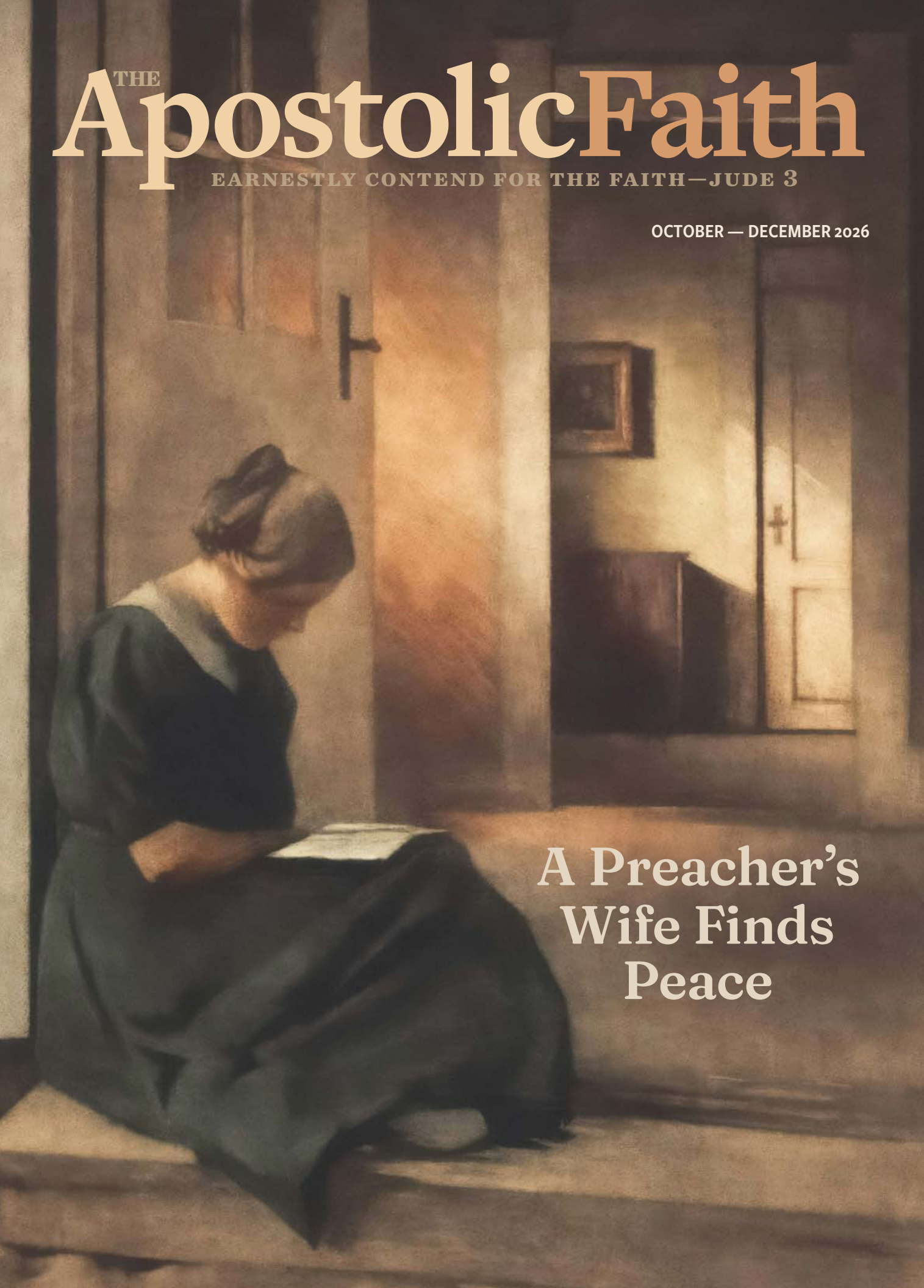




THE Apostolic Faith

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH—JUDE 3

OCTOBER — DECEMBER 2026

A Preacher's
Wife Finds
Peace

INSIDE

THE Apostolic Faith

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2026

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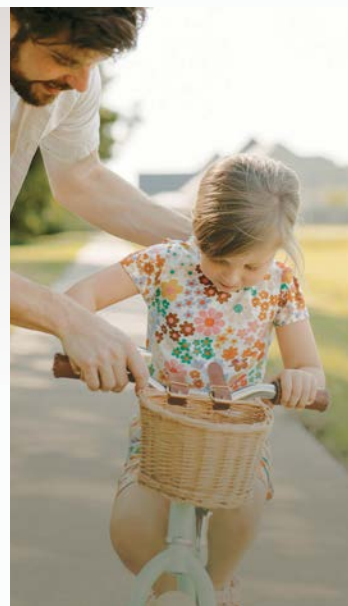
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VIEWPOINT

BY SOLA ADESOPE
SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL



At the heart of Christian service is a simple but searching question: **Am I willing to say yes to God?** The question does not always come with a clear understanding of where obedience will lead or what it will entail. Rather, it requires surrender to God's ways—a willingness to place our lives completely in His hands and to trust the One who calls us.

My personal story is like many others in this Gospel who were called to new fields of service. Several months before I was asked to serve in my current role, I felt God asking if I was willing to say yes to Him. I wept on the altar as I sang, "Take up thy cross and follow Me, I heard my Master say; I gave My life to ransom thee, Surrender your all today." The chorus says, "I'll follow my Christ who loves me so, Wherever He leads I'll go." Soaked in tears on the altar, I barely could say much after singing that chorus, but I surrendered my life and my all to God.

There is profound beauty in answering God's call. It is not the beauty of knowing exactly where the journey will lead, but of trusting the God who leads us. Our obedience may involve uncertainty, sacrifice, or responsibilities that seem beyond our abilities. Sometimes God's call is to an unfamiliar community, and sometimes to an unfamiliar land. Other times, it simply asks for greater surrender right where we are. In every case, the heart of the call is the same: are we willing to say yes to God?

Brother Randy and Sister Jean Antalan's testimonies illustrate this beautifully



Wherever He leads, I'll go.

(see page 18). As a young man growing up in the Philippines, Brother Randy's pastor urged him to "pray, consecrate, and say yes to God." Though initially reluctant, he eventually surrendered to God, and that decision became the pattern of his life. When Brother Randy was asked to

"There is profound beauty in answering God's call. It is not the beauty of knowing exactly where the journey will lead, but of trusting the God who leads us."

serve as pastor in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, cultural differences made the responsibility seem daunting. Yet, by saying yes to God, he learned that the love in God's family is deeper than culture.

Then came another unexpected call: the Antalans were asked to leave Toronto (with a population over seven million) for Bide Arm, Newfoundland (with a population around 160). To say yes to that call, Sister Jean had to leave her job, exchanging what others considered a desirable career for what she considered as something far better—working for God. Brother Randy expressed a conviction that has come to define his life: "If He is calling me to do something, that is the very best thing I can do with my life."

That same conviction can be seen across generations in our church. As a young girl in the late 1800s, Sister Edna Damron dreamed of becoming a foreign missionary. Her life did not unfold according to that dream, but her commitment remained unchanged. Her decisive spiritual moment came

when she "said yes to the whole will of God" (read her testimony on page 36). Later, when God led her family to relocate to Kansas City, Missouri, she had serious concerns about their safety there. However, through prayer God transformed her heart until the city she once hesitated to live in became a place she deeply loved! Her experience reveals a remarkable truth: God can give us love for people, places, and assignments we never would have chosen ourselves.

In the "Short Takes" in the *World Report* (see page 34), you can read about others who recently answered God's call to serve. One of them is Brother Mark Mfandarahwa, whose family relocated from London, England, to Winnipeg, Canada, so he can serve as the district superintendent there. Decades earlier, the work in London started when Brother Victor Okusanya and his family moved there from Nigeria and helped start a small fellowship with about eight people. From that humble beginning have come about thirty branch churches today—a powerful demonstration of what God can accomplish through people who say yes to His call.

We will not always know where God will lead, what we must leave behind, or how far the influence of our obedience will reach. Whatever the case may be, the great question for us is not "Where will God lead me?" but "Am I willing to say yes to God?" The surrendered heart answers: "Lord, wherever You lead, I'll go. Whatever You ask, I'll do." God will help us as we surrender our all to Him.

FROM A SERMON BY JOHN MUSGRAVE

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

David's reliance on God teaches us the importance of placing our trust in the only true security.

In the opening verses of Psalm 18, David offered a vivid portrayal of God when he wrote, “I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies” (verses 1-3).

WHAT IS A STRONGHOLD?

A stronghold was a place of refuge and defense—a place where people ran when danger was approaching.

David used the word as a metaphor.

His stronghold was not a cave or a city.

His stronghold was God.

Nearly half of the 150 psalms recorded in the Bible are attributed to David, and he used this kind of imagery in many of them. In this psalm, David's reference to God as his Rock, his Fortress, and his High Tower teaches that security, deliverance, and guidance are not found in human strength or earthly fortifications. They are the result of an unwavering trust and reliance on the Lord.

Hid in the Rock

Fortresses can be very impressive. For many centuries they were used to protect cities, guard major trade routes, defend key mountain passes, or provide border security. There are several in Europe and Asia that were built over two thousand years ago. Typically, the foundations were set on bedrock and laid with massive hewn stones. These solid foundations provided stability for the structures, making them able to withstand the forces of nature over time. The fact that so many of them remain intact today proves the integrity and strength of their construction.

As we read the different psalms of David, it becomes evident that places like these made a deep impression on him. He appreciated the stability of a fortified structure as a refuge. This would have been true even from his time as a young shepherd boy. A good shepherd would find or build a rock enclosure to

shelter his flock and then sleep at the entrance to guard the sheep from predators. This is what Jesus was referring to in His discourse on the Good Shepherd, found in John 10, when He said, “I am the door” (verse 9). Later, in that same discourse, He said, “I lay down my life for my sheep” (verse 15). In other words, He was saying, “I’m the One who comes between you and the enemy.” If David had heard this, he would have understood the meaning very well. Not only had he been a shepherd, but he spent several years running from King Saul who wanted to kill him. He often sought the protection of a stronghold—a natural or manmade fortress—while ultimately relying on God to guard and preserve his life.

Secure in the Fortress

The Books of 1 and 2 Samuel mention that a place called the Cave of Adullam was used by David as a stronghold. This cave is located along some cliffs about thirteen miles southwest of Bethlehem. The cliff area

“The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust.” – Psalm 18:2

runs for some distance, but the cave itself was located about four hundred feet above the valley of Elah. Its only access was by a very narrow trail that had been carved into the cliff wall.¹ This was a secure place for David and his men to retreat to. Many Bible scholars believe it became his primary base of operations for several years.

In 1 Samuel 23, we find an account of David fleeing from Saul, likely to the Cave of Adullam. While there, he received news that the Philistines were fighting against Keilah. This was a fortified city, and interestingly, the word *keilah* in the Hebrew language means “citadel or fortress.” Since the battle was taking place only a few miles from where David was located, he inquired of the Lord—in fact, he inquired twice—whether he and his men should go fight the Philistines. God told David, “Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.” Having received this promise, “David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah” (verses 4-5).

This was a tremendous victory, and it could have led David to believe that he and his men had delivered the people of Keilah by their own strength. However, he understood that his ability to win the battle had come from the Lord and the promise he had received

from Him. With this victory, David gained a fortress. Did he then look upon this fortress as his rock, his salvation? No, he was not about to transfer his reliance on God for protection to this fortified city. While the thick stone walls could hold off invaders, David’s security was in the Lord.

When King Saul heard that David was in Keilah, he must have thought, *I’ve got him now; David is mine*. For he said, “God hath delivered him into mine hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that hath gates and bars” (verse 7)—a fortress. However, David wasn’t depending on the city for security. As we know, he had declared, “The LORD is my rock, and my fortress.” David was reliant upon God to protect him.

Guidance from the High Tower

Many of the ancient fortresses had lookout towers. There is a Romanian city, Targoviste, that I have visited on occasion. For several centuries, it was the capital of what is now present-day Romania. In the old section of

“David’s High Tower was looking out from the very throne of Heaven, seeing all and knowing all. That was the place to put his trust. David remained in God’s fortress, and he and his men were able to escape before Saul could put his plan into motion.”

this city, there is a place called the “Castle of the Kings,” and at the edge of this area, is Chindiei Tower. I have climbed the 122 wooden steps to the top where there is a 360-degree view of not just the ancient city, but the larger city that has grown up around it. I could even see

WHEN GOD IS YOUR FORTRESS

- Fear doesn’t have the final word.
- Circumstances don’t define your future.
- The enemy doesn’t determine the outcome.

beyond that, way out across the valley to the mountains. Keilah may have had a tower like this, offering a view of a great distance. However, David did not count on the use of that tower to watch for the enemy—God was his High Tower.

David knew that fighting this battle would alert King Saul to his whereabouts. His men had even voiced this concern. So he asked the Lord, “Will Saul come

down?” The Lord answered him, saying, “He will come down” (verse 11). At this time, Saul was over twenty miles away. That is how effective David’s High Tower was. God saw David’s enemy, and not just from a distance. He knows the thoughts and intents of each person’s

THE LORD IS...



My Rock when I need stability.



My Fortress when I need protection.



My Deliverer when I need rescue.



My High Tower when I need perspective.

heart. We see from this inquiry that David's faith was not in an earthly fortress. He did not place his trust in the men of Keilah either. Doing so would have been disastrous for him. He further asked the Lord, "Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?" and the Lord answered, "They will deliver thee up" (verse 12).

David's High Tower was looking out from the very throne of Heaven, seeing all and knowing all. That was the place to put his trust. David remained in God's fortress, and he and his men were able to escape before Saul could put his plan into motion.

Our Stronghold

Some Bible scholars believe that David wrote Psalm 31 following this encounter. Verse 1 of that psalm

"We live in an uncertain world. None of us knows what will happen tomorrow, but when we place our trust in God, we have a High Tower, One who sees way down the road."

states, "In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness." When we put our trust in God, we will never be ashamed. Like the Apostle Paul, we will be able to declare, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16). David experienced this power because he made God his stronghold.

Psalm 31 continues in verse 2, "Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me." God was

quick to answer David's prayer. Whatever our situation, He knows our need and is waiting for us to call on Him.

The third verse of Psalm 31 is, "For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me." How do we make God our Rock and Fortress? Paul told the church at Colossae, "Set your affection on the things above, not on the things on the earth . . ." We must turn our focus toward Heaven. We need to prepare our hearts for where we will spend eternity by surrendering our lives to God and living according to His will. When we do this, He will set our feet on the Rock, which is Jesus. He will give us a firm foundation on which to build our spiritual lives. Then, it will also be true that "... for ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3). We want our lives to be hid in Him. We want to stay in His fortress. When our lives are hidden with Christ in God, we have the hope of Heaven, we enjoy His protection, and we have Someone who can see afar off.

A missionary's Stronghold

The account of David at Keilah reminds me of the testimony of another man who looked to God as his Rock, his Fortress, his High Tower. Robinson Sanana was born and raised in what was at that time Northern Rhodesia. Today, it is Zambia. As a young man, he married Benedette and they moved to Southern Rhodesia, which is now Zimbabwe. There, he went to work for the railroad and became a notorious drunkard. He kept his job, but alcohol controlled his life to the point that his wife took their two sons and returned to

Zambia. Within a short time, he realized that his life had reached its lowest point. He went to an Apostolic Faith church service, and God saved him.

His Rock. By surrendering his heart to God, Brother Sanana placed his feet upon the Rock, and things in his life began to change. He wrote to his wife about his



THE VIEW FROM THE HIGH TOWER

From the ground,
David saw a battle.
**From above, God saw
Saul coming.**

From the ground,
Brother Sanana
saw uncertainty.
**From above, God saw
thousands of souls
who would be saved
in Zambia.**



conversion, but she was skeptical. He continued writing until she decided to see for herself what had happened. She returned to Zimbabwe to find that her husband was completely transformed. He had made the Lord his Rock! The change was so profound that she wanted to give her heart and life to the Lord as well.

His Fortress. Some years later, in 1970, the leader of our work in Zimbabwe, Morgan Sengwayo, felt it was time to send a missionary to start a work in Zambia. Meanwhile, God had been speaking to Brother Sanana's heart and calling him to go. By the time the assignment came from the Zimbabwe headquarters, he was a few months away from full retirement at the railroad, and his pension income would have provided security for his family. He also had his house and life in Zimbabwe, but he felt that he had to answer the call of God. He left the fortress of his own security and made God his Fortress.

His High Tower. We can be sure that when Brother Sanana and his wife first decided to

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What am I leaning on today?

What am I afraid of losing?

If that thing were taken away, would my confidence in God remain?

go, they had many questions. We too have many questions and concerns in life—we live in an uncertain world. None of us knows what will happen tomorrow, but when we place our trust in God, we have a High Tower, One who sees way down the road. As the Sanana family traveled to Zambia, God could see from His Heavenly throne past the initial struggles of starting the first church to the establishing of the work in that country. When Brother Sanana first began preaching the full Gospel there, people threw rocks at him. One time, his youngest son was hit in the head by one of these, but the Lord healed him. Proverbs 18:10 tells us, “The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” The Sanana family put their trust in the Lord, and He gave them victory; the work was established. Today, we have over one hundred churches in Zambia, spanning all ten provinces.

truth when he left behind earthly security to follow God's call. Both men found that when God becomes our Rock, He gives us a refuge from sin and the world as well as a firm foundation on which to build our lives. When He becomes our Fortress, He surrounds us with His protection; and when He becomes our High Tower, He provides the guidance and vision for things we cannot see on our own.

The same invitation stands for us today. Where have you placed your trust? Earthly strongholds will eventually fail, but those who put their confidence in the Lord will never be ashamed. Surrender your life to God today and seek His direction in every circumstance. When we make God our Stronghold, we can rest in His salvation, trust in His protection, and confidently follow wherever He leads.

¹ Biblewalks.com, “Adullam—the Cave Where David Hid,” BibleWalks, www.biblewalks.com/Adullam, accessed September 15, 2026.

Where have you placed your trust?

David understood that true safety could not be found in caves, cities, walls, or towers, but in the Lord Himself. Brother Sanana discovered the same



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FROM A SERMON BY SEGUN SONOWO

GRACE-FILLED COMMUNICATION

Some do's and don'ts for edifying words and actions.

Communication is something we use every day. Likely, you've already communicated a number of things today, right from your first, "Good morning." Yet, your communication begins even before you open your mouth. You communicate by your facial expressions, attitude, behavior, and the way you dress. Even your silence speaks! When someone addresses you and you don't answer when they are expecting a response, you are conveying a message.

COMMUNICATION CAN HAPPEN BEFORE WORDS ARE SPOKEN.

Even without speaking, we communicate by our:

- attention
- expression
- attitude
- behavior
- silence
- willingness to listen

The Early Church believers, as they were scattered from Jerusalem by persecution, made an impression on the inhabitants of the cities they fled to. Their preaching and behavior communicated something about themselves. The Bible tells us in Acts 11:26 that "the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." They were identified by the people of that city as followers of Christ. One question we might ask ourselves is: if we were evaluated by our communication in its entirety—our words, actions, and the silence that we keep—would we be identified as Christians?

As we interact one with another, there is a kind of communication that God sanctions and encourages—the type that builds up, heals, and inspires. It is something we could call "grace-filled communication." This is simply having all our interactions filtered by God's grace. A description is found in Ephesians 4:29, which says, "Let no corrupt communication

proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

Having consistent grace-filled communication is not possible in our own strength. However, God can help us achieve this if we apply His guidelines daily. When we do, we will see the difference it makes in the lives of those we interact with, as well as in our own lives.

Obtaining God's grace

The Bible tells us in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." We, like all people, were born as sinners, and our natural tendency is toward sin. We will take the path of least resistance in that direction, like water when it flows downstream. Without God's intervention, individuals might say or do anything—whatever is the most convenient—regardless of whether it is true or the consequences that could result. To exhibit grace-filled communication, our hearts must be transformed by God's



WHAT IS GRACE-FILLED COMMUNICATION?

Grace-filled communication is more than kind words.

It is having our:

- words
- attitudes
- actions
- expressions
- and even our silence

filtered by the grace of God.

grace. That happens at the point of salvation. To receive salvation, we must acknowledge our sins and then confess and repent of them.

This happened for me. When I was an intermediate school student, my father's friend invited me to attend an Apostolic Faith Sunday school. I went and heard the Gospel message and was convicted of my sins. I knew what kind of child I was. I had grown up as a truant on the streets of Lagos. I had pilfered my father's things

without his knowledge. When the Word of God came to me in the Sunday school class, I went to my knees. I confessed my sins to God, and in His infinite mercy, He saved my soul, transforming my life.

At salvation, God forgives us for the sins we have committed and removes them from our lives. If you have not experienced this, it is where you need to start. Seek the grace that will transform your life.

Don't stop there; press forward by consecrating the different aspects of your life for God's use. Seek God for the removal of your Adamic nature, that tendency toward sin that you were born with, so that you are not drawn back into sin. Ask God to remove it, and He will, giving you a sanctified heart. Then, when your heart is pure and you are fully surrendered to God's will, ask the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, to come and abide within you.

These three experiences are the foundation for leading a grace-filled life, including in our communications with others.

Manifesting God's grace

Having experienced God's grace, our expressions of communication should reflect His character, whether we are at home, in society, or at church. It is a good idea to examine our lives for any place where we fall short in this, so we can remedy the situation with God's help. Let's consider these three situations specifically.

In a godly home, all communication should have an underlying basis of love and respect. This should be apparent even in circumstances such as when spouses have differing opinions or parents are correcting their children. We can set the example by being considerate of other family members. We start by asking ourselves, "Do I speak to others in a way that I would want to be spoken to?" In the home, as well as outside of it, we should be people of integrity. When we say yes or no to something, those present should be able to count on our word. When we make a

BEFORE WE SPEAK, WE CAN ASK OURSELVES:

- Is it true?
- Is it necessary?
- Is it edifying?
- Is this the right time to say it?

statement and others find out who said it, there should be a response of, “Oh, then it can be trusted to be correct.”

In society, we have an identity that is linked with how we communicate, and today our identity is not just in the physical world but in the virtual space as well. We are all known to others in person and to some extent online. We acquire reputations through our online interactions, so it is important to be careful not only about what

“Some people believe it is okay to spread information if it is true. However, not everything needs to be said—the truth is not always edifying and it can be manipulated to mislead. When in doubt, it is better to stay silent.”

we post and like, but also what we comment on. If we disagree with what someone else is saying or doing, there is no need to associate ourselves with the situation by publicly commenting on it. As we look to God for wisdom in these matters, He will give us guidance.

At church, we want our communication to edify other attendees. One way to do this is to testify. Giving our testimony serves several purposes: it glorifies God, strengthens our own faith, brings the Gospel message to sinners, and encourages fellow believers. It is a wonderful way to exercise grace-filled communication.

No matter where we find ourselves, there are ways we can be more purposeful in communicating with grace. One way is to think before we speak. We can ask ourselves, *What*

“Giving our testimony serves several purposes:

it glorifies God, strengthens our own faith, brings the Gospel message to sinners, and encourages fellow believers. It is a wonderful way to exercise grace-filled communication.”

are the consequences of what I am about to say? Will it edify? Will it be a blessing? Pausing to think will help us make a better decision about what and when to speak.

Next, we can listen for the Spirit of God. He will guide us regarding when to speak, what to say, and how to say it. Some people believe it is okay to spread information if it is true. However, not everything needs to be said—the truth is not always edifying and it can be manipulated to mislead. When in doubt, it is better to stay silent.

Graceless communication

Just as there are things we can do to be purposeful about communicating with grace, there are some things we should avoid. Certain attitudes and actions lead to graceless communication, which has negative consequences for ourselves and those we interact with.

One of the attitudes that leads to graceless communication is pride. Boasting about one's own accomplishments instead of giving God the glory only draws attention to one's shortcomings. And the person who always has to be right or have the last word is not someone others want to be around. We need to consider that being right is often only a matter of perception. For example, if you are sitting at a table, looking at the number “six” written on

a piece of paper in front of you, then the person sitting across from you is seeing a “nine.” We can remind ourselves of this the next time we are tempted to insist that we are right.

Being a busybody is an action that may lead to the graceless communication of gossip. The people who want to be the first to tell what they hear are like radios with damaged antennas, randomly receiving and broadcasting information. They may even make entertainment out of other people's lives and pain. A better use of communication when we hear of someone else's trouble is to talk about it with God, who can help them.

Unforgiveness can lead to a variety of graceless communications. Feelings of hurt or anger may seem justified. Yet, we don't want to let someone else's wrongdoing lead to our own wrong behavior. It is important that we forgive quickly, before there is an opportunity for resentment or bitterness to build. This is not always easy, especially when the injustice is great. However, we can lean on Jesus, who forgave us when we did not deserve it.

Uncontrolled emotions are another cause of graceless communication, and can be a stumbling block to even a longtime believer. According to Numbers 12:3, “Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the

earth.” Yet, he was provoked to anger by the complaints of the Children of Israel. When God told him to speak to the rock to bring forth water, he instead struck it, and in consequence, he was denied entrance into the Promised Land (see Numbers 20:8-11). We don’t want to allow anger to fester in our own lives and cause us to miss Heaven.

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

Rather, we want to pray that God will give us His attitude about our circumstances.

Contrasting consequences

The account of Nabal and his wife, Abigail, given in 1 Samuel 25, offers a contrast between grace-filled and graceless communication, along with the consequences of each. Nabal was a wealthy man who was “churlish and evil in his doings” (verse 3). During one shearing season, he benefitted from protection provided to his servants and flocks by David, the future king of Israel. Then, when David requested provisions for his men in return, Nabal responded with harsh words that

revealed his ingratitude, greed, and an attempt to humiliate the future king. He asked, “Who is David?” and, “Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it unto men, whom I know not whence they be?” (verses 10-11). Nabal’s graceless communication nearly cost him everything, because David immediately gathered an army of four hundred men to destroy all that pertained to him.

Conversely, Abigail “was a woman of good understanding” (verse 3) whose attitude, words, and actions reveal wisdom from God. When she heard what had happened, she approached David with provisions, humility, and respect. Bowing to the ground, she said, “I pray thee, forgive the trespass . . . And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel; that this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offense of heart” (verses 28, 30-31). Her grace-filled communication calmed David’s anger, and instead of avenging himself, he praised God. He said, “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: and blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood” (verses 32-33).

Like Abigail, when we allow God’s grace to lead our communications, we will experience God’s blessings of peace and joy in our lives. God wants to use us to further His Kingdom. If our communication has been graceless, we can ask Him to help us remedy the situation. First, we must be sure we have experienced God’s grace personally by receiving salvation. Then, we can pray and ask God to help us exercise grace-filled communication. He will help us to be people whose attitudes, words, and actions build up and edify others for His glory.

THE DIGITAL TEST

Before posting, commenting, liking, or sharing, ask:

- Would I say this face-to-face?
- Would I say this if Jesus were sitting beside me?
- Will this build up or tear down?

The internet may feel temporary, but our words often have lasting effects.



Segun Sonowo is pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church at Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria.

SERMON EXCERPTS

Short messages with a long-lasting impact.



OUR HEAVENLY FATHER CARES

In the United States, 18.2 million children are growing up without a father. That number is just staggering to me. That means that about one in four children in America are living without a dad in the home. According to the Pew Research Center, America leads other nations in the number of single-parent homes at twenty-three percent, which is far above the global average of seven percent.

Lest this information discourage us, the beauty of the Gospel is that no matter where we came from in this life, we have a wonderful Heavenly Father! My own mother did not have a father in the home, but

I'll tell you, the advantages of having a Heavenly Father far outweigh the disadvantages of not having an earthly father. Psalm 68:5 says, "A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation." We all have a loving Father in Heaven. My mother may have been at a disadvantage from a societal perspective, but she was at no disadvantage when it came to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She was one of His children, and that meant everything.

Jesus went to great lengths to convey just how engaged our Heavenly Father is with our wellbeing. In one place, He chose one of the smallest members of His creation—a little sparrow—as an illustration. Matthew 10:29-30

"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father." – Matthew 10:29-30

says, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father." Think of that—each little sparrow is noticed, and there are many of them around the world. Those birds are insignificant. When we see one, we probably don't think anything of it, but our Father in Heaven does. He notes when they fall to the ground. How much more attentive He is to your needs and mine! He is well-informed of the very slightest detail in our lives and He wants us to cast our cares on Him.

Jesus continued His explanation by saying, "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered" (verse 30). In the last year or so, I've had some health issues that cause my hair to fall out when I comb it. I never thought much about it until I read this and realized, *My Father is taking note of even that!* That's how close our Heavenly Father is to us today.

It pays to remember how good our Father is. I don't know about you, but I can get caught up with cares and concerns, the things in this world that seem to be out of control. Yet, when you combed your hair this morning and a few hairs fell out, the total



was immediately recalibrated. God knew how much was there before and what is now. It gives me courage and strength to know that I have a Heavenly Father who is watching out for me, and He is watching out for you too. We don't just blend in among the billions

of people in the world. God sees us, He knows every detail of our situations, and He is able to take good care of every one of us.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, "Living arrangements of children under 18 years old: 1960 to present," *U.S. Census Bureau*, Washington, D.C., 2025.



Reverend Tim DeBusk is a Member of the Board of Directors for the Apostolic Faith Church.

DO YOU SEE JESUS?

For us to see an object, three things are required: the object must be present, we must have healthy eyes, and there must be light. If any of these three are not in place, we cannot see the object.

God knows these three requirements and so does the devil. We read in 2 Corinthians 4:4, "... the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." This verse does not refer to physical blindness, but spiritual blindness. There is an "object" God wants us to see, and He is Jesus, who is the image of God. For that to happen, we need healthy spiritual eyes and we need the light of the Gospel to shine.

The devil, who is called "the god of this world" in this verse, does not want us to see our Savior, Jesus. First, he tried to stop Jesus from becoming our Savior. He tried his level-best to keep Jesus from being born, from being crucified, and from rising from the dead. Thank God, the devil failed every time. He could not do anything to get rid of the "object" that God wants us to see.

The "light" that we need in order to see our Savior is the Gospel. Only by hearing the good news of Jesus' birth, crucifixion, and resurrection can we see that He is the Savior. The devil also tried to stop people from

"There is an 'object' God wants us to see, and He is Jesus, who is the image of God. For that to happen, we need healthy spiritual eyes and we need the light of the Gospel to shine."

preaching the Gospel, but he failed at that too. This glorious Gospel spread from Israel to the ends of the earth! Almost everyone now has heard the name Jesus, and we are so thankful for that.

The devil tried to attack the "object" and he failed. He tried to stop people from sharing the light of the Gospel and failed again. Now, he can only succeed in one thing, and that is to attack our spiritual eyes with blindness.

The devil is tricky, but for every problem he causes, God has the solution. If the devil brings death, God has a wonderful plan and He brings resurrection. If the devil brings a curse, God brings a blessing. If the devil brings darkness, God brings light. In Revelation 3:18 God said, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." The devil causes spiritual

blindness, but God has eye salve to heal our eyes.

When I was fourteen years old, my spiritual eyes were blind. One day, I heard a man preach the Gospel, and the Lord opened my eyes. I saw the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and understood that He died for me. From that moment, I gave my heart to the Lord and started following Him. He opened my eyes and saved my soul!

God sent our Savior and He caused the light of the Gospel to shine on us. If anyone is spiritually blind today, ask Him for His eye salve. He will heal our eyes so we can see the Lord and be saved.



Reverend Raju Rayudu is the leader of the Apostolic Faith work in East India and pastor in Kaikavolu, Andrah Pradesh.





problem you have a big God! Whatever giant you are facing, God is the support you need. Look to Him and He will conquer it for you.

Reverend Francis Odudu is
Director of Mainland Europe and a



minister at the
Bexley Apostolic
Faith Church
in London,
England.

THE RIGHT SUPPORT

Have you ever thought about how much you could accomplish if you had the right support? I am from the Yoruba tribe in Nigeria, and we often talk in proverbs. One Yoruba saying is, “A dog that has the right support will kill a monkey.” Normally, a monkey could kill a dog with ease, so the point of the proverb is that the right support makes all the difference.

In our lives, God is the support that makes the difference and He is there for us at all times. We see an example of that in 1 Samuel 17, when David was victorious over the giant Goliath. Victory for David did not come through his weapons; King Saul wanted to lend his armor to David but he said, “No, I’ve not tried this before. I can’t trust it.” David’s trust was in the Name of the Lord. Still today, the Name of Jesus is tested and tried, and we have found that Name to be the greatest weapon in a spiritual battle.

Victory over Goliath also did not come because of the size of the warrior. God raised up David, just a young shepherd, to save the Israelites from the giant. At times, we may feel spiritually weak or our faith may be little, but God does not

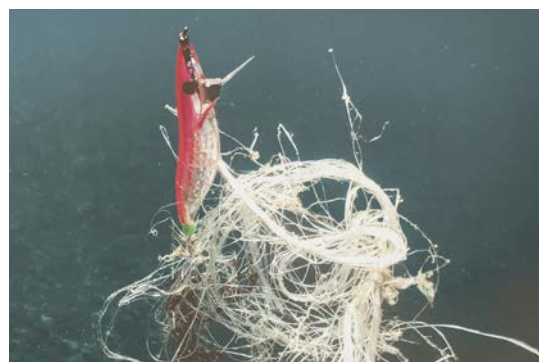
need to wait for our faith to grow before He can use us to win a battle. He is all we need.

The biggest “Goliath” we can ever face in life is sin, and no amount of good works, fasting, or other effort on our part can conquer it. Victory over sin can only come from God through the Blood of Jesus Christ. I had the Goliath of sin in my life for a very long time. Back then, I was battling nightmares, and I wondered who could deliver me from them. My father took me from one spiritualist to another looking for relief. The nightmares drove me from the spiritualist to white garment churches, and from white garment churches to Islamic priests. They tried different ceremonies, but nothing took away the nightmares until the day I gave my heart to Jesus Christ. Then, the Goliath of nightmares fell down flat! The Goliath of sin was also conquered. I could not defeat them in my strength and no one else could either, but I found the right support in God and He gave me victory.

The “Goliath” in your life may be an academic problem, a situation at work, a health issue, or a relationship. Don’t tell God you have a big problem. Tell your

“I was battling nightmares, and I wondered who could deliver me from them. My father took me from one spiritualist to another . . . but nothing took away the nightmares until the day I gave my heart to Jesus Christ. Then, the Goliath of nightmares fell down flat!”

DON’T GET TANGLED UP!



“I was watching politics really closely, and little by little, that took too much of my time . . . eventually I thought, I’m becoming entangled by this.”

Last summer, I had the opportunity to go fishing with a group that included a young boy named Nehemiah. Nehemiah loves to fish and we had a lot of fun out there on the lake, but he was continually getting his fishing line hung up. He got hung up in the rocks, in his sister’s pole, in the seat behind me, and even in my shirt! He had been given good instructions from his father about where to cast, where *not* to cast, how to cast, and everything else. But he was just so excited he could hardly control himself. He was casting out there everywhere.

To be an effective fisher, you have to be careful not to let your line get tangled up in places it shouldn’t be. Likewise, to be effective for Christ, we cannot allow our lives to get close to things of the world that would entangle us.

In 2 Timothy 2:3-4, Paul told Timothy, “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” You may not consider yourself to be a soldier, but if you are saved, you are one. We are in a spiritual war. In these verses, Paul gave young Timothy some very valuable instructions about spiritual warfare, and they are still good for us to follow today. If we are going to be effective soldiers for the Lord, we cannot get caught up in the affairs of this life. When our focus is on the things of the world, it moves away from the Lord, and then we are no help to ourselves or others in this warfare.

Becoming entangled can happen in different ways. Some activities are obviously foolish, but some are not. We have to be on guard because most likely the devil will tempt us with a subtle entanglement that looks harmless. It could be a friendship with an unbeliever. It could be a career path or a hobby. A few years ago, I was watching politics really closely, and little by little, that took too much of my time. I found myself waking up in the middle of the night thinking about those topics, and waking up in the morning with them on my mind. Eventually I thought, *I’m becoming entangled by this*. It is not bad to know what is going on in the world, but we are in a spiritual war and our focus needs to be on Jesus.

The cares of this life are all going to pass away. May God help us not to allow ourselves to get entangled with anything that would take our attention away from Him.



Reverend Donald Fittin is pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Van Buren, Arkansas.

TRUST GOD’S GUIDANCE

“The word guidance simply means advice or information aimed at resolving a problem or avoiding one. In the world today, we need guidance.”

In Atlanta, we have really bad traffic sometimes. That’s why I am thankful for the Waze app. It uses global positioning to give me driving directions. Every time I go somewhere, I enter the address in the app. It might tell me, “Go down I-75,” and as I’m driving down I-75, sometimes it will reroute and tell me to get off the freeway. I can’t see what is ahead, so I might think, *That isn’t the right way*. But if I ignore the app, I will run into a major traffic jam.

That is how God works with us. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” The word *guidance* simply means advice or information aimed at resolving a problem or avoiding one. In the world today, we need guidance. We do not always understand situations as they really are because we are limited in our knowledge. God sees everything plainly and He knows what is coming ahead. He knows if we are getting into trouble and He will tell us, “Don’t do this,” or, “Stay away from that.” We might think, *This isn’t that bad*. But God knows our personalities, our attitudes, and how we will deal with whatever lies ahead. When He says, “Get off on this exit. Go

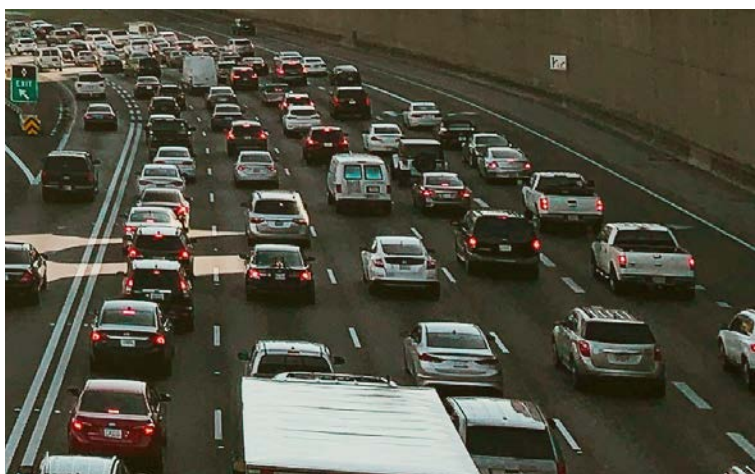
this way. Go around that,” we will avoid problems if we follow God’s guidance.

It is important to trust God’s directions more than our own because sometimes He may lead us to an unexpected place so we can be a light to someone. When I first moved to Atlanta, I got a job for the FedEx delivery company. My coworkers there were vulgar and unpleasant to be around, and I started wondering, *Lord, why am I here?* But I held fast to my faith. I even sang Gospel songs at work. I stuck with it. Then one day, a young co-worker came up to me and said, “You are different.” I smiled a little bit and said, “Yes, I am different. Oh yes, I am different!” He said, “Why are you different?” I told him, “Because I am saved. I have a Savior who can save you, too.” It did my heart good when I could witness to just one person! When we follow God’s guidance, we will get the blessings.

God’s guidance leads, protects, and helps us avoid problems. He is always available, ready to direct which way to go and what to do. When we trust God’s guidance, He will lead us from earth all the way to glory.



Reverend Nathaniel Segres, Jr., is pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Atlanta, Georgia.



BY RANDY & JEAN ANTALAN

SERVING WHEREVER HE SENDS

Led by God to locations far from their childhood homes in the Philippines, Randy and Jean have proved God's power to keep.



RANDY'S STORY:

When I was about seven years old, my mom was diagnosed with a severe stomach ulcer. I can remember her crying night and day from the pain. Then one day, a lady invited her to a special service that was being held at a new church in our village in the Philippines. It was an Apostolic Faith Church, and my mom went to the meeting and was saved and healed that night! It was amazing. The rest of her life, she



A miracle in his mother's life changed their family's future.

- She suffered for years from a severe stomach ulcer.
- An invitation was extended to attend a special church service.
- She received salvation and healing in the same night.
- Her changed life led her husband and others in the family to God.
- She never had another ulcer for the rest of her life.

never had ulcers again, and she just passed away two years ago at age ninety-two.

After she was saved, my mom started reading the Bible and going to church regularly. When she would pray over our meals, sometimes my dad would make fun of her, and that made her sad. He wasn't a bad person—he did not drink, or gamble, or anything like that. He had read the Bible because he wanted to know what it was about, and he thought he understood it. Some months after my mom was saved, my dad said he wanted to meet her pastor to find out if he really knew the Scriptures. He went to talk to the pastor, and he came home saved!

From then on, our family went to church together, and we had prayer time at home. I am the youngest of five children, and before long my older siblings were saved too. At age ten, I also prayed and asked Jesus into my heart. Sadly, though, in my late teen years I turned away from the Lord. I gave in to peer pressure and did things I knew were wrong. After that, I always worried about not being saved; I was terrified of missing the Rapture, and often would go check to make sure everyone was still around. God's Spirit followed me everywhere and kept speaking to me, but I hardened my heart toward Him.

At the start of my second year in the university, I moved in with my pastor's family, the Ruizes. Their family supported me to finish college. Sister Aida, my pastor, would always tell me, "Randy, pray, consecrate, and say yes to God." I always went to church—never missed it. The conviction was there, but I was not willing to give my heart to the Lord.

About a year before my graduation, I was in a motorcycle accident that almost took my life. After laying in the hospital unconscious for three days, I woke up but had no memory of what had happened. I only knew that God had spared my life.

Just a few days after that, one of my brothers was murdered. I just cried when I heard the news. He had been a faithful Christian, and so were my parents. I wondered why God had let that happen. Between the accident and my brother's death, I began to feel very disoriented in life. Though I did not give my heart to God at that time, He was still very merciful to me. There were infections in my body after my accident, and the church prayed for me and God healed me.

Sometime in my mid-twenties, the day finally came when I was ready to surrender to God and give my life to Him for good. I was still attending church every Sunday, and I arrived that time feeling so ashamed of the



⤴ (Left to right) Nine-year-old Randy; A church youth group in the mid-1980s, with Randy, third from left, at age fourteen.

life I was leading. When I asked God to forgive me, He did not disappoint me. That day, He washed away all my sin and shame. I was so happy! Filipinos are not known for hugging, but I just wanted to hug everyone there, and I did.

I soon started working for Sister Aida's family business, and they needed me to go work in Malaysia. That is a Muslim country and we had no branch church there, but God sustained me. I lived very carefully, reading the Bible and praying daily. I also found a group of born-again Christians and began worshipping with them. The saints in the Philippines would send me literature from the Portland headquarters church, and that was so encouraging to me. There was no live streaming of services back then, so I was excited to hear any sermon or message from any place that I could find it. God kept me on track the whole time.

In the early 2000s, I contacted a friend named Jean who had grown up going to the Apostolic Faith Church and also graduated from the same university as me. I found out that she had relocated to Canada and was living there alone. We started talking, and then in 2004 I visited her in Toronto, and we decided to get married that same year. Since she was in the middle of a work contract, I decided to stay in Toronto, and that started a whole new chapter in our lives.

The transition to Canada was challenging because I didn't know anything about my new city, and we didn't have a car. The closest branch church to us was about two hours away in Kitchener, and we didn't know how we could get

there without a car. Then in 2008, at a family birthday party, a friend from the Apostolic Faith in the Philippines who was new in Canada said, "I'm going to visit the Kitchener church. The Holy Spirit is flaming hot there." My cousin, who wasn't even saved at the time, said, "Why don't we all go tomorrow? We'll use my car."

We went the next day, and as soon as I stepped inside the building, I started crying and couldn't stop. The presence of the Holy Spirit was so strong that I wanted to kneel and pray right there at the entrance! At the altar call, I ran forward and all I could do was thank God over and over. As I prayed, I surrendered more to Him and felt His Spirit deeper and deeper in my soul. That day, the Lord sanctified me.

After that day, I felt so close to Heaven. Wanting to protect that experience, I became much more careful about my words and interactions with others. Anytime I would make a mistake and feel unsettled in my spirit, I wanted to make it right as soon as possible so I wouldn't lose that closeness with the Lord.

Jean and I started visiting the Kitchener church as often as possible, and also prayed God would open a church in Toronto. I knew there would be a need for ministers in Toronto, but I did not want to have that type of responsibility myself. However, the Lord showed me that I could not avoid His call and that I should seek to receive my baptism so I could serve in the ministry. The Spirit of God had come down and blessed me many times, but I started praying that He would confirm the work was done by giving me the witness of speaking in tongues. He

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God called after his heart through:

- His mother's healing and faithful example
- A pastor who never stopped encouraging him
- Holy Ghost conviction that followed him everywhere
- A motorcycle accident that nearly took his life
- Healing from injuries incurred during the accident
- The murder of his faithful Christian brother
- The prayers of the church

Journeying with God

-  From reluctant surrender to willing service
-  From the Philippines, to Malaysia, to Canada
-  From church attendee, to minister, to pastor
-  From a village, to big cities, to a rural countryside

The best place to be is wherever God wants you.

did that for me at a service in our new Toronto church in 2010.

I was asked to be a minister and supported the Toronto work in that way for several years. Then in 2016, I was asked to serve as the Toronto pastor. That seemed like too much for me, but I told God I would do my best.

Most of the congregation were of Nigerian descent, with only a few Filipinos, and I was worried about how I could lead a group that was from a different cultural background than mine. But I found out that the love in the family of God is deeper than cultures, and the saints in Toronto became like my own family. That is what God's love can do.

In 2022, Jean and I received another call, this time asking if we would be willing to move to the small, rural town

of Bide Arm in Newfoundland, to serve God there. Again, we felt challenged—the entire population of Bide Arm was about 160 people. We knew it would be a big change from life in Toronto. But by that time, God had taught me that if He is calling me to do something, that is the very best thing I can do with my life.

Coming from the densely populated country of the Philippines, and then living for seventeen years in the big city of

Toronto, to adapting to a place so remote that the nearest Walmart is a five-and-a-half hour drive away was a huge change for us. Yet, the Bide Arm congregation welcomed us warmly, and God has been with us.

The Lord is still taking care of Jean and me, and we are thankful. This journey with Him has been wonderful. My hope is to do my best to serve Him wherever He calls me, and to see Him in Heaven someday.

JEAN'S STORY:

salvation is too wonderful to explain; it was like peace and joy with no ending. Later that same year, God also sanctified me.

Since then, God has always helped me. I never tried partying, smoking, drugs, or anything like that. Church became like my second home; during my university years, I was either at home, school, or church. I was invited to sing in the choir, and every year during summer break I loved helping with Vacation Bible School and visiting the other branch churches.

Our family was very poor, and because of that, life was extremely difficult for us. My whole life, my parents worked hard to give their children an education. They didn't even finish elementary school, but they would wake at 3:00 in the morning every day to work at a farm so we could finish college. They said they wanted to do what they could to support us.

When I graduated from college, I knew I wanted to help my family in return. Thankfully, in 1993 God opened a way for me to work abroad in Hong Kong as a caregiver, and that job allowed me to send money back home. I was placed with a family that had one daughter, and they were

God showed His kindness through:

- A grandmother's invitation
- A place at Sunday school
- A good employer in Hong Kong
- Spiritual encouragement and support sent from far away
- A husband for life's journey
- A church family in Canada

When I was growing up, my grandparents would pick up my brother and me every week to take us to Sunday school. They had become Christians later in life, so they had not raised their children in the Gospel, but they brought us grandchildren to church. My brother and I loved Sunday school, and I have many good memories from those days.

In 1984, I graduated from high school at age seventeen. That year, the second Apostolic Faith camp meeting in the Philippines was held at a rented facility in Baguio. I decided to go, and there I was told, "If you want to be saved, just ask for forgiveness of your sins." I wanted to be saved but didn't know how to pray. Still, I decided to just believe God. I went to the altar and with tears asked the Lord to save me and forgive me of my sins. The feeling of

Peace and Joy with No Ending

At seventeen years old, Jean knelt at an altar and simply asked God to forgive her sins. She describes it this way:

"The feeling of salvation is too wonderful to explain; it was like peace and joy with no ending."

very nice to me. They treated me like a member of their family. I was so thankful for that because I had heard of others who were treated badly, and the company that set our contracts did not allow us to request a different family. If a girl was mistreated, her only choice was to accept it or return home. For the whole ten years that I lived in Hong Kong, I was able to stay with the same good family.

There were a lot of other girls from the Philippines who also worked as caregivers, so Sister Aida came to visit us there. Harold and Sally Barrett



⤴ (Left to right) Jean in Hong Kong with Harold and Opal Barrett; Randy and Jean on their wedding day in 2004.

were missionaries living in South Korea then, and they also knew about our group in Hong Kong and came to visit us twice. They met with us in a park and really encouraged us. They advised us to meet there every week to support each other, so we started holding Bible studies in the park every Sunday. That was a real blessing.

After ten years in Hong Kong, one of my sisters asked if she could take over my position there. For that to happen, I needed to be placed with a family in a different country, so I applied for an opening in Canada. My sister and I prayed for God's will, and my application was accepted, so I moved to Toronto in 2003 on a two-year contract. That was a trying time for me because I arrived all by myself, with no family or friends in the area. The family I lived with had a very restricted diet, so even though my meals were supposed to be included in

my contract, there was almost nothing for me to eat and I began losing weight. I thought, *At my parents' house, we did not have much, but at least I could eat what I wanted.* For the first three months in Toronto, I was telling the Lord, "I want to go back."

Though I was isolated in Toronto, the Lord found ways to encourage me there. Back in Hong Kong, I had started corresponding with Sister Edna Janzen at the headquarters office in Portland, and we stayed in touch when I moved to Canada. She would send me tracts and the church magazine, and she helped me stay strong spiritually. I knew God had brought me to Toronto and that He had a plan for me there. He helped me survive.

In 2004, when I was half-way through my contract, Randy and I married. I was thirty-eight years old by then and had always been content being single, but having him with me made the challenges of life in Toronto a lot easier. We wanted to have children, but that was not the Father's will for us. We suffered two miscarriages, and those were heartbreaking times, but even in that I can say that God was really good to us.

After I finished my contract as a caregiver, I got a good job working for the government. God helped us a lot, but Randy and I missed going to church every Sunday as we had in the Philippines. When we finally visited the church in Kitchener, that was a wonderful experience. I felt at home immediately and we knew we wanted to

Sustained by God

During a difficult season of transitioning to Canada, God sustained her through:



Letters of encouragement from Sister Edna Janzen



Tracts and church magazines



Hope that God had a purpose for her in Canada

Jean said, "I knew God had brought me to Toronto and that He had a plan for me there. He helped me survive."

go back as often as possible, even if we had to rent a car to get there.

For many years I had been comfortable with salvation and sanctification, but after visiting the Kitchener church I realized I needed to be serving the Lord completely and started surrendering more of my will to Him. God is so good. My prayer became, "God, help us with whatever we do for You." The Lord filled me with His Spirit, and He has been helping us to serve Him in every area that He calls us.

When I told my coworkers that I was leaving in order to move to Newfoundland, they were shocked that I would leave a steady job with good benefits in the city, to go live in the province. But I am happy that now I have a better job—working for God! Being a servant of God is a humbling experience and not anything that I deserve, but I am thankful for it.

Randy and Jean Antalan worship at the Apostolic Faith Church in Bide Arm, Newfoundland, Canada, where he serves as the pastor.



During a difficult season of life, Jean's daily prayer was "I want to go back."

God sustained her through the challenges of:

- A new country with no family nearby
- Meals so meager that she began losing weight
- Little hope for circumstances to change

BY EDWARD DIXON

A FELLOW SOLDIER LED HIM TO CHRIST

When this soldier cried out to the Lord for help, a miracle happened in his heart.



When I was born in a small town in Georgia in 1953, my mother was not married. I was told that my father denied I was his child. However, after I was born, I looked so much like him that he admitted I was his son. He and my mother never married, and I was just a toddler when he moved to New Jersey.

In time my mother married, but in my early childhood years, she had to work out of town. My grandmother was the one who

was there for me. My grandmother knew of the Lord and she prayed, but she did not have the teachings on how to let God have full control of her life. Growing up, I went to church, and I knew that God was in Heaven, but I didn't understand about being born again.

One time, I told my mother that I wanted a bicycle. We were poor and didn't even have running water inside our home. She said, "Well, Son, we cannot afford to buy a bicycle, but you pray and see if God will bless you with one." So I did that. It was some years before the answer came. I was cleaning a lady's home to earn some money, and there was a bicycle her daughter had



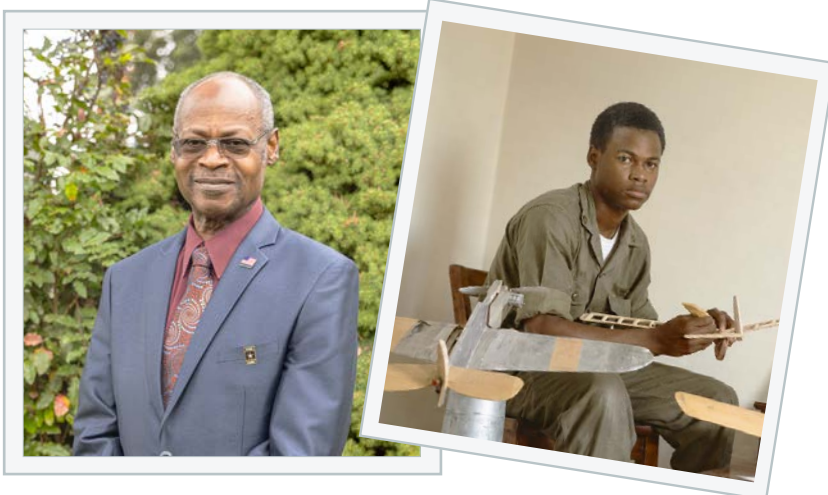
A Boy's Prayer Answered

Young Edward prayed for a bicycle because his family could not afford one.

One day, a bicycle was given to him from an unexpected source!

outgrown. When I asked if I could buy it, she said that I could just have it! I was so excited that God had answered my prayer.

During my school years, my brother and I joined a church. The church people sat us on the front row of seats, and throughout the service, I was anticipating that something was going to happen. When the service was over, the preacher and different members of the church came by, shook our hands, and welcomed us, and left me still wondering what was going to happen. After that, I expected my life to be different, but it wasn't; I knew I was still sinning. Later on, I was trained to be the church secretary and the treasurer and I taught Sunday school, but I still did not know how to be saved.



A Piercing Question

As young soldiers mocked Mike, who was in charge of the barracks that night, a question came to his heart:

“***Whose side are you on?***”

At first, he thought he knew the answer.

Then God let him see himself as God saw him. That’s when he realized that he was not on God’s side.



⤴ (Left to right) Edward’s wife, Lessie, in uniform; Edward during his army days.

There was hatred in my heart because my father did not raise me. When I graduated from high school, I decided to join the military and volunteer for service in Vietnam. Although I didn’t recognize it at the time, the devil was telling me, “It was an accident that you came into this world. Why not be an accident leaving this world?”

During basic training, an officer and his wife invited me to their home. They were white people, and having grown up with segregation, their kindness impressed me. These people were Christians, and he said, “Let’s compare God to man,” and began writing a comparison list. He mentioned that God is love, and I said that man does not love. God is forgiving; man is not. He continued to enumerate what God is like, and I realized that man is totally the opposite. After we finished, we had a positive and a negative list. Then he drew a cross that touched from the list of items about God to the items about man. He explained that this is why Christ came, so He could bridge the gap and we could come to God.

For the first time in my life, I understood the salvation message. He asked me if I wanted to give my life to the Lord. I thought about it and decided that I was not ready, but I knew that one day I wanted to live for God.

Even though I was not a Christian, God was intervening

in my life. When my orders came through, they were not for Vietnam but for Germany. There I met three young soldiers—Mike, Owen, and Steve—who were actively involved with God.

One night, Mike was in charge of the barracks. As the men came into the building, they had to sign in with him. On this particular night, some of them had been out drinking, and they cursed and ridiculed him, calling him all kinds of names because he was a Christian. Mike just sat there smiling at them and saying, “Jesus loves you.” I was sitting in the room and heard a Voice within me ask, “Whose side are you on?” I was going to say I was on the Christian side because of my childhood days and the moral life that I lived. Then the officer’s testimony about the difference between God and man came before me. I realized that although I was moral, I was just as bad as those young men, because I was not saved. God let me see myself as He saw me, and I realized that I was not on His side.

Alone, I went to my room and locked the door. I knelt and began asking God to help me. I prayed and prayed. It seemed as if I was drifting down into a pit with light coming from above, yet there was no way I could stop myself from drifting. Again I asked God to help

me. Eventually I went to the window, looked out at the sky, and said, “Lord, I need You so badly, and You are so far away.”

I remembered that Steve had once said he walked and talked with God, so I decided to walk around our field and see if God would talk with me. As I stepped outside the building, Steve came from somewhere and asked if he could walk with me. I agreed and said, “Steve, I am looking for God.” A flood of tears began to run down my face. I didn’t want anyone to see me cry, but I could not hold the tears back. Steve reached into his pocket and pulled out a little Bible. He began to read Scriptures to me, and it seemed as if every verse he read had me in it. It was as if God was talking directly to me.

When Steve finished, we were on the steps of a building under a nightlight. He asked me, “Do you still want God to come into your life?” When I said yes, he said, “Invite Him into your heart.” I told God, “I invite You to come into my heart and save me.” It was like a

Two Lists and a Cross

A simple illustration opened Edward’s understanding:

On one side—a list describing the Holy character of God.

On the other—a list describing the depraved condition of man.

Between them—a cross.

For the first time, he understood the message of salvation.

“Truly, I am a modern-day miracle, and my testimony stands as a reminder that faith, hope, and trust in God can lead to extraordinary outcomes.”

heavy weight that I had been carrying was lifted off, and it was replaced with peace, joy, love, and happiness! When we went back into the barracks, before I could speak, Mike looked at me and smiled. He could tell there had been a change in my life.

That weekend, I went to church with Mike. The preacher told us to get saved and then get the Holy Ghost. As I prayed and prayed, the Lord did something wonderful in my life, but I knew I hadn't received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. On the way home, Mike asked, “Have you ever heard of sanctification?” He gave me a tract to read, and after I read it, I realized that God had sanctified me.

While still in Germany, one day I told God, “I believe You bless some people to marry and some not to marry. Lord, if it is Your will for me to marry, bless me with a wife. If it is Your will for me not to marry, give me contentment.” Where I went to church, there were no Christian young ladies who were single, but one day a Christian man said to me, “I met your wife today.” He did not know that I was praying for a wife. He asked me to transport this young lady to and from a Bible study, and that became a pattern. I was concerned about where she had to walk to get to work, so I began to take her to work also. God brought us together

and we've now been married for over fifty years.

When we came back to the States, God worked it out for us to go to Georgia, and we obtained an apartment in Columbus. A lady came by one day and invited my wife to the Apostolic Faith Church. We went and listened attentively. In time, we realized this was where God wanted us. I needed to be sure all three basic Christian experiences were in order in my life, so I went back down on my knees and God gave me the assurance I needed.

Eventually, God allowed me to be reconciled with my biological father. He came to my home one day, and I told my children, “This is your grandfather.” After he left, the Lord spoke to my heart, “See, you forgave him and this is proof. If you would not have forgiven him for not being there for you, you would not have allowed your children to call him Grandfather.” I thank God for reuniting us and giving me the ability to forgive him.

In 2006, I faced a critical moment in my life when a medical procedure revealed blockages in my heart that were so severe that surgery was recommended. The diagnosis left me feeling anxious and uncertain about my future. Yet, in the midst of it all, I turned to the Lord in prayer and placed my trust in God, believing in His power to heal.

By God's grace, the surgeon decided not to operate. He told me that “Mother Nature” had already taken care of me. As I departed from his office, I felt the Lord speak deeply to my spirit, assuring me that He permitted this experience to unfold so His glory could be revealed. He also reminded me of Jesus' words in John 11:4, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.” In response, I wholeheartedly surrendered



A Transformation Under a Stair Light



A soldier looking for God.



A friend with a little Bible.



A few verses of Scripture.



A simple prayer.



And a life forever changed.

myself to the Father's will, trusting His divine purpose and guidance.

Despite the fact that medical specialists did not intervene with surgery, I witnessed firsthand the fulfillment of God's promise to me that this sickness was not unto death. Twenty years later, my heart was tested again, and the results showed the miracle God had done. New blood vessels, which had not existed at birth, had grown in my heart, restoring blood flow and revitalizing my heart. These new blood vessels were God's remarkable means of sustaining my life for over twenty years! Some medical professionals refer to this phenomenon as “nature's bypass,” yet it is evidence of miraculous healing.

This year, my doctor recommended a heart surgery and God led me to proceed this time. Thank God, the surgery went well. No matter what lies ahead, my faith in God continues to be my source of strength and comfort.

Truly, I am a modern-day miracle, and my testimony stands as a reminder that faith, hope, and trust in God can lead to extraordinary outcomes. Since I gave my life to God, I have consistently witnessed His remarkable work in my life, and I am determined never to forget the blessings and miracles I have experienced.

Edward Dixon was the pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Columbus, Georgia, from 1996 until his retirement in 2026. He continues to serve as a minister in the congregation.



Evidence

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES OF THE POWER OF GOD

McKENZIE WHITE

Grants Pass, Oregon



GOD SAVED AND SANCTIFIED me when I was a little girl, but I didn't receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit for another seventeen years. It took so long because I was stubborn. God was asking some things of me that I didn't want to give. Then, in January 2025, I was running errands and my car suddenly died. There was no

"I started praising God, and He just started filling me up with His precious Holy Spirit, and I received the baptism."

warning, no signs of car trouble. God immediately spoke to me through this, saying, "If you don't give Me the things that are hindering you, your Christian walk will be just like this car; it will die." I told Him, "I don't want those things anymore; I give them to You." Then I turned the key in the ignition, and the car started right back up.

I had gotten married a few years before then, and my heart's desire was to have a child. Around that time, I started feeling odd—not really sick but not really well. I wondered if I was pregnant. When I went to take a pregnancy test, God said to me, "What if you're not pregnant?" I told Him, "I'm going to praise You whether I'm pregnant and I'm going to praise You whether I'm not." I took the test, and I was pregnant. I started praising God, and He just started filling me up with His precious Holy Spirit, and I received the baptism. Our little guy is with us now. Pray for my husband and me as we raise him. — *McKenzie White, Grants Pass, Oregon*

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."



BY KAREN BARRETT

KEPT FROM FALLING

An amusing memory of learning to ride a bike led this grandmother to reflect on how God has held her steady through life.



Recently I was reading a short essay by Mark Twain titled “Taming the Bicycle” with my young granddaughters. The piece humorously describes the author’s efforts to learn to ride a bike with the help of “Expert” who assisted him as he attempted to master the skill. Despite numerous falls and collisions, the gibes of a fence-sitting peer who observed his efforts, and the heart-stopping challenges of navigating turns and steering clear of rocks and excited dogs, the author eventually succeeded. He ended the essay by encouraging others to get a bicycle, jokingly concluding, “You won’t regret it, if you live!”

My granddaughters were intrigued by the story and asked when I learned to ride a bike. I responded that when I was eight years old, my ten-year-old sister

“I have been blessed for many years by an ‘Expert’ who has kept me from falling spiritually: Jesus, the Son of God.”

got her first two-wheeler. Getting her permission to try riding it took a fair amount of sisterly pressure, but after a few weeks, I finally wore her down and she agreed. My “Expert” was my dad, who patiently jogged behind me,

Only a Prayer Away

Family and friends can help us in many ways, but they cannot always be there. **Jesus is only a prayer away.**

He stays beside me.

Proverbs 18:24 assures us that “there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” Along with my sister, I have a brother. Now that we are older, I can acknowledge that he’s a close friend too (though my younger self would never have admitted this). However, while I know he would assist me in any way possible, there are obvious limitations—he has his own life, work, and family to absorb his time and attention! Not so with Jesus, He is *always* with me. Never once has He been out on a job, at an appointment, or away on vacation when I needed Him. To the contrary, He has faithfully been by my side in times of sickness, grief, and also during the day-to-day pressures that life brings. I’ve found that He’s only a prayer away.

An example comes to my mind. Some years ago, my husband contracted a staph infection following a supposedly minor surgical procedure. After a week in the hospital and a course of heavy-duty antibiotics, the infection seemed to be clearing up, and he was allowed to come home. However, just a few days later, it was clear that infection was again raging through his body. His fever soared to over 104 degrees, and when I called the doctor, I was told to bring him back into the hospital immediately. However, before I helped him to the car, I called our pastor to request prayer. He prayed right then over the phone, and the Lord instantly touched my husband. Within moments his temperature dropped to normal. There were still challenges ahead, but that



Our Expert: Jesus, the Son of God

He is:

- Always near
- Always attentive
- Always faithful
- Always able



Keep Pedaling

As a child learning to ride a bicycle, Karen often wanted to stop when she saw an obstacle ahead.

Her father would encourage her:

**“You’re doing fine,
Karen! You can do it!
Keep pedaling!”**

Over the years, Jesus has whispered those same words to her heart.

immediate answer to prayer gave me the assurance I needed that God was with us in our crisis.

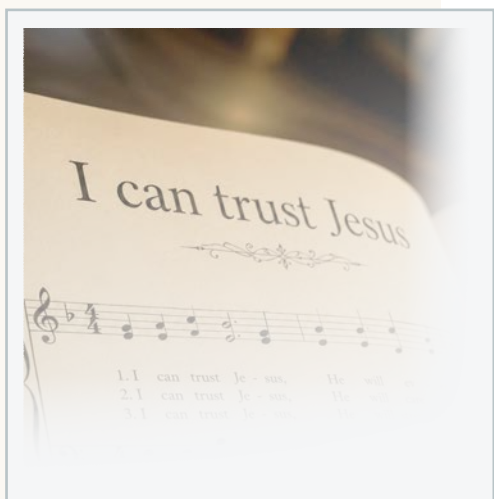
He encourages me.

Encouragement is a great form of assistance! Reflecting again on my bike-riding attempts, I

steadying my progress by hanging onto the bike fender as I wobbled up and down the sidewalk. Like Twain, I eventually mastered the skill, thanks to my expert’s help.

That memory was amusing, but after my granddaughters went home, my thoughts turned to a spiritual application based on the word “falling” and the critical help we need as we navigate the challenges of life. I pondered the fact that I have been blessed for many years by an “Expert” who has kept me from falling spiritually: Jesus, the Son of God. Jude 1:24-25 states, “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.”

Of course, Jesus is immeasurably superior to the best earthly expert. He not only supports me in very real and tangible ways, but He is vital to my spiritual stability! Here are a few of the ways He has kept me from falling.



remember my inclination to stop whenever I saw something ahead that I considered hazardous—a pinecone on the pavement, a bump where a root protruded, or even some leaves that I feared would make the sidewalk slippery. As I began to slow down, my expert would urge from behind me, “You’re doing fine, Karen! You can do it! Keep pedaling!”

In my Christian life, how grateful I am for my Savior’s support. Many times, He has urged me to “keep pedaling” in a spiritual sense. Sometimes His encouragement comes through a familiar Scripture that is exactly what I need, or through words in a sermon that apply precisely to a current challenge. At other times, He speaks through the reassurance of a godly friend, a settled peace that comes during a time of prayer, or through the lyrics of a song.

That was the case a few months ago. In the prayer room before our church service, we listened to prayer requests describing many needs. A faithful worker was back in the hospital, undergoing scans to determine if her cancer had returned. A sister had been placed on hospice; an elderly friend had fallen and fractured her shoulder; and a brother from one of our branch churches had been

diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. There were requests for pressing financial needs, for guidance in making important decisions, and for the salvation of loved ones. As I walked from the prayer room to the sanctuary, I somberly pondered these challenges. However, a vocal duet during the church service directed my thoughts to the One who never fails. The words reminded me (and others too, I am sure):

*“I can trust Jesus,
I can trust Jesus.
He never once has failed
To meet my needs.
He is my strong tow’r
The strength in my
weakest hour.
I can trust Jesus,
He takes care of me.”¹*

What an encouragement! For days afterward, that song went through my mind, and I knew it was comfort from the One who is always there to encourage me when my heart is heavy.

He supports me when I feel unsteady.

Life occasionally takes some twists and turns that could upset spiritual equilibrium. We’ve probably all experienced a few of those “curves in the road,” and they may bring anxiety. A feeling of unsteadiness can also be caused by criticism or rejection. Opposition from family, fellow employees, or acquaintances, can be difficult to navigate. Suffering and injustice can test our trust in a loving and powerful God, and turmoil in the world can be destabilizing as well.

Those of my generation here in the United States have not endured



Twists and Turns

Life occasionally takes unexpected turns that can leave us feeling unsteady:

- A frightening diagnosis
- A personal loss
- Financial uncertainty
- A world in turmoil

Yet, God’s promise remains:

*“I will strengthen thee; yea,
I will help thee” (Isaiah 41:10).*

wars in our own land, but many believers around the world have. And we all remember the global pandemic that isolated us for long months and brought uncertainty and chaos across the globe. In such times, this verse from the Psalms often comes to mind: “In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul” (Psalm 94:19). Thank God that He provides the stability we need in times like these! We can lean on His promise, “Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness” (Isaiah 41:10).

In times of societal turmoil or personal trials, I cling to the Biblical image of hope as “an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast” (Hebrews 6:19). An anchor presupposes the existence of waves both big and small—conflicts,



Stumbling Blocks

In life, we can trip over things we never expected. The same is true spiritually.

The Bible warns about obstacles such as:

- Pride
- Bitterness
- An unforgiving spirit
- Disobedience
- False doctrine

God is able to help us avoid what could cause us to fall.

challenges, and pressures that can move a ship and even carry it out to sea. However, a securely fastened anchor holds the ship fast in the everyday pressure of the tides, as well as when the waves swell and rage in a storm. Our part is to stay firmly attached to Him; His part is to stabilize us.

Many years ago, my grandmother's final words on this earth were "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3). What a precious reminder of the peace and stability God gives!

He keeps me from stumbling over obstacles.

The Greek word *aptaistos*, translated as *falling* in Jude 1:24, has a connotation of "stumbling"—of coming up against an obstruction that could cause a spill. In the physical realm, falls can occur for a variety of reasons. They may be caused by weakness, poor balance, or lightheadedness. However, the most

common reason is tripping over an obstacle—a curb we didn't see, a branch on the pavement, a misplaced item such as shoes or toys, or a turned-up corner of a rug. (I once broke a wrist by falling over that obstacle!)

In the spiritual realm, we know that Satan puts obstacles in our path with the intent of tripping us up. The Bible identifies many of those stumbling blocks—pride, a root of bitterness that is allowed to spring up, an unforgiving spirit, disobedience, turning aside into false doctrine—but God will help us avoid those obstacles if we look to Him.

While I've been known to engage in some fairly dramatic falls physically, I'm grateful that God guards me to keep that from happening spiritually. The word *keep* in Jude 24 is from the Greek verb *phulassō*, and it means "to protect by taking careful measures, guard." Notice that Jude says God is "able." There are no limits to His ability to preserve us! Yes, I could remove myself from His watchful care by ignoring His instructions and

choosing my own way instead of His. But if I am listening to Him and obeying, I can be assured that He will not only keep me from falling spiritually, but also that He will one day present me "faultless" before the presence of His glory.

What an unshakable, reliable, solid guarantee! What a boost to our faith and courage! The writer of Hebrews exhorts us to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, because the One who promised is faithful (see Hebrews 10:23). How grateful we are that we have an unwavering Christ who is committed to keep us from falling.

¹ The Collingsworth Family, "I Can Trust Jesus," Track 5 on *We Still Believe*, Crossroads Records, 2007, CD.

Karen Barrett is Senior Editor at the Apostolic Faith world headquarters office in Portland, Oregon.

FAITH IN MOTION

Building the next 20 years.

A presentation about the future of the Apostolic Faith work was given on the evening of July 6 during the camp meeting in Portland.

Titled, “Faith in Motion: Building the Next 20 Years,” the presentation outlined the top goals for our work in the coming decades and the specific plans being implemented to achieve those goals.

The evening opened with prayer, followed by an introduction by Superintendent General Sola Adesope. He explained that when he was appointed as leader of this work, the need to move the church forward was strongly conveyed to him. While we cherish our history and remained anchored in it, we must always be looking to the future, innovating for tomorrow, and advancing our mission. With that in mind, during that past two years nine committees have been prayerfully formed to address critical areas of church life, operations, and ministry. Each committee is comprised of qualified and talented members of our church body from all around the world, and each has been given a specific mandate. Brother Sola emphasized this approach is not simply a corporate strategy, but a prayerful response to God’s leading, with the goal of ensuring that our church remains spiritually vibrant, mission focused, and impactful for generations to come if the Lord tarries.

After Brother Sola’s opening remarks, the presentation coordinator, Yvonne

Wilson of Portland, Oregon, gave an overview of the evening’s agenda. The committees had been grouped into four categories based on their area of focus: operational capacity, worship and community, ministry excellence, and next-gen formation. One representative from each committee was selected to share their mandate, work so far, and goals. Since the members live in many different countries, not all could be present in Portland for the presentation, but a closing slide for each section showed all their names and locations.

Operational Capacity

John Musgrave of Portland spoke on behalf of the committee for **Business Development**, which is charged with promoting the financial stability of our global churches. Their key initiatives involve: 1) Implementing regional tithing to headquarters so that our worldwide work is supported by our worldwide work; 2) Standardizing financial reporting; 3) Financial planning; and 4) Revenue generation through wise investments that benefit our churches and workers.

The next committee to share was **Infrastructure Development**, represented by Dave Andersen of Portland. That group’s purpose is to provide expertise in construction and property maintenance of our church buildings, offices, campgrounds, youth



camp, and schools. When an infrastructure-related question arises anywhere in our global body, the committee will study the situation, research possible solutions, and then make recommendations. They have already helped offer guidance for improvements on the Portland campground, modifications to the new tabernacle in Nigeria, replacement of a church roof in Jamaica, reconstruction of a perimeter wall in Pakistan, and more.

Sam Fadiora of Winnipeg, Canada, spoke on behalf of the **Information Technology Advancement** committee. Its mandate is to help our churches leverage new technologies for evangelistic purposes. This includes supporting teams at local churches,



providing digital solutions for projects proposed by the other committees, and streamlining our work on a global scale. They already have more than twenty-five initiatives underway, with projects such as generating AI translations and audio versions of our literature, streamlining online event registrations, and developing AI Sunday school tools. A preview of another initiative, the “Visitor Contact Management System,” was demonstrated by Funso Oje of Pullman, Washington, during the presentation. This app would facilitate communication between a church’s ministry team and new visitors.

Worship and Community

On behalf of the **Outreach and Belonging committee**, Carrie Keju of Washington DC spoke about changes in society that require changes in methods of evangelism and discipleship. The committee’s charge is listening to, learning from, and then equipping local churches with ideas and frameworks for outreach and spiritual growth. Their work to date includes surveying hundreds of our churches about current outreach efforts, conducting evangelism “innovation labs,” and beginning production of a guide for local outreach. They are also working on ways to engage new church visitors, starting small groups for fellowship, and writing a manual about spiritual growth, discipleship, and retention.

For the **Museum of Faith**, Catey Hinkle of Portland shared that the church archives include thousands of testimonies, photos, artifacts, and sermons that chronicle the efforts of past generations to further the Gospel. The goal of this committee is to make sure our congregation members know about their rich spiritual heritage so they can continue the same legacy. The

museum that was recently dedicated is the start of this effort; in the coming year, that exhibit will be updated with more of our history. In addition, a companion website will be created for those who cannot visit it in person, and a new subscription series titled “Legacy of Faith” will allow people to hear a testimony or sermon from our archives each week.

Ministry Excellence

Gary Riler of Portland shared that the mission of the committee for **Music Development** is to establish shared standards and offer practical guidance to support our music leaders and encourage thriving music programs around the world. Music has been central to our work from the start, and the goal is to ensure that music never replaces truth but upholds it. The committee was formed very recently and is working on copyright resources and a training session to be given next spring.

The **Ministry Development** committee was represented by Bill McKibben of Seattle, Washington. Its mandate is to provide our ministers and leaders with a better understanding of our global work, and support a unified doctrinal understanding, application, and practice. It was explained that ministerial training has long been part of our work, but now it will be carried out in a more robust fashion through professional online training courses. The committee is creating courses in three key categories: doctrine, church history and practice, and practical applications. Two courses have already been created and the hope is to offer one new course in each category every year moving forward.

Next-Gen Formation

A committee for **K-12 Education** has been formed to explore the possibility of opening a private Christian school in Portland. Rich Barrett, who is from Portland, explained that opening a school could provide support to our own church families and an opportunity for outreach in our community. The committee has researched State of Oregon requirements for private schools and the way other private schools have managed admissions, tuition, curriculum, and staffing. It is currently conducting a survey to assess interest among local families. The survey



results will help the Board of Directors to determine whether or not opening a school in Portland is feasible at this time. If the decision is made to move forward, parents and educators from our congregations would help determine the details of how the school would operate.

The final committee to present was **Youth Development**, represented by Randal Lee of Medford, Oregon. That group’s goal is to encourage future generations to be Christ-centered kingdom workers. They work within established church leadership to support these priorities: spiritual formation, mentorship and leadership development, evangelism, resource development, and regional support. Practically speaking, their work so far has included organizing and supporting workshops, retreats, and other special youth events; connecting young people with opportunities to serve; and developing a variety of materials to support youth development.

The next steps

To learn more about the committees and what they are doing, watch the full presentation by scanning the QR code below. Their work is exciting, inspiring, and also challenging. They all need prayer for God to continue to lead and bless their efforts. As we look to God, we can be sure that the One who has guided this work for the past 120 years will continue to do so until Jesus returns.



MUSEUM OF FAITH DEDICATION

The new museum highlights how a faithful God led consecrated believers 120 years ago to establish an organization that would bring the Gospel to countless lives around the world.

On Monday, June 29, a dedication ceremony was held to officially open the new Museum of Faith, which centers on the early history of the Apostolic Faith work. The museum is located on the Portland campground, situated between the headquarters church office and the tabernacle.

The event was held outside the building on a sunny morning at the start of the annual international camp meeting. It began with a welcome by Superintendent General Sola Adesope, who shared that the museum was created to preserve Apostolic Faith history and inspire future generations. An opening prayer was offered by Darrel Lee, who served as Superintendent General from 2000-2024. He thanked God for the legacy of faith that is being preserved through this effort.

Those who brought the vision of the museum to life were acknowledged and thanked, especially Kim Habre who spearheaded the project. Karen Barrett, also on the museum team, spoke briefly about what the project has meant to her personally. Her connection with the Apostolic Faith goes back over one hundred years, when her grandfather traveled to Portland to investigate Florence Crawford's work. After sitting in just one service, he determined to

move his family here, saying, "There's enough power in this place to change the world." She expressed her appreciation to all the pioneers who upheld the Gospel and faithfully passed it down for us to experience today.

For the Scripture reading, Bill McKibben, who is a Member of the Board of Directors, read Psalm 48:12-14. Rev. Adesope gave the dedication address, emphasizing the intention for the museum to stand as a testimony of God's faithfulness to this organization, and to be a source of courage and boldness for those who are continuing to share the Gospel message around the world today. The dedication prayer was offered by Earl Phillips, who at the age of ninety-six, is one of Portland's most senior veteran



ministers. He said, “We pray, God, that it will be dedicated completely to You, and that every soul, saved or unsaved, that steps into this Museum of Faith, will feel Your presence.”

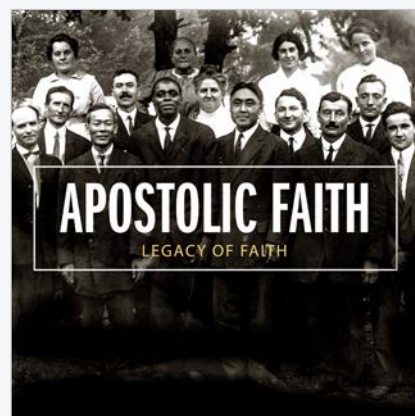
Following the prayer, Rev. Adesope cut the ribbon that was stretched across the museum entrance and invited guests to walk through the exhibit. The foyer area highlighted both the work’s roots in the Azusa Street Revival of 1906 and its status in 2026—the flags of 76 countries were shown to indicate nations where there are Apostolic Faith churches today. Inside the museum, displays highlighted the humble beginnings in Portland and what church life was like during the early days of the work. Other areas featured the publishing ministry, which touched lives around the world, and the many evangelistic efforts that were undertaken by workers, including street meetings, harbor ministry, aerial evangelism, and more. Another display highlighted the history and contributions of musicians to the work.

In a back corner of the room, an old-fashioned canvas tent was set up, portraying what campground lodging was like many decades ago. Captioned photos related how the campground was acquired, the tabernacle built, and the blessings that came from the meetings, both in Portland and other parts

of the country. Another part of the museum was staged to look like an office space, with a desk and typewriter used by previous generations of workers. Photos and captions related the impact of office staff who corresponded with individuals around the world in need of spiritual guidance and prayer.

Another area shared how missionaries helped establish the Latter Rain Gospel in the Caribbean, Japan, South Korea, and Africa. Near the exit, display panels related how the Apostolic Faith work first took hold in a few featured locations: the Southern United States, the Dominican Republic, Romania, and Nigeria. The plan is to highlight other locations in the future.

The Museum of Faith is filled with inspiring and captivating historical accounts. The team is working on new displays for next year and a companion website that will allow people around the world to learn and benefit from the information that has been gathered. In addition, a new *Legacy of Faith* subscription series will be launched in the fall of 2026 to share accounts from the past on a weekly basis. The prayer is that through learning more about the sacrifices and victories of past generations, individuals will be inspired to continue in the same legacy by consecrating their lives fully to Him.



LEGACY OF FAITH

A new series that shares accounts from our archives of the pioneers and veterans of the Apostolic Faith work.

In the fall of 2026, we will be launching a new online historical series titled *Legacy of Faith*. Like the Museum of Faith, the purpose of this series is to preserve our history and inspire future generations. Weekly posts will include testimonies from our Gospel Pioneer books and others, as well as sermons from decades past, photos from our archives, and historical accounts from our work around the world. Through these materials, we hope to share the history of the Apostolic Faith work—the inspiring dedication of those who went before us, the victories that have been won, and the landmarks established around the world during the 120 years since our founding.

THREE WAYS TO ACCESS *LEGACY OF FAITH*

1. Read on our website or app.

Weekly postings from *Legacy of Faith* will be published on our website and app.

- **Website:** Bookmark apostolicfaith.org/legacyoffaith and check back weekly for new material.
- **App:** Open the Apostolic Faith app and look for the *Legacy of Faith* button on the “Media” tab.

2. Listen on your favorite podcast platform.

The audio version of *Legacy of Faith* will be available in audio format on all major podcast platforms,

including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and more. Search for “Apostolic Faith Legacy of Faith” and then follow or subscribe to have each new episode downloaded to your device.

3. Subscribe by email.

Notifications of new *Legacy of Faith* material can be sent to your inbox each week when you sign up for an email subscription at apostolicfaith.org/subscriptions.



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SUBSCRIBE

SHORT TAKES

Brief reports from our churches worldwide.



New Leadership for Nordic Countries

On Saturday, August 1, during the Western Europe camp meeting, a new leader was installed for Nordic Countries.

During the annual ordinance service, Superintendent General Sola Adesope announced the retirement of LeRoy Tønning after thirty-five years as the Scandinavia District Superintendent. He expressed appreciation for the faithful service of Reverend Tønning and his wife, Vigdis. He also announced that Seun Ogunleye would step aside as the pastor at Stavanger, Norway, and help in other areas, and he thanked both him and his wife, Tolu, for their commitment to the Gospel work. Keijo Kinnari was named to fill the roles of Nordic Countries Leader and Stavanger pastor, and he was ordained by the laying on of hands as designated ministers gathered around him to pray. He will now lead the work there with the support of his wife, Deanna. Reverend Adesope asked for prayer for God to revitalize, revive, and strengthen the work in the Nordic countries under Reverend Kinnari's leadership.

A New District Superintendent of Canada

Canada camp meeting took place July 19-26 in a new location: Headingley, Manitoba. Dedicated in September 2024, this church is more centrally located to our Canadian congregations, making it easier for more people to gather there. During the week, many special events took place, including the retirement of Chris Hewlett, the Canada District Superintendent, and the installation of his successor, Mark Mfandarahwa.

Superintendent General Sola Adesope was present for the installation service, held on Wednesday, July 22. That afternoon, a presentation highlighting the rich history and growth of the work in Canada, which dates back to 1943, was given by former Canada District Superintendent Rene Cassell. Reverend Hewlett has been serving in that role since 2013, and although he is retiring

from that position now, he will continue to serve as the pastor in Fort McMurray, Alberta. During his remarks at the installation service, Reverend Adesope commented on the remarkable willingness of Reverend Mfandarahwa and his family to serve wherever God calls them, in this case relocating from London, England, to lead the work in Canada. After ministers gathered to pray over him, Reverend Mfandarahwa said his aim is to continue the Gospel work as his predecessors have done, and he requested continued prayers for his family in this new role.



50th Anniversary and New Leader in Western Europe

This year's Western Europe camp meeting was themed "Year of Jubilee" (Leviticus 25:10) to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the work in the United Kingdom (UK). About 700 people, representing eight countries, gathered at the Cefn Lea Park conference center in Wales for the event, which took place July 25 to August 2.

The afternoon of July 29 was set aside to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the UK work. The congregation was blessed to have the founder, Victor Okusanya, in attendance, as well as Isaac Adigun, who led the work from 2000 to 2021. A video chronicled the history, which began when Brother Victor moved his family from Nigeria to England so he could study music at Goldsmiths, University of London. He contacted other Apostolic Faith members living nearby and invited them to meet. In April of 1976, about eight gathered in his sister's home, and afterward decided to continue the fellowship. From that humble beginning in a sitting room, more than thirty branches exist today. The presentation was

a powerful reminder of what God can do through faith, obedience, and perseverance.

The celebration continued with a tour of the Faith Museum exhibit, where visitors could see memorabilia connecting them to a rich spiritual heritage. A banquet followed, and then a highlight of the day was the 50th Anniversary Concert. Over 150 choir members from across Western Europe presented a time of praise through both classical and contemporary music, including selections composed by Reverend Okusanya.

During the July 30 morning teaching, the mantle of leadership for Western Europe passed from Mark Mfandarahwa to Ola Balogun. After Superintendent General Sola Adesope gave an address of appreciation, the Western Europe Board ordained Reverend Balogun in accordance with Scripture by the laying on of hands. He then addressed the congregation, confirming his pledge to uphold holiness and lead the church forward as inspired by God.

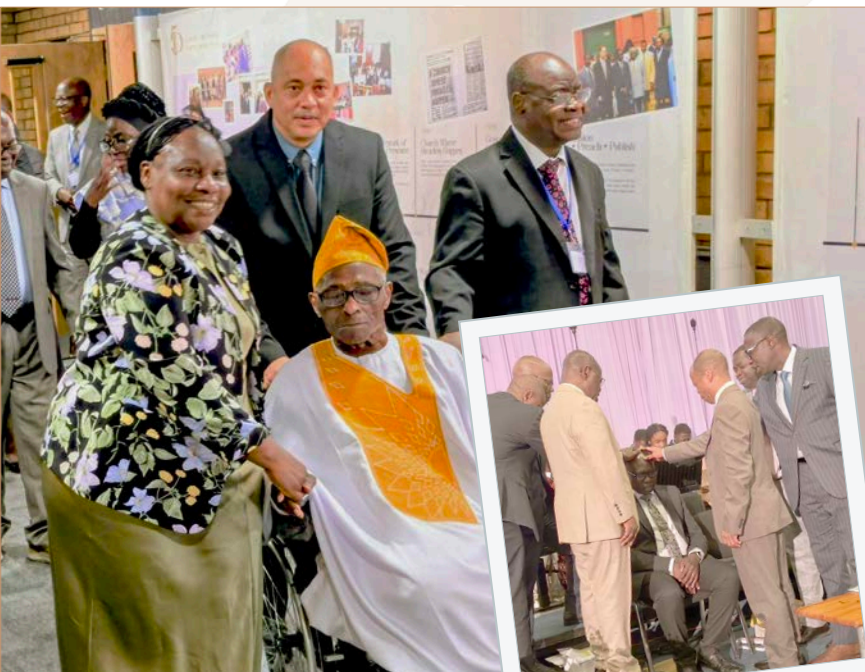
The entire camp meeting was a touching and inspiring time for all.



A New Country Leader in Uganda

During a five-day Easter Revival held in Uganda, a new country leader was ordained and installed on Sunday, April 1, 2026. Our work in Uganda began in 2016 and was led by John Jones until 2024. At that time, Josephine Okpareke stepped in to serve as Country Leader. Now, Denis Mandali will fill the role, with the support of his wife, Sharon. They have been serving God faithfully in Uganda and he was also a Uganda Board Member prior to this new appointment.

In attendance at the installation service were John Musgrave, the Director of Africa Work, along with Onias Gumbo and Isaac Adigun, the district superintendents for Southern and Eastern Africa, and Western and Central Africa, respectively. During the service, ministers gathered around Reverend Mandali and asked God's blessing and guidance over his service and family.



A PREACHER'S WIFE FINDS PEACE

From a young child, Edna wanted to share Jesus with those who had never heard, but she eventually realized that she needed salvation herself.



BY EDNA DAMRON

"I wanted reality"

She was a minister's wife. She led young people's services and missionary meetings.

Yet she knew something was missing.

"I wanted reality in my soul."

In the little country village in Arkansas where I was brought up, we had an old-fashioned home where there was family worship every night before we went to bed. My earliest remembrance is of my father taking the Bible, reading a portion of God's Word, and then all of us going down on our knees and praying.

My father was a preacher in a local church. I loved my father and thought he was the greatest man on earth. One Sunday morning when the pastor was away, my father was at the pulpit. I sat in what they called the "Amen Corner," and while he was preaching, I began to pray silently. I was just a young child, but as I lifted my heart toward God, the Lord opened the heavens and poured a great stream of love through my soul. He saved me! I buried my head in my hands and sobbed and sobbed; it was so wonderful! Sadly, we were not taught a great deal about how to keep in touch with Jesus. I saw that church drift toward the world, and in time so did I.

Later, while my husband was pastor of a little church in northern Washington, I began to realize my spiritual condition. I saw that conducting young peoples' services and missionary meetings did not fulfill my obligations to God. I shall never forget the load of conviction that rested upon my heart over a number of years. I wanted reality in my soul. I wanted to serve God with all my heart, but did not know how to find victory. Even though I was a minister's wife, my condition was like those Paul described: "They have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge" (Romans 10:2).

One day, alone in that little Methodist parsonage, I opened my Bible and the first words my eyes fell upon were: "The LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple" (Malachi 3:1). Just those few words from the Word of God inspired my faith and I took hold of the promises. I cried for mercy. As a sinner, I confessed my sins and gave God my life. He heard that prayer, rolled the burden from my heart, and set me free. I sprang to my



⌘ *Ministers at the 1917 Portland camp meeting. Edna is on the far right in the middle row.*

feet and said, “Oh, I know my Redeemer lives; I know my name is written down in the Lamb’s Book of Life!” I was a new creature in Christ Jesus; old things passed away, and all things became new.

Since I had read John Wesley’s teachings about sanctification, I knew of it from a doctrinal standpoint. I began to seek for that experience. About three weeks later, I consecrated my life deeper to God than I had ever done before. I said yes to the whole will of God, and one night in the wee hours of the morning as I was praying and consecrating my life, God wonderfully sanctified me. That has been a real landmark in my life. I have never doubted that wonderful experience. It has held me steady when I have met false teachers and false doctrine.

I searched here and there trying to find a people who held a high standard of Christianity, who preached the whole Word of God and lived what they professed. One night the Lord led my husband and me into an Apostolic Faith tent meeting where Florence Crawford was holding a revival campaign in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. When we walked into the tabernacle, we knelt at our seats to pray before the service began. My husband began to weep, and he looked over at me and said, “God is in this place.” I had been so disappointed in trying to find the people of God that in my heart I thought, *I’ll wait and see*. But that night the testimonies rang forth with such victory that I knew these people had something real. God seemed to whisper in my soul, “You’re home at

last.” I have never looked for another way. For over fifty years now, these have been my people, and their God has been my God.

As I attended my first Apostolic Faith camp meeting in Portland in 1910, one Sunday morning during the service, God rained down His power on the meeting, and I found myself with many others on my feet praising God in another language I had never learned. God had poured out upon me the mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. The Comforter had come into my heart!

God blessed my husband and me with three sons who gave their lives to Him. Two of them served in World War II. They went into the service of their country saved, and when they came home, they still had the victory. One of them served in the Korean War and had charge of the radar on the ship. His ship led the fleet through mine-infested waters, but I thank God that He spared my son’s life and brought him home safely.

When I was just a little girl, one of the lady workers in our church was very enthusiastic over foreign missionary work, and she organized a juvenile missionary society. She would gather us around her and tell us about the children from other lands who did not know about Jesus. That planted a desire in my heart to be a foreign missionary. Sometimes she would pray and say, “Lord, raise up someone from this little group to carry the Gospel to the heathen lands.” I used to kick my toe against the floor, and in my heart I would say, “She doesn’t know it, but I am going.”



A Landmark Experience

Three weeks after being saved, she fully consecrated her life to God. One night, in the early hours of the morning,

“God wonderfully sanctified me.”

Years later she could still say:

“I have never doubted that wonderful experience.”



The Comforter Had Come

At camp meeting in Portland:

- The power of God filled the service.
- Many stood praising God in other languages.
- The Holy Spirit filled Edna’s heart.

Her testimony was simple:

“The Comforter had come into my heart.”

For years I wanted to be a foreign missionary, but the church we attended required a college education in order to qualify. Illness in our home did not permit me to finish my education, so I had to give up the plans of going to the foreign fields. However, I am so grateful that our boys had a desire to labor in God’s vineyard. One of our sons carried the glad



A Dream Fulfilled Differently

Illness kept her from becoming a foreign missionary, **but God's story was not finished.**

One of her sons carried the Gospel to the West Indies.

tidings of salvation to the West Indies, where he found many people who were hungry for the truth. Something in my heart makes me feel that my son, in some way, is helping to bear the responsibility that I felt as a child to get the Gospel to the foreign fields. I love the missionary work and am thankful the Apostolic Faith Church is helping send the Gospel message to lost souls all over the world. There is still something in my heart that longs for the whole world to know about Jesus. He has done so much for me. He has been my Friend all my life, and

I love to see the Gospel go out to others.

I thank God for this lighthouse—a place where Gospel papers and tracts are printed and sent all over the world, so those who are hungry for God might know about Jesus' power to save. I have had many years in this work, and I thank God for all the privileges He has given me in His service. I have grown old but the Gospel has not—it is just as good today as it was when God saved me many years ago. It is just as new and fresh today as it was back then.

I love Jesus today; He is my Friend, and I have proven that He is closer than a brother. There have been hard places along the way, but the God that we serve cares for us. I thank Him that He ever brought me into this wonderful way!

Edna Damron was born in 1879. She served the Lord faithfully in many capacities, including as an evangelist to the Midwest United States, overseer of the Midwest work, and pastor in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She passed away in 1973.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After attending the Portland camp meeting in 1910, James and Edna Damron felt the Lord's call to take the message of the Latter Rain Gospel to the Midwest United States. Florence Crawford encouraged them with the words, "There is not a tremor in my soul but that you will remain true."

The couple left Portland in October 1911 and held Gospel meetings in Missouri and Arkansas, but their efforts were met with little interest. They wrote to Florence Crawford, and she directed them to Kansas City, Missouri. All they knew of Kansas City was what they had observed as they passed through on the train; the depot was in the slum district, and coal soot covered everything. Edna felt she could not take her little children to that dirty city, but her husband said, "Of course we are going." The first Sunday in Kansas City, Edna prayed until the Lord put such a love in her heart for that place that she loved it for the rest of her life.

The couple had arrived in Kansas City in the winter of 1912 and rented a hall on West Missouri Avenue. They held a street meeting on a Saturday night, and there was a drunkard in the crowd who was known for his opposition to the Gospel. When the meeting concluded, he followed the crowd into the church for a service. The Damrons expected him to cause trouble, but he sat quietly through the meeting. At the close, he prayed and was wonderfully saved, becoming the first of many who received salvation that winter.

During their time in Kansas City, the Damrons bought a secondhand Cadillac, lengthened the chassis, and built a Gospel car to carry twelve workers and a street organ. Street meetings were held in the surrounding towns, and in some locations they held brush arbor meetings. The Gospel was taken to various places in Kansas, Iowa, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, and more souls were saved.

In 1926, the Damrons returned to Portland, bringing most of the Kansas City congregation with them. However, a remnant remained, and a church was dedicated there in 1965.

When James Damron passed away in 1936, Edna was appointed Midwest District Overseer. For the next nine years, she traveled throughout the Midwest, strengthening and encouraging struggling congregations. In 1942, she was sent to pastor the congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she remained until she retired in 1953 at the age of seventy-four.

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Kansas City Gospel workers preparing to go out for a street meeting. Edna is second from the right on the front row. Her husband, James, is on the far left of the third row, seated in the driver's seat.



A STATEMENT OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

We believe in the divine inspiration of the Bible, and endorse all the teachings contained in it. Following is a summary of our basic doctrines.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Jesus
THE LIGHT *of* THE WORLD