and consecrated my life. I’ve had a wonderful life and I’m so thankful that I’m saved, sanctified, baptized with the Holy Spirit, and on my way

to Heaven. The Lord tells us that when we do cross over to Heaven, He’ll be right there to help us make that journey too.

Last year, I walked through the “valley of the shadow of death.” I was diagnosed with cancer that caused double vision and other symptoms, as well as side effects from the treatments. But I felt just like that picture of the

footprints in the sand, where you see two sets of prints and then all of a sudden just one set. I felt like the Lord and I were walking together, and then all of a sudden He was carrying me. I felt His presence in the middle of tremendous stress. It was like He was saying, “I’ve got your back. I’m with you, you’re going to make it.”

I feel such a debt to the Lord, and such a

debt to everyone who prayed for me and supported me. I was bestowed with food for about six months! My doctor asked, “Where do you know these people from who are so nice to you?” I said, “They’re my people.” Many times during this journey, I was able to talk about the Lord. I thank Him for everything He has done for me. – Janice Calhoun



*“We were thankful this happened during the night—none of the women who garden were harmed, and the daycare next door was unaffected. God saved us from calamity.”*

**AT OUR CHURCH IN OCEANSIDE, WE DISCOVERED THAT OUR CHIMNEY WAS UNSTABLE.** We called a contractor and told him to take the chimney down, that

we no longer needed it. He said he would need to put up scaffolding, and though we didn’t have his bid yet, we understood that the project would cost a lot of money. This was

a concern. However, before the contractor was able to start the work, a strong wind came up overnight and took down the stack. We were thankful this happened during the

night—none of the women who garden were harmed, and the daycare next door was unaffected. God saved us from calamity. May He be praised. – Alfred Ikotun



*“Some locals who heard of my experience said I was lucky to have escaped. I know it was the Lord who protected me with His promise.”*

**I WAS BORN INTO A CHRISTIAN HOME IN NIGERIA.** As a young person, I prayed to the Lord for salvation, and He saved my soul. Later, He gave me the other foundational Christian experiences and has guided me ever since.

During my walk with God, Psalm 121 has been very special to me. The last verse says, “The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time

forth, and even for evermore.” During my university days, I had an experience that will always cause me to praise God for His protection promised in this verse. I was attending university in a remote village where the people still believed in rituals and idol worship. One Sunday morning on my way to church, I had to walk through an isolated area to cut across to the bus stop. I was by myself,

walking briskly so that I would not be late, and I heard my name. Then someone urged, “Tolu, go back.” I thought that was strange and didn’t stop because I was on my way to church. However, when the strong Voice called to me the third time, I obeyed the prompting and stopped. I am so grateful to God for calling me, and that I listened. A few yards from where I turned back, there was a ritual going on. If I

had continued, my life would have been taken because it is forbidden to interrupt such things.

When I returned to the hostel, I was frightened but relieved. Some locals who heard of my experience said I was lucky to have escaped. I know it was the Lord who protected me with His promise. He preserved my going out and coming in. May His name be praised! – Tolu Ogunleye



# GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND GROWTH

A review of recent developments, obstacles to overcome, and goals for each region of our work.

**ACROSS CONTINENTS AND CULTURES** around the world, Apostolic Faith congregations continue to see the hand of God work in unique ways in their local communities. With a unified commitment to the Gospel and a reliance on God's help, workers in every region are pressing forward to reach more people with the message of hope through Jesus.

Following is an overview of our global work, including current challenges, areas of growth, and goals for the future. May the Lord continue to send laborers into His harvest, strengthen existing ministries, open new frontiers, and guide us as we earnestly contend for the faith.

## NORTH AMERICA

**CHURCHES AND GROUPS: 73**



▲ *An outdoor service in Hawaii.*

**WEST AND MIDWEST UNITED STATES:** One of the most encouraging recent developments in this district is the growth of Sunday school and youth programs in several congregations. We hope to continue building on that and reach young people who are hungry for the truth.

A door of opportunity has re-opened in Honolulu, Hawaii, where our former small church closed in 2008. About three years ago, one of our ministers moved there with his family, and they have been inviting people to

join them for simple church services. They have seen eight people receive salvation since their move to Hawaii, and about twenty-five now attend the weekly gatherings.

An opportunity has recently opened in Barrow, Alaska, centered around descendants of Paul Patkotak, an Inupiat Eskimo who was born in 1891 in a remote village in northern Alaska. In Brother Paul's youth, he came to Washington to learn English and was saved at our Seattle church in 1913. He became an Apostolic Faith minister and lived in that area for several years, but then returned to his Alaskan home. He prayed earnestly for revival among his native people until his passing in 1980. Last year, some of Brother Paul's grandchildren showed interest in reconnecting with their grandfather's church. In April of 2025, ministers traveled to Barrow and shared tracts and magazines that featured Brother Paul's testimony. Many of his relatives wept when they received them, and the ministers were invited back to hold church services. We are praying for a spiritual harvest in this land where

Brother Paul sowed the seed of the Gospel many decades ago.

Though Christianity has been in decline in the United States for some time and many are resistant to the faith, there are also encouraging signs of God working. We are especially asking God to raise up new ministers and pastors in this region.



▲ *Washington DC special meetings.*

## SOUTHERN AND EASTERN UNITED STATES:

In the last several years, new groups and churches have been added in six cities across this district. A variety of outreach and discipleship efforts have shown success, including kids' days, Vacation Bible Schools, food distribution, visitations to hospitals and institutions, and more. In addition, a Youth Steering Committee has been helpful

in coordinating youth events across the region.

A new collegiate ministry has also been initiated to help young people stay strong in their faith through their college years. The first one launched at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, where one of our ministers is a professor and was able to sponsor an official Apostolic Faith campus group. The hope is to implement this in other universities as well.

The leaders in this district noted a need for prayer regarding the Century, Florida, campground, which has been unusable for several years. Camp meetings are now being held in a rented facility, and wisdom is needed to know how to proceed in the long term.



▲ *Sunday school in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.*

**CANADA:** In most of our Canadian branches, the churches are growing and saints are enjoying wonderful services, programs, and special meetings. A new website with online resources is in development, and improvements are being made to the nationwide bookkeeping system. Updated property appraisals are now being done to enhance the churches' ability to secure funding for property acquisitions.

Our congregation in Headingly, Manitoba, has been thriving in recent years. It began as a small group in 2010, and in 2020, God provided the financial resources to purchase land to build a church. That building was dedicated in September of 2024

and the congregation now numbers over one hundred. More recently, new groups have also started in Regina, Saskatchewan, and Moncton, New Brunswick.

One challenge has been holding national gatherings. The Canada headquarters is in Newfoundland, which is difficult to reach, limiting the number who can attend camp meetings and youth camps. Therefore, the decision was made that beginning in 2026, camp meeting will be held in Headingly (in central Canada), and a second youth camp will be held in Edmonton (in western Canada).

## CARIBBEAN

### CHURCHES AND GROUPS: 84



▲ *Camp meeting in St. Thomas.*

**EASTERN CARIBBEAN:** We have twenty-six churches in this district, with headquarters on the island of St. Thomas, USVI. One major challenge throughout the region is the need for ongoing building repairs due to frequent severe weather conditions. However, the saints are thankful for a headquarters church building that is large enough to accommodate the annual camp meeting and other combined special meetings.



▲ *Water baptism in the Dominican Republic.*

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** Our thirty-two churches in this country

*Although the challenges may be great, there is nothing greater than our God.*

enjoy vibrant Sunday school and youth programs. They hold regular combined meetings, retreats, and workshops, and in the past year they rejoiced to see over one hundred saved. They set a national goal to double their numbers by having every church member win one soul for Christ.



▲ *Headquarters church in Haiti.*

**HAITI:** Though we have eighteen churches and a primary school in Haiti, lawlessness in this nation has forced the saints to abandon several of our church locations, and the school is unable to operate. The saints in Haiti are in constant need of prayer for safety and provision.



▲ *An open-air meeting in Jamaica.*

**JAMAICA:** We have eight churches on this island, all with their own permanent meeting places. In November of 2025, a hurricane destroyed one church structure completely and removed the roof of another. In addition to addressing damages from that storm, there is a plan to add visitor lodging to the headquarters church, a Sunday school facility in Spanish Town, and a women's shelter in Christianna.

# SOUTH AMERICA

CHURCHES AND GROUPS: 12



▲ A service in Rauco, Chile.

Of the thirteen countries that comprise South America, we have churches in Brazil, Chile, and Peru. Since most of these congregations are located far from each other, combined online meetings are held to support and encourage the saints.

The primary goals in South America are:

- Equip more congregations with tools for online services.
- Hold regular combined online meetings in Peru and Brazil.
- Grow the Sunday school work in Brazil and embark on an outreach effort in Sao Paulo in 2026.
- Increase evangelism efforts in Chile.
- In Peru, improve the infrastructure of our Sunday school building in Iquitos and expand the work in the Lambayeque region.
- Continue efforts to start a work in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
- Hold an annual Pan-South America online service.

Camp meetings in South America had to be suspended several years ago, but an annual weekend of special meetings in Chile is set to commence in 2026. There is also hope to eventually build camp meeting facilities on our headquarters church

property in Chile. In Peru, we hope to develop the Lambayeque region to serve as a national gathering point.

# EUROPE

CHURCHES AND GROUPS: 41



▲ The Western Europe headquarters church.

**WESTERN EUROPE:** We have seen remarkable growth in this district, which is comprised of six churches and ten groups, as well as three Bible study centers. Most of the churches are in the United Kingdom, but we also have groups meeting in France, Germany, Spain, and Ireland. Plans are also in place to expand to Belgium, Northern Ireland, and Italy. The work is well established in this region, with youth camps, camp meetings, and other retreats being well attended and with many spiritual victories won.

Recently, the Western Europe headquarters in the Bexley neighborhood of London, England, was remodeled to include an expanded platform area, new offices, multipurpose rooms, a kitchen, an elevator, and a grand organ. The updated building was dedicated in September of 2025, and two new UK churches were also dedicated in recent years.

Key challenges include that many of our congregations have outgrown their current rented buildings or are yet to secure a permanent place of worship, and there are language and cultural barriers throughout the region. A new camp meeting site may also soon be needed as the current location cannot accommodate all who wish to attend. The saints in Western Europe are focused on encouraging more spiritual development, especially among youth and young families,

and expanding use of digital tools for evangelism.



▲ A Norway camp meeting service.

**SCANDINAVIA:** Our work in Scandinavia began in 1912, making it one of the oldest areas of our work. Yet, Christianity has been in decline in this part of the world for decades, making evangelism very difficult. Old-timers in the Scandinavian work have passed on, and much of society there now seems uninterested in the Gospel.

However, the light continues to shine out. Today we have two churches in Norway and one in Denmark. Camp meeting is held each year at a rented site in Norway, and people from throughout Scandinavia attend, as well as delegates from other parts of the world. The headquarters church in Stavanger publishes and distributes a monthly newsletter in Norwegian and also broadcasts devotional messages on local radio stations. They are praying that the Lord will ignite the youngest age groups to take a stand for the Gospel.



▲ A service in western Romania.

**ROMANIA:** Our work in Romania has seen remarkable growth since it began in 2000 with a single Sunday school. Today we have twenty-two churches there and the saints enjoy an annual camp meeting. More recently, it has been exciting to see new congregations established in



the southern region as well as successful missionary efforts in the northeastern part of the country.

One challenge stemming from this rapid growth is a need for more ministers and trained musicians in the new locations. There is also a need for pastors in several congregations where the current leaders are approaching retirement. Leaders in Romania are focused on helping the newer locations become established and obtain permanent places of worship. In particular, they are working to complete church building projects in Capu Dealului and at a campground site.

## AFRICA

**CHURCHES AND GROUPS: 2537**



▲ *Foot washing at Nigeria camp meeting.*

### WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA:

We have 164 churches in the twelve French-speaking countries of this district, and 932 churches in the six English-speaking countries, with the majorities of those (842) in Nigeria. Combined weekly attendance at these churches is usually over 100,000.

Camp meetings are held in seven countries, plus nine across Nigeria alone, with the largest gathering attended by over 20,000 at the headquarters in Faith City. Expansion of the campground there has been underway for over twenty years, with major progress in recent years. The semi-completed tabernacle was used in 2024 at the 80th anniversary of the work there. Outside of Nigeria, a new church was recently built

in Sierra Leone, and a campground water project in the Democratic Republic of Congo was completed.

Major obstacles in this region include prevailing lawlessness and violent religious persecution against Christians, especially in Nigeria. In addition, the economic situation has left many members living in impoverished conditions or leaving rural areas in search of work. This puts a strain on the churches they leave behind. Yet, the work continues to grow as young people are leveraging technology for “e-evangelism.” There is also hope to expand to eight more countries in this region, to find creative means of evangelism in places where Christian outreach is prohibited, and to address economic concerns in areas affected by poverty.



▲ *Sunday school at Malawi camp meeting.*

### SOUTHERN AND EASTERN

**AFRICA:** Our 770 churches and groups, spanning twenty-four countries in this district, have seen great success in evangelistic outreach efforts. New branches have been established and more resources are being offered online. Our members there have been able to build churches, campgrounds, and schools in various locations, and further construction will occur as resources allow. They hope to eventually expand to every country within the region. In addition, leaders here have oversight of the work in Pakistan.

One obstacle to achieving these goals is a lack of funding. To address economic needs, our leaders are attempting to generate sustainable income sources through a business development trust. Another challenge has been numerous administrative delays and legal

hurdles that slow church registration in new areas, especially in Tanzania, Angola, Rwanda, Malawi, Mozambique, and Lesotho. Economic instability, poverty, unemployment, and language barriers are also obstacles to overcome. Despite these challenges, the commitment to the faith across this region remains strong, and leaders are working to improve international collaboration and sharing of digital resources for evangelism and discipleship.

## ASIA

**CHURCHES AND GROUPS: 115**



▲ *The South Korea camp meeting choir.*

**EAST ASIA:** We have about thirty churches located in Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines, with a combined total of about 1,000 members. In Japan, less than 2% of the population are Christian, making evangelization difficult. A different challenge exists in the Philippines, where Catholicism is predominant. In addition, economic conditions there cause many members to leave the country to find work. Economic conditions in South Korea are good, but an extreme cultural work ethic hinders many from attending church.

Despite these challenges, positive developments are taking place in the region. At our only church in Japan, a new pastor was recently appointed after that role had been vacant for a few years following the retirement of their longtime pastor. In addition, the Kawasaki church building was beautifully renovated and re-dedicated in 2024. In South Korea, our saints are engaged in translating curriculum, tracts, and other literature for the church members there. In the Philippines, a new Fellowship Hall was recently renovated at the headquarters church where camp meetings are held.

Major goals across the district include continuing evangelistic efforts, training

the next generation in doctrinal unity and church practice, preparing new ministers and pastors, and building unity and cooperation across cultural and national barriers. Leaders are also praying for wisdom about how to pay off the debt for the new building in Japan, acquire lodging for camp meetings in the Philippines, and find a location for camp meeting and youth camp in South Korea.



▲ *A service in western India.*

**INDIA:** Our work in India began in 2006 and now includes eighty-one churches and groups spread across the western state of Maharashtra and southeastern state of Andhra Pradesh.

In the southeastern region, Vacation Bible School (VBS) has proven to be an extremely successful outreach over the years. The combined attendance at VBS in one year is sometimes close to five hundred, and many of the children give their hearts to Jesus. Another successful effort has been holding luncheons for widows and widowers. This is done to support individuals from the local congregation, but everyone is encouraged to bring a non-Christian guest. The luncheon includes a meal along with a time of singing, exhortation, and prayer, and a recent event was attended by over one hundred.

In the western part of India, there is a strong appetite for Christianity, but poverty and government restrictions have been restraining factors. Potential new strategies for this area include establishing schools (the majority of the population do not speak English) and training pastors. We hope to develop online Bible study curriculum to ensure uniform practices throughout our churches, and provide more Bibles in the Marathi language. We are also exploring the possibility of expanding our work to the neighboring countries of Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

Major challenges in India have been poverty, the threat of persecution, and legal restrictions on evangelism. Pastors are required to obtain certification to preach, and missionaries are not welcome. In addition, a lack of funding has prevented camp meetings from being held for several years, though there is a deep desire to resume.



▲ *A brick-laying ceremony in Pakistan.*

**PAKISTAN:** Our work in this country began in 2021 and now includes four churches in the northeastern region, with a total of about 730 members.

The population in this country is less than 2% Christian, with most who identify as Christian having a limited understanding of salvation. Evangelism is extremely challenging, and individuals who convert from Islam to Christianity often face severe persecution. However, those who are from generationally Christian families can practice their faith with relative freedom.

Despite the challenges, our evangelistic efforts among nominal Christians and people with no religious affiliation have been remarkably fruitful. During visits by our teams, many have received salvation. Bible distribution has been a vital component of this work; in 2025 alone, over 2,000 Bibles were given away. Our workers are committed to eventually evangelizing all 530 villages in the Toba Tek Singh region and surrounding areas.

Although Christians are permitted to practice their faith in Pakistan, they still face other hardships. They are considered second-class citizens, often excluded from mainstream society, and many live in chronic poverty. Our churches are working to address these challenges through economic initiatives for Christian families. We particularly request prayer for families trapped in

generational bonded labor in brick-kiln factories due to crushing debt.

We are currently in the process of legally registering our work in Pakistan. In May of 2024, land was purchased in Faisalabad for a headquarters church and office. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in March of 2025, and construction is underway on the perimeter wall and a small office, which are essential for completing the registration process.

## AUSTRALIA

### CHURCHES AND GROUPS: 4



▲ *Camp meeting in Sydney, Australia.*

Australia has six states and one main territory, and we currently have churches in four of those areas. A major challenge has been the price of real estate; Australia is the second least affordable nation in the world for housing. This has made it difficult to own a church facility where people can meet in person regularly. However, we have secured permanent places of worship in Sydney and Melbourne, with the latter acquisition made debt-free through wise investments and with God's help. In addition, a new group was launched in Brisbane in October of 2025, and another new group in Adelaide is anticipated in the coming year.

The believers in Australia enjoy an annual camp meeting in Sydney, as well as combined youth retreats and special meetings in other locations. There is an intense focus to develop the youth in the Gospel. To do that, a new initiative was implemented which sponsors young people to attend an out-of-country camp meeting. The saints are also focused on evangelism. With the aim of winning Australia for Christ, they are looking to expand the work to Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

BY MARY CARVER

# MIRACLES ON THE ROAD TO SALVATION

Answers to prayer in Mary's home left an indelible impression on her heart.

*Originally published in the March 1987 edition of this magazine.*



## God's Intervention

God proved His power in crisis—after healing eczema, to sparing lives in a rabid bobcat attack, to restoring a baby with smallpox—drawing Mary's family closer to Him.

My family moved from Oregon to a homestead in California when I was about a year old. Shortly after we moved, I developed a bad case of eczema. At that time, my parents were operating a small post office in our home. A paper was sent there from the Apostolic Faith Church in Portland, Oregon. My mother read it and learned that those people believed in divine healing. She wrote to them, requesting prayer for me, and was sent an anointed handkerchief which had been prayed over according to the example of Paul in Acts 19:12. When the handkerchief came, my mother placed it on my body in faith and prayed that the Lord would heal me. For many nights she had needed to sit up and hold me in order to prevent me from scratching, but that night she put me down, and I slept all night. The Lord had healed me. After that, we continued to receive the church papers and newsletters regularly.

Life on the homestead wasn't easy. One spring, while my father and brothers were clearing some land and burning sagebrush, the boys saw a



bobcat come across the field. It ran into one of the bonfires, and it came out fighting mad! The boys ran, but the cat was faster. It knocked down my brother, Ralph, and was clawing him. Papa heard the boys screaming, and he came running. Before he could get out his knife, the cat jumped on him too, sinking its claws into his leg and biting him. My father did kill the cat, but I still remember the terror we felt when we saw that animal and my injured father and brother.

They were taken to the nearest hospital, and it was found that the bobcat was rabid. As a result, my father became very ill. My mother remembered that God had answered prayer

for me, and she sent another request for prayer to Portland. She told me: "Pray for Papa. He is not saved, and he may not live." Though just a child, I remember the burden I felt because he wasn't ready to meet Jesus.

Three months later, my father came home from the hospital—very thin and on crutches, but he was home! When he thought about how near death he had been, he asked the Lord to talk to his heart again. He promised



## A Child's Prayer

***"Pray for Papa. He is not saved, and he may not live."***

Even as a child, the burden for her father's soul pressed heavily on Mary. That prayer became a turning point in her family's story.

he would pray if a preacher would come to hold meetings in the little schoolhouse nearby. God heard that promise. It wasn't long until a preacher came, and my father paid his vow and gave his heart to the Lord. What a change it made in our home!



Wanting to get back to the faith of his childhood, he moved our family to Waukena, California, to be near a church there. He was hungry for more of God, and when he heard about sanctification, he yielded to the Lord and was sanctified. Then he heard about the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and began to seek for that experience.

After the Sunday morning services, those who were hungry for the baptism of the Holy Ghost would stay and pray for it. One of the Sunday school teachers would take us children downstairs and tell Bible stories while we waited. One Sunday she asked if we would like to pray and give our lives to Jesus. As she prayed for us, the Lord put conviction on my heart. I cried, truly

me how glad he was that I was saved. I enjoyed being a Christian, but because I was so young, I didn't understand then how to continue in the faith. Yet, the Lord never ceased to talk to my heart.

My father received the baptism of the Holy Ghost in that church, but the congregation as a whole rejected it, so my parents began visiting other churches. Through reading the papers from the Apostolic Faith Church, he realized that they taught three definite experiences: justification, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

My grandmother on my mother's side decided to attend a camp meeting in Portland to see what those people were like. When she came home, she said, "It is wonderful! The greatest thing I have ever heard!" Her account made us all want to go.

Soon after that, my father became quite ill with a rheumatic condition. When he was better, the family decided to move, with the hope that another climate would help him. My parents held an auction and sold everything: cows, horses, saddles, harnesses, and household furnishings, and we moved to Klamath Falls, Oregon. We arrived on a Sunday afternoon, at a time when the Apostolic Faith Church in that town was holding tent meetings. I'll never forget the first meeting we were in. It really thrilled me.

Our trials were not yet over, but God was with us. Soon after we arrived in Klamath Falls, our family contracted smallpox. My youngest sister was born a month prematurely, and she broke out with smallpox too.



## Lasting Joy

***"Through the years, there has been joy in living for Jesus."***

Despite hardships, Mary's heart was full of gratitude and joy.

She was so sick and tiny that we didn't think she would live. In fact, the doctor didn't think it was necessary for him to come to our house again. He said he would sign the death certificate when she died. Once more a request was sent to Portland for prayer, and the Lord healed her!

The next two summers, we were able to travel to Portland for part of the camp meeting, and the third year we stayed longer. That year I was saved and sanctified, and the following year I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. From then on, our years revolved around camp meetings. As soon as one camp was over, we began saving our money and planning for the next year.

Through the years, there has been joy in living for Jesus. There is deep gratitude in my heart for the way the Lord guided our family in the way of truth. God has been so good to us!



## Grandma's Report

When she returned from camp meeting in Portland, Mary's grandmother could hardly contain her joy.

"It is wonderful! The greatest thing I have ever heard!"

Her testimony inspired the whole family to want the same experience.

sorry for the things I had done wrong. Even though I was just a child, I knew when the Lord forgave me and I was really saved. I was so happy!

I went upstairs to tell Papa what had happened. He was kneeling at the altar, and I still remember the feel of his big arms around me when he told



Mary Carver was the wife of Reverend Loyce Carver, the leader of the Apostolic

Faith work worldwide from 1965 until 1993. She served God faithfully and went on to her reward in 2000 at the age of eighty-five.

# 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](http://www.apostolicfaith.org). Before these magazines are sent out, they are always prayed over for the healing of the sick and the salvation of souls.

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*Jesus*  
THE LIGHT *of* THE WORLD