

WITNESS | BY ELLEN MORGAN

# PEACE

*A restless heart finds*

THE LIGHT *of* THE WORLD

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2025

## THE Apostolic Faith

EARNESTLY CONTENT FOR THE FAITH—JUDE 3

**VIEWPOINT**

BY SOLA ADESOPE  
SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL

### WONDERFUL PEACE IN THE STORMS OF LIFE

**TROUBLING CIRCUMSTANCES NEED  
NOT TROUBLE OUR HEARTS.**

M

My wife and I first met Sister Ellen Morgan about twenty-four years ago at a Midwest camp. After we moved to the West Coast, we had more interactions with her and came to know and appreciate her quiet, peaceful spirit. We also noticed that she seemed to know everyone who comes to camp meeting! There is a reason for that: as the camp office manager, she meets nearly every guest who stays on the grounds.

One thing we did not know about Sister Ellen was the storms she has been through in life, which she shares in her testimony, “A Restless Heart Finds Peace” (see page 22). She tells that before she was saved, she was troubled inside, but when she gave her life to God, He put peace in her heart

that endured even through times of loss, grief, and sickness.

Sister Ellen’s experience is a reminder that trials come to Christians and non-Christians alike. We are not immune to hardship. At times, circumstances in life may feel as though relentless waves are crashing in, winds are howling, and the shoreline of hope is fading away. In those times, we long not merely for answers, but for peace—the kind of peace that surpasses understanding—and that is just what our Lord offers.

In John 14:27 Jesus said, “My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” Jesus did not speak these words in a moment of



**WHEN WE PRESENT OUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE IT MEANS THAT WE DEDICATE, OR SEPARATE, OURSELVES TO GOD.**

**Doing the Father’s will**

Christ was willing to submit Himself to the Father’s will. His utmost desire was to do the will of the Father. He might have looked ahead to the Millennial Kingdom, when He is going to reign as the King of kings with those whom He has redeemed from this earth. He might have looked ahead to the time when He was going to sit in glory at the right hand of God the Father. But it was not so. His delight was to do the will of His Father who is in

**That desire in His heart, that perfect willingness to obey the will of God, took Him through the Garden of Gethsemane, through Pilate’s judgment hall, and to the Cross to make the ultimate sacrifice.**

Heaven, and that purpose led Him to His death on the Cross. That desire in His heart, that perfect willingness to obey the will of God, took Him through the Garden of Gethsemane, through Pilate’s judgment hall, and to the Cross to make the ultimate sacrifice.

**Continual consecration**

In John 17:19 we read that Jesus said: “I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified.” There was something marvelous in that perfect offering of Christ, when God sent Him to this earth and He took on the form of flesh that He might be a Redeemer and a Savior. There was something in His heart and in His life that made Him a perfect example for us. Some may think, *Well, I have made my consecration, and now I am saved. God will take me through some way.* But our consecration must be complete; our consecration must be continual. We must give God our lives as living sacrifices. We are not our own; we are bought with a price. We have been redeemed by the Blood of Jesus, not with “corruptible things.” After we are born again, we must consecrate our lives more fully to be sanctified wholly. To consecrate still more deeply. At times, we must consecrate to be healed by the Blood of Jesus Christ. After all those experiences of consecration, there yet remains a constant consecration that must go on as long as we live.

**Separation**

Luke 14:25-26 says, “And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.” Many people would say: “you people testify that God has united homes and that there is love existing in the home. Then you turn around and say that Jesus says unless a man hates his father and his mother, his wife, his children, his brother, his sisters, yea, even his own life also, he cannot be a disciple.” This is a part of the mystery of Christ. The natural heart cannot understand the spiritual things concerning the Word of God. The natural man would say, “That is a contradiction.” However, it is no contradiction at all. The hate which Christ speaks of is not a carnal hate; it is that determination to not allow any living soul to stand between oneself and God. The follower of Christ will hate anything that separates from God. In Deuteronomy 13:6-8 we read: “If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, in unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the

earth; Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shalt thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him.”

That is the “hate” that is to exist in you—a resolve in your heart to withstand even those of your own household if they hinder you or cause you to serve other gods or, in other words, would cause you to draw back from fully following the Lord. At times, people will look



**Our consecration must be complete; Our consecration must be continual.**

**We must give God our lives as living sacrifices.**

back spiritually and then try to get somebody else to look back with them. It is not for any of us to look back because somebody else does. The thing for us to do is to press on in spite of everything.

We can be kind, we can be tender, we can be loving, and faithful to everyone in our household, and yet never compromise with them on spiritual matters for a moment. And that is the way God wants it done. Because of our loyalty and our standing true to God, many times they will be brought to the Lord. So there is a double blessing in standing true to God and not compromising with one’s people.

Let us look at Luke 14:27, “And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build

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## A STATEMENT OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

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

**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.*

**RESSTITUTION** 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.*

**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 endowment 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.*

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

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### WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

**ACKNOWLEDGE**

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

**CONFESS**

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

**REPENT**

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

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

**FORSAKE**

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

**BELIEVE**

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

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

a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him." Those who will not present their bodies a living sacrifice to God, who do not consecrate and go on through with God, sooner or later they are going to fall by the wayside and be a reproach to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Inner consecration**

There was a time when Abraham was called to make a consecration—not the consecration of something that God had given him, but a deep, inner consecration. God had called him to leave the land of Ur of the Chaldees and go to Canaan. The time had come when God would strengthen his faith by sacrifice. He had to have it planted in his heart to believe God, God spoke to this man and he obeyed; he brought his sacrifice as God told him to, placed it on the altar, and waited there for the fire of God to come down and witness to the sacrifice. (We read about it in Genesis 15:7-21.)

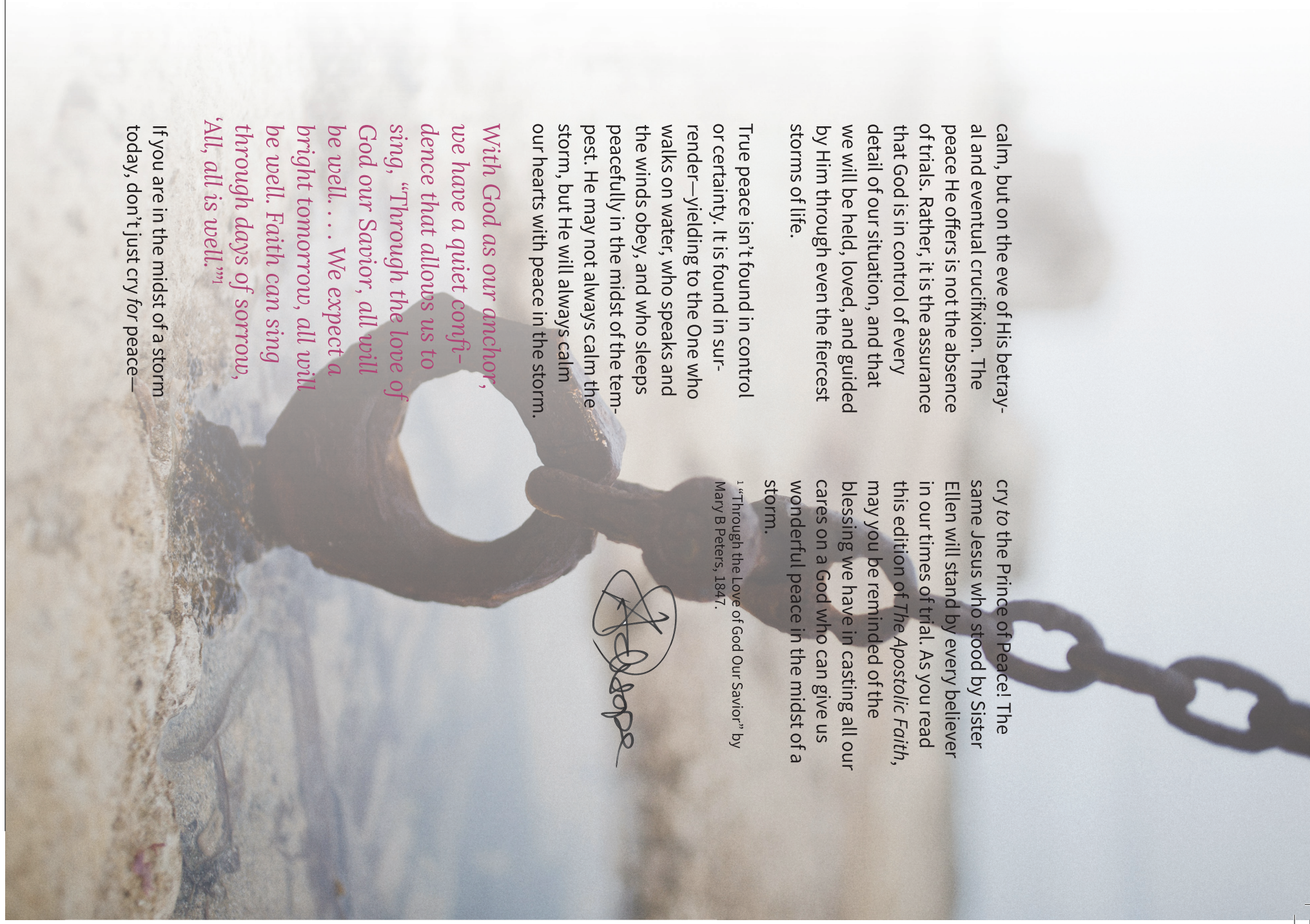
The fowl's come down and would have taken the consecration off the altar, but Abraham stood there watching it and drove the fowls away—which is typical of our consecration to God. When we put something on the altar, we must keep it there. After we have made our consecration, the enemy of our souls may come and say: "Isn't necessary to consecrate this. You don't have to consecrate that. Other people have received things from God without having to make such consecrations." That is the "fowls" trying to take your consecration off the altar. It might be possible that God *did* require the other people to make the consecration, and if they had made it and had given all to God, He would have rewarded them and given them much more than they have received.

The fowl's of the air came down on Abraham's sacrifice and he drove them away, until his heart was so burdened that darkness settled down upon him and he fell asleep. Many people have consecrated and agonized with God, and poured their souls out unto God until they just felt helpless. They are, as Abraham was, ready to fall prostrate under the load of the extreme agony of their consecration. It is as such a time that God will let the smoking fire come down and consume the sacrifice that is given, and the witness is there that the work is done.

Oh, that God would give us in our innermost souls that lesson on consecration that will bring forth the fruit! We look so much to what others do and say, and what God permits others to have—but you don't know how God has dealt with others. It is not for you to look at others. Jesus said to Peter, when he was

so much concerned about John: "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me" (*John 21:22*). Let us get our eyes on God; let us make our own consecrations. I have wondered many times if we realize what it means to make a sacrifice unto God, a consecration that will cost us something. If we only would go down before God in consecration, in presenting our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God! If the love of God could be perfected in every heart, I believe the whole world would feel the influence of that love. Your influence is felt. You never can tell how far your influence may be felt. A perfect consecration will give you a holy influence. How much the world needs that influence! It is that which Kingdom on earth.

*Reverend Florence Crawford founded the Apostolic Faith Church of Portland, Oregon, and led the work from 1906 until her passing in 1936.*



## PHYSICAL BIRTHS. → SPIRITUAL BIRTH

FROM EARTHLY PARENTS  
→ FROM GOD

BORN INTO SIN  
→ DELIVERED FROM SIN

REJOICING BY FAMILY  
→ REJOICING IN HEAVEN

CARRIES PHYSICAL TRAITS  
→ SHOWS SPIRITUAL  
CHARACTERISTICS

came from parents. With a spiritual birth, we are born of God. That is why Jesus said, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). Spiritual birth is from our Father in Heaven.

**At physical birth we are born into sin; at spiritual birth we are delivered from sin.** As mentioned before, because of the Fall, every person in this world was born into sin. But thank God for spiritual birth, which delivers us from sin! This contrast is echoed in other parts of Scripture. Psalm 51:5 says, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." In 1 John 3:9 we read, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." God delivers from sin, and it is wonderful.

**There is rejoicing when a baby is born physically and there is rejoicing at spiritual birth.** Anyone who has been around a newborn baby knows the joy that a child can bring—few experiences in life compare to that type of pure love and happiness. In Luke 15:7 Jesus said, "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth." A spiritual birth also brings joy! We do not read in the Bible about many things that cause rejoicing in Heaven, but a soul being reborn does. **Physical characteristics are in place at physical birth and spiritual characteristics are in place at spiritual birth.** When people see my eldest daughter, they often ask, "Are you Brother Solá's daughter?" They can see my traits in her and it is obvious that she is my child. In the same way, after we are born again, others can see that we are children of God. In fact, the label "Christian" was not first used by believers, but by others who recognized and identified the traits of Christ in his followers (see Acts 11:26). Likewise, anyone who knows about Christ will be able to recognize his characteristics in us.

**Whom do you follow? Whom do you love? What do you talk about?** —Loyce Carver

### Evidence of the new birth

When a person experiences the new birth, his life is not the same as it was before. At the Portland camp meeting in 1964, Brother Loyce Carver gave a message on this topic. He said, "Ask yourself, *Am I a Christian? Am I saved? Have I been born of the Spirit of God?* You will know the answer when you are certain who leads you around. Whom do you follow? Whom do you love? What are your desires? What do you look for? How do you behave? How

*With God as our anchor,  
we have a quiet confidence  
that allows us to sing,  
'Through the love of  
God our Savior, all will  
be well. . . . We expect a  
bright tomorrow, all will  
be well. Faith can sing  
through days of sorrow,  
'All, all is well!''*

If you are in the midst of a storm today, don't just cry for peace—

calm, but on the eve of His betrayal and eventual crucifixion. The peace He offers is not the absence of trials. Rather, it is the assurance that God is in control of every detail of our situation, and that we will be held, loved, and guided by Him through even the fiercest storms of life.

cry to the Prince of Peace! The same Jesus who stood by Sister Ellen will stand by every believer in our times of trial. As you read this edition of *The Apostolic Faith*, may you be reminded of the blessing we have in casting all our cares on a God who can give us wonderful peace in the midst of a storm.

<sup>1</sup> "Through the Love of God Our Savior" by Mary B. Peters, 1847.

*A perfect consecration will  
give you a holy influence.  
How much the world needs  
that influence!*



## CONSECRATION —A VITAL NEED

BY FLORENCE CRAWFORD

### OUR CLASSICS

Our commitment to God must be complete and continual.

FROM A SERMON GIVEN ON JULY 16, 1926.

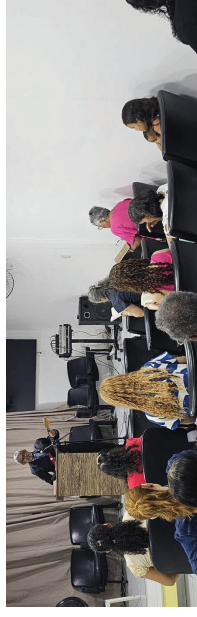
**C**onsecration means "to offer, to devote, to yield ourselves; to set ourselves

apart for some holy purpose." It is only through the mercy of God that we can offer or devote ourselves to God. It is only through the Spirit of God that conviction can rest upon the heart. The Spirit goes out into the world and calls, or draws, men and women unto God; and it is His mercy to our souls that this conviction rests upon us. It all goes back to the goodness of God, His grace and power.

Romans 12:1 says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." The Apostle Paul said, "A living sacrifice." It is not a dead sacrifice. When we present our bodies as a living sacrifice it means that we dedicate, or separate, ourselves to God. Let come what will, we are to continue to keep ourselves devoted, separated unto God. If we could only realize what that really means!



➤ *Servics in (left) Fortaleza, Brazil, and (right) Chimbarongo, Chile.*



was accompanied by Walter Gabriel Teves, who is our contact person in Buenos Aires. For the entire day, they had the opportunity to distribute tracts in the business district and the city center. We pray that many will respond to the Gospel message and experience the salvation and holy living that is available through Christ.

### Argentina

After leaving Uruguay, on April 27 Reverend Ajayi met with Walter and his family, including his wife, Fatima, and their four daughters. At the meeting, Fatima shared how she came to receive salvation through the serious sickness of her mother. She promised God that if He would heal her mother, she would leave her life of sin. God did heal her mother, and also helped her to keep her promise and get saved. In addition, He later gave her the deeper Christian experiences.

Reverend Ajayi has been in contact with Walter for many years, and at this meeting they established a plan for the Teves family to begin

### Uruguay

Reverend Ajayi said that for a few years now he has been praying for an opportunity to visit Uruguay, and finally that door opened during this trip. On April 26, he took a ferry from Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Montevideo, Uruguay. He

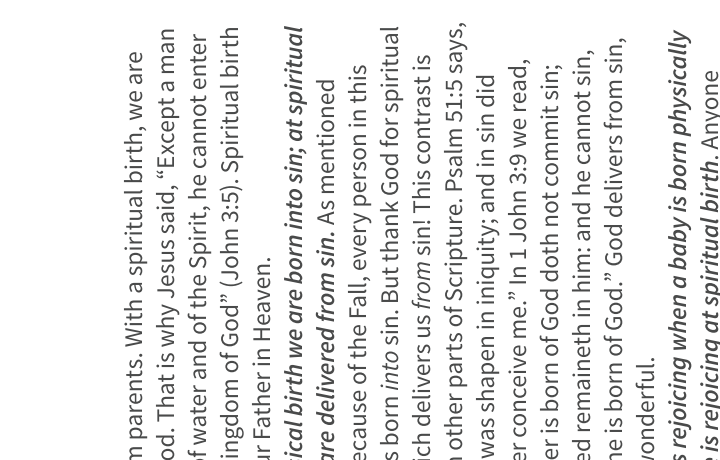
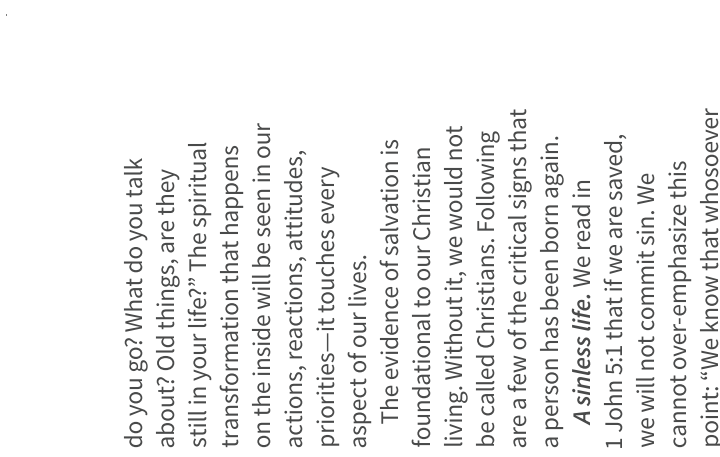
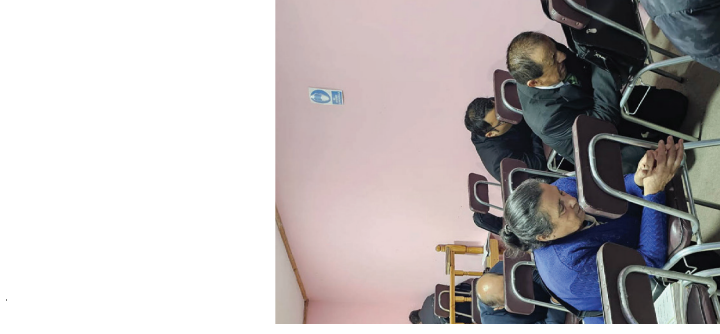
the road to Emmaus with two disciples. The congregation was challenged to look to Jesus, because He wants to take over in their lives and give victory. God's presence was strongly felt throughout the service, and many went to the altars in tears afterward.

The message was taken from Luke 24:13-35 and was about Jesus taking over as He walked

praying for this great news.

However, just a week before this meeting, the hospital called to say she no longer had cancer. She thanked the Lord and everyone who had been praying for this great news.

Left to right: Prayer before a service in Raucó, Chile; Distributing literature in Uruguay; Meeting with the Teves family in Argentina.





Top to bottom: The St. Louis church; The choir sings during the rededication service.

# DEDICATED AND REDEDICATED IN ST. LOUIS

The St. Louis congregation rejoiced after God returned their church building through a miraculous series of events.

facility instead. Though this was a difficult transition, they were grateful to find a shared church building where they could maintain their usual service schedule. Over the following years, the congregation grew, and America Work Bob Downey, and visitors from most of the Midwest branch churches.

The Apostolic Faith work first came to St. Louis in 1912. In the early days, meetings were held in abandoned buildings or rented spaces. The location changed often, in part because the leaders wanted to reach people in different parts of town.

By the 1950s, the congregation was able to purchase a permanent place of worship. They settled in a location on Grand Avenue, and after making renovations, the church was dedicated in 1957 by Reverend Raymond Crawford, who was General Overseer at that time. The saints worshiped in that building for almost forty years and then decided to move to a better location in the early 1990s. They purchased property and built their own church there, which was dedicated on September 3, 1995.

Sadly, by 2016 the St. Louis congregation was financially unable to maintain that building. After much prayer, in 2017 the decision was made to sell it and meet in a rented building instead. Though this was a difficult transition, they were grateful to find a shared church building where they could maintain their usual service schedule. Over the following years, the congregation grew, and America Work Bob Downey, and visitors from most of the Midwest branch churches.

**ON APRIL 6, 2025, A SPECIAL REDEDICATION SERVICE WAS HELD FOR OUR CHURCH BUILDING IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.** In attendance were Superintendent General Solo Adesope, Director of North America Work Bob Downey, and visitors from most of the Midwest branch churches.

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was a duet by Donald Fitin, pastor at Van Buren, and Joel McCarville, also of Van Buren. Then Jeff Downey, the St. Louis pastor, read 2 Chronicles 6:40-42 and 7:1-3 for the Scripture reading.

The last special was sung by Ben and Stephanie Luebert of Richland Center, Wisconsin. Then Reverend Adesope delivered the dedication message from 2 Chronicles 6:20-21. He began by declaring, "This is a morning of recovery!" He encouraged the congregation that God has power to recover anything the devil had taken from them. He dedicated the St. Louis church as a "house of recovery and outreach" and a "solution center." Following the message, Boniface Uzendu of St. Louis gave the dedicatory prayer.

The Spirit of the Lord was felt strongly throughout the dedication service, and an amazing prayer meeting followed. Those who attended returned to their homes dedicated, rededicated, refreshed, and revived.



Top to bottom: A meeting in the Iquitos, Peru, church; Meeting with the Sao Paulo, Brazil, pastor and his wife; Sunday school in Iquitos.

**Peru** March through May are the wettest months in Iquitos, where an Apostolic Faith Sunday school is located on the Amazon River in the rainforests of northeastern Peru. Upon arrival, Reverend Ajayi was met by a hearty chorus of rain outside, but soon he was enjoying a hearty chorus of songs inside. Following the time of singing, classes were held, with the adult lesson on "Christian Maintenance" led by Modesto Aranda and the children's lesson on "Honoring and Obeying Mothers," taught by the Iquitos pastor, Clara Aranda. At the close, the children were led in prayer and then served refreshments.

Following Sunday school, everyone reassembled for a brief exhortation from John 5:2-9. The listeners were encouraged that the same God who visited the man at the Pool of Bethesda had visited them in Iquitos to give them eternal life. A time of prayer followed. Later in the day, a business meeting was held to discuss the challenges facing the Iquitos congregation. These include the need for improved infrastructure, evangelism, and Christian growth. The saints also expressed appreciation to the Portland headquarters for helping them remodel after flood damage and for providing new chairs.

On May 5, Reverend Ajayi traveled to Chiclayo, which is located on the western coast of Peru. He was expecting to visit the leader of our Peru work, Augustin Quiroz, on his sickbed, but the Lord had raised him up. At Reverend Quiroz's house, the two met with some pastors who had expressed a desire to become part of the Apostolic Faith. They discussed Bible doctrines, church practices, and leadership structure, and later Reverend Ajayi visited one of their homes and another's church. Following these visits, they agreed to remain in communication.

At the conclusion of his time in Peru, Reverend Ajayi said he was encouraged to see spiritual growth among all ages here and is praying that the Lord will continue to shine His Light throughout all of South America.



holding Apostolic Faith meetings in their home in Buenos Aires. We pray the Lord will help them spread the Gospel in this location.

**Brazil** In Brazil, Reverend Ajayi met first with the pastor of our Sao Paulo congregation, Josias Luiz do Carmo, and his wife, Maria, on April 29. They formulated plans to advance Sunday school and major outreach efforts in the coming year, and also arranged for participation in combined online church services in Brazil.

On May 1 and 2, services were held at our Brazil headquarters in Jurema, a suburb of Fortaleza. At the first meeting, the message was based on Job 35:3, and the congregation was reminded of the many earthly and heavenly advantages that come from having a relationship with God. A good prayer session followed, with many coming forward to be prayed over for healing. Reverend Ajayi said he left Brazil very encouraged that the leaders and brethren there are determined to press forward with zeal in the faith.

they had never committed those misdeeds. Sin is the transgression of the law of God (see 1 John 3:4), in other words, when God says we should do one thing and we willfully do something else, that act of disobedience against God is sin.

**IF OUR GREATEST NEED HAD BEEN INFORMATION, GOD WOULD HAVE SENT US AN EDUCATOR... BUT OUR GREATEST NEED WAS FORGIVENESS, SO GOD SENT US A SAVIOR. — ROY LESSIN**

our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior! I love that message, it rings very true to me. While we have a number of needs in this life, at the root of them all is our need for salvation.

**S**alvation is the act of God's grace by which sinners receive forgiveness for their sins and stand before God as though they had never committed those misdeeds. Sin is the transgression of the law of God (see 1 John 3:4), in other words, when God says we should do one thing and we willfully do something else, that act of disobedience against God is sin.

one years ago, I bought a Christmas card that said, "If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer. But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior!" I love that message, it rings very true to me. While we have a number of needs in this life, at the root of them all is our need for salvation.



# OUR GREATEST NEED

A closer look at humanity's biggest problem and God's solution.

FROM THE WORD BY SOLA ADESOPE

**JOHN 3:7 STATES: "Ye must be born again."**

## WHAT IS SALVATION?

**SALVATION:** The act of God's grace by which sinners receive forgiveness for their sins and stand before God as though they had never committed those misdeeds.

Sin is very dangerous. It destroys lives. We often hear people say, "Sin will take you further than you want to go." Romans 6:23 tells us, "The wages of sin is death." Because humanity went into sin, what we should receive at the end of our lives is eternal death. However, the rest of that verse says, "but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." God did not leave the human race to die—the sent Jesus to be our Savior!

The sole purpose of Jesus coming to earth was to deliver mankind from sin. This is the very foundation of the Gospel message and it is the news that every sinner needs to hear most. Today, let's consider why salvation is necessary, why Jesus spoke of the experience as a "new birth," and what evidence will be seen when a person has been saved.

## The need for salvation

At one point in history, there was no sin in the world. In the very beginning, when God first created the earth and the first couple, Adam and Eve were without sin and they enjoyed perfect fellowship with God. We read in Genesis chapter 3 that God would come to them in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the day and talk to them. He might have asked them, "Adam, how are you doing, Eve, how are you today?" This was the type of communion they shared.

God told Adam and Eve they could eat of everything in the Garden, except the fruit on the Tree of the Knowledge of good and Evil. However, the devil came and tempted them to eat that fruit, and they gave in to the temptation. They ignored His warning and disobeyed God by eating from the forbidden tree.

That act of deliberate disobedience and rebellion against God was the first sin, and it separated Adam and Eve from God, breaking their fellowship. Today, we call that event the Fall of Man. Adam and Eve were driven from

the Garden and their actions brought a curse upon the whole earth.

When sin entered the world, death came with it. More than just *physical death*, where the body dies, but also *spiritual death*, which is when we become separated from God. Adam and Eve became spiritually dead when they sinned, and subsequently, all their descendants—including everyone today—were born in that same depraved condition. Without intervention, the end result of sin is *eternal death*, which is eternal separation from God with no hope of ever reconciling.

This principle is still true today: any sin in our lives—whether seemingly small or great, obvious or subtle—causes separation from God and spiritual death (see Isaiah 59:2). If we die physically while in a sinful condition, we will face eternal death.

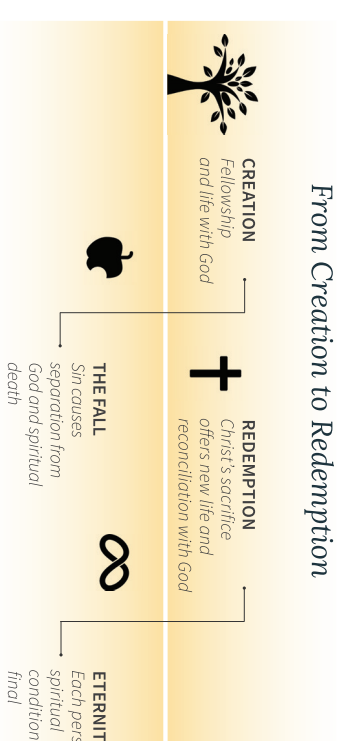
Thank God that He loves mankind and He did not leave us in that state of dying with no hope! Instead, God sent a Savior to redeem us. Only a sinless, guiltless, perfect One could be the remedy for sin, and that One is Jesus Christ. His sacrificial death paid the penalty for sin, so that all who believe on Him and turn from sin to Him can be saved. He died for each of us in order to save us (Hebrews 2:9). What amazing love!

## The new birth

There are many aspects of salvation that we could analyze, but the one we want to consider today comes from a passage in the Book of John. In that account, we read about a Jewish man named Nicodemus who came to Jesus with questions. He was a leader in the religious community, and God did something wonderful for him. In John 3:7 Jesus told him, "Ye must be born again." That is where we get the terminology of "new birth."

In this passage, Jesus was explaining that no one will see the beauties of the Gospel or get to Heaven without experiencing a new birth, or second birth. Just as surely as we needed to be physically born to be alive in this world, we must have a spiritual birth to live in God's Kingdom. That is what happens when we are saved.

By describing salvation as a "birth," Jesus was giving us insight into what happens at salvation. Here are a few comparisons between physical birth and spiritual birth. **Physical birth is from parents, while spiritual birth is from God.** A physical birth cannot happen without parents. I had the privilege to dedicate many babies while pastoring at our church in Pullman, Washington, and every single one of them



## ONLY GOD'S VIEWPOINT MATTERS

Let's embrace our individuality and walk confidently in who God made us to be!

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

*"John W. Peterson, "No One Understands Like Jesus," John W. Peterson Music Company, 1952.*

*"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this*

*because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved" (Psalm*

*16:8).*

*"Past negative experiences. To attack our "in Christ" identity, Satan may remind us of mistakes of judgment, unintentional missteps, incidents that occurred before we were saved, or situations that hurt or discouraged us. We can look again to the Apostle Paul for an example of how to deal with painful recollections. Paul had many reasons to grieve over his past: he had persecuted the members of the Early Church and even held the coats of those who stoned Stephen, the first Christian martyr. But he said,*

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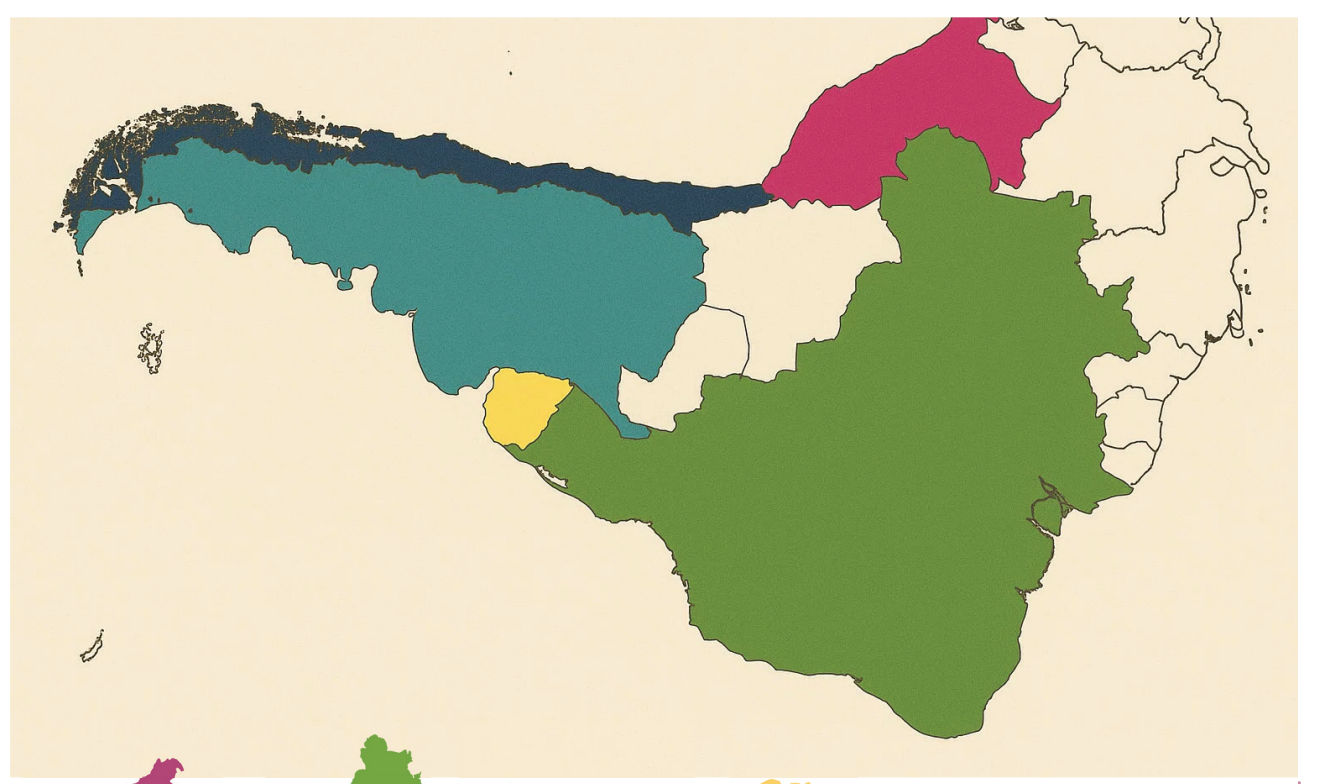
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### WORLD REPORT

## SOWING SEEDS IN SOUTH AMERICA

For the first time in several years, Director of South America Work, Sam Alayi was able to visit our churches in Chile, Argentina, Brazil, and Peru, as well as make his first-ever trip to Uruguay. During the trip, he met several new converts, arranged for some congregations to join combined online church services, met with individuals who are interested in becoming part of the Apostolic Faith, and distributed literature in new areas. Following is a brief report from each country he visited.



- 1 CHILE
- 2 URUGUAY
- 3 ARGENTINA
- 4 BRAZIL
- 5 PERU

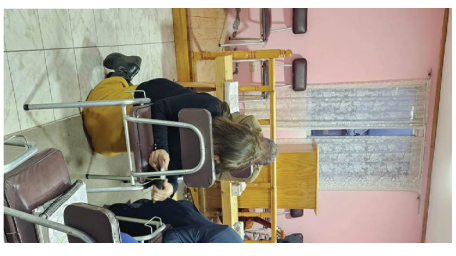
### Chile

#### REVEREND ALAYI ARRIVED IN CHILE

ON APRIL 22. That evening, he traveled with Israel Gajardo, the leader of our work there, and another brother to our Ranco location for a business meeting. After welcoming everyone and extending greetings from the Portland headquarters, Reverend Alayi was glad to meet some new brethren who had been saved since his last visit. Then the group discussed ways to expand the work in Ranco through evangelism, and also decided to make that location a center for joining combined online services with our other churches in Chile.

After the business meeting, an evangelistic service was held. It began with traditional Chilean-style music featuring mandolins and guitars. As the congregation sang "Onward Christian Soldiers," the Spirit of God was mightily present. The message was from Genesis 16:7-13, encouraging those present to experience the same transformation that Hagar did so they could also leave rejoicing. The sermon was followed by a good altar service and time of fellowship.

On Wednesday, a church service was held at the Chile headquarters location in Chimbarongo. As in Ranco, there were new people present who had been saved in recent years and added to the



**SINCE OUR IDENTITY IS ROOTED IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST, we need to guard against measuring ourselves by others.**

### Overcoming hindrances to believing

The enemy of our souls will do all he can to undermine our confidence and hinder us from fully and consistently believing what God says about our identity. His attacks may come in several forms, so let's briefly consider four of them.

**External messages.** It's no secret that we live in a sinful and increasingly widespread. As Christians whose foundational beliefs are deeply rooted in the Word of God, we may be accused of being out of touch, narrow-minded, bigoted, hypocritical, or worse, but we must not let those negative assessments impact our reliance on what God says in His Word.

**The comparison trap.** Since our identity is rooted in our relationship with Christ, we need to guard against measuring ourselves by others. We can admire someone else's accomplishments or abilities, but we want to avoid envying them. I enjoy the beautiful music provided by the musicians who perform in our church services, but I am not distressed because I cannot sing or play an instrument like they do.

The Apostle Paul warned against comparing ourselves to others, saying, "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves; but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (2 Corinthians 10:12). Let's embrace our individuality and walk confidently in who God made us to be!

**The accusations of Satan.** The enemy of our souls may seek to destabilize us by telling us that we are not good enough, that God is disappointed in us, or that we've failed Him in some way. Remember that the Bible says Satan is a liar, and the accuser of the brethren (see John 8:44 and Revelation 12:10-12). We must take care not to listen to him or be shaken by his insinuations. The Psalmist voiced his assurance by saying, "I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved" (Psalm 16:8). We too can stand fast.

**Past negative experiences.** To attack our "in Christ" identity, Satan may remind us of mistakes of judgment, unintentional missteps, incidents that occurred before we were saved, or situations that hurt or discouraged us. We can look again to the Apostle Paul for an example of how to deal with painful recollections. Paul had many reasons to grieve over his past: he had persecuted the members of the Early Church and even held the coats of those who stoned Stephen, the first Christian martyr. But he said, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this

## WE KNEW OUR MARRIAGE WAS FOR LIFE.

**no questions about how long we would stay married;**

**at the Portland camp meeting in 1974, after the evening service on July 10, on the back road behind the tabernacle, I asked my girlfriend, Wendy, if she would marry me. She said yes! When we were married just over seven months later, we had**

**no questions about how long we would stay married;**



## EVIDENCE OF THE NEW BIRTH

- A SINLESS LIFE
- OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY
- THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
- FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND HIS PEOPLE
- LIFE IN ABUNDANCE

## CHRISTIANITY is often resisted in society, but at the same time, people love those who have the fruit of the Spirit in their lives.

*A saved soul will love life in abundance.* Jesus said, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Throughout the Book of John, the word *life* appears forty-seven times. The writer was encouraging new believers to understand that the best life is in Christ. Some people think they will enjoy their lives by living in sin, but sin is what destroys a life. I am enjoying life in this gospel! And one day, we will enjoy eternal life—life without end with Jesus. John wrote about this too, "Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

### The greatest offer

Man's greatest problem is sin, and God's greatest solution is salvation. If you are not saved today, surrender your life to God and you will experience the new birth that Jesus spoke about. This great salvation and the evidence of it will be yours today!

Roy Lessin, "God Sent Us a Savior: A Collection" (Charlot/Victor/Pub: 1998).  
 \*N. B. Vandell, "My Sins Are Gone," © 1994 Harry D. Clarke.

**Reverend Sola Adesope is the Apostolic Faith Superintendent General.**

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A review of God's intention for marriage from the beginning.

## A LIFELONG COMMITMENT

BY JACK CHASTEEN

**God places great value upon marriage.** At Creation, He did not establish kingdoms or laws or governments or authorities as the foundation for society. He established the family unit and ordained that it should be based upon marriage between one man and one woman.

After bringing the world and everything in it into existence, God provided a wife for Adam, the man He had created. We read in Genesis 2:18, “And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”

— Marian Antioala

By the grace of the Lord, a few years ago we established a house of prayer, an Apostolic Faith branch church, in my community of Raddovan. It is a place where I humbly serve the Lord and care for those who come to worship. May the Lord be praised forever and ever!

Even the doctors who once saw no hope for me now regard me as a miracle of God.

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↪ *Marian with Wayne Butler (pastor in Port Angeles, Washington).*



“Holding a twenty-centimeter nail in my left hand, I picked up a hammer with my previously paralyzed right hand. As I hammered the nail, tears streamed down my face, not from pain but from overwhelming joy that the Lord had restored me.”

MARIAN ANITOALA  
Raddovan, Romania

## Evidence



IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF AUTUMN 2017 WHEN I FIRST FELT A SHARP

uncertainty drained my finances but yielded no results. Frustrated and disheartened, I decided to stop seeking medical help.

Less than a week later, I became completely paralyzed and bedridden. I couldn't turn to either side, trapped in a constant

use it at all. My wife fed me by spooning small amounts of soup into my mouth, which I could barely swallow. After eating, she would help me lie down again. Turning to my left or right side required her assistance, and even then, I could only

if only, could turn onto my left side for just five minutes.” At that moment, I felt a hand touch my left hand, and the unbearable pain throughout my body decreased by half. I managed to turn onto my left side, and with a deep sigh, I felt an unexpected sense of vitality, as though I were eighteen years old again. I stayed in that position for five minutes before turning back onto my back, remaining paralyzed and unable to move further. Later, my wife helped me out of bed but I could barely walk and moved incredibly slowly.

News of my plight reached Brother Mitia and then my district superintendent, Brother Macovei. They, in turn, shared my condition

with brethren in America. During a visit to Romania, two brothers from America came to my home in Raddovan. They prayed with me and read from James 5:13-16. After the reading, one of them anointed me with oil in the Name of the Lord Jesus. The brothers then laid their hands on me and prayed fervently. As they prayed,

state of immobility. Every day, I took a handful of medications, but instead of improving, my condition worsened. My wife had to lift me out of bed and help me sit on its edges, a position I could endure for no more than ten minutes due to the unbearable pressure enveloping my body. My right hand was immobile, stuck to my side. I couldn't

stay in that position for about ten minutes before returning to lying on my back.

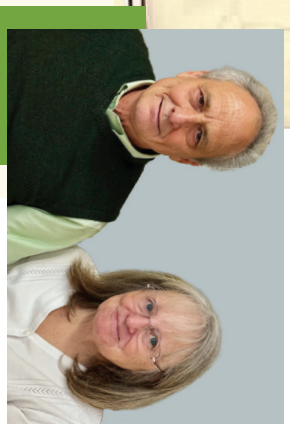
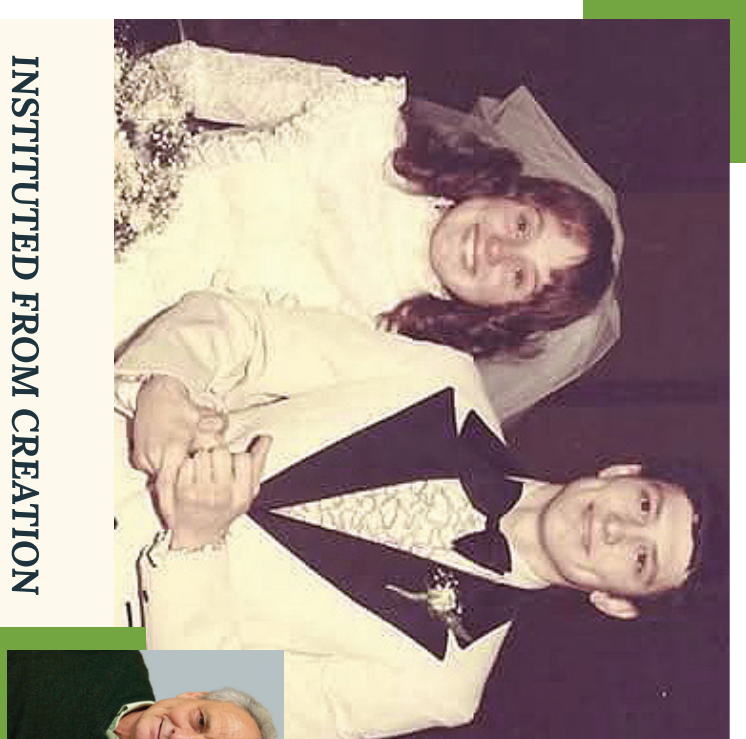
For three years, I endured constant chills whenever it was summer or winter time. Even the lightest touch caused me excruciating pain, and I often cried out in agony. My weight plummeted from 100 kilograms (220 lbs.) to a mere 35 kilograms (77 lbs.),



↪ *Left to right: Debbie and Harlan Lee (Director of Romania work), Marra Negritu (Pastor in Craiova), Marian and Mia Antioala, Rodica and John Murgarec (Director of Romania work from 2006-2023), and George Macovei (Eastern Romania District Superintendent).*

PAIN IN MY BACK THAT RADIATED DOWN MY RIGHT LEG, CAUSING IMMENSE DISCOMFORT.

Concerned, I went to the doctor for a check-up and underwent an x-ray examination. The procedure itself didn't bother me, but over the course of a month, I visited several doctors without receiving a clear diagnosis or relief. This prolonged



↪ *Jack and Wendy on their wedding day, years later.*

a woman was God's intention for marriage from the beginning. For example, in Matthew's Gospel we read that Pharisees came to Jesus and asked, “Is

**“And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”**  
— GENESIS 2:23-24

**INSTITUTED FROM CREATION**

— GENESIS 2:23-24

In verses 21-24, we learn how God addressed man's need for a suitable companion. “And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” The term translated *cleave* in this Scripture means “to adhere or stick together.”

It describes the joining together of a man and woman, the two becoming “one flesh.” Marriage was to be a union that excluded all others. That union is the basis for the stability of the family, society, and the nation.

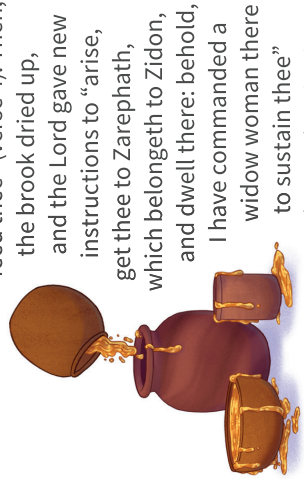
There are many aspects of marriage that could be considered, but one vital aspect is that marriage is for life. Several Scriptures in the New Testament establish that the lifelong union between a man and



## ANCHOR TO THE ROCK!

**NOT LONG AGO, A FAMILY** asked if I would accompany them on their search for a house to buy. They wanted help in assessing the technical

qualities of the houses. We looked at several, and I noticed that each had a nice outer appearance—the roofs, windows, and painted exteriors were all fine. Inside, the houses were styled with nice furniture, flowers in vases, and sometimes even



instances, Elijah recognized God's voice, and trusting fully in Him, obeyed.

When Elijah went to Zarephath, he found the widow and asked her to bring him bread and water.

She replied, "As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cuse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that

I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die." This must have been a difficult situation for Elijah and a test of his faith. God had told him the widow would sustain him, but she had almost nothing.

Elijah did not react with discouragement, because His faith was in God. He confidently told the woman, "Fear not; go and do as thou hast said; but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cuse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth" (verses 12-14).

The woman, though she did not hear directly from God, was also able to discern His voice and trusted in His direction. She "did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cuse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah" (verses 15-16).

Whether we face a life-threatening situation as Elijah did or a common circumstance, we need to be able to hear and discern God's voice and be willing to obey His instructions. When our trust is in Him, He will lead us through every challenging circumstance.

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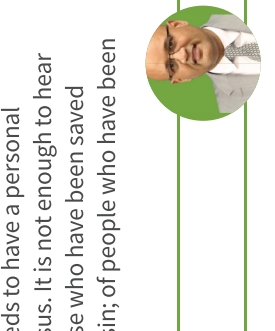
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## GOD CAN FILL OUR TANKS

**IN 1 KINGS, CHAPTER 17, WE** read that the prophet Elijah heard God's instructions and was sustained during a time of drought and famine. First, the Lord directed him to go to the brook Cherith, telling him, "Thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee" (verse 4). Then, the brook dried up, and the Lord gave new instructions to "arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee" (verse 9). In both instances, Elijah recognized God's voice, and trusting fully in Him, obeyed.



BY DEE CUMMINGS

I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die." This must have been a difficult situation for Elijah and a test of his faith. God had told him the widow would sustain him, but she had almost nothing.

Elijah did not react with discouragement, because His faith was in God. He confidently told the woman, "Fear not; go and do as thou hast said; but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cuse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth" (verses 12-14).

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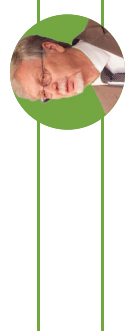
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## IT MAY BE

that the godly and peaceable behavior of one individual in a marriage will lead that person's spouse to God. But whether or not that is the case, a vow was taken, and it is binding until death.



BY LEROY TONNING

When Wendy and I stood before the minister who performed our wedding ceremony, I made my vow before God and those present, and she made her vow before God and those present. Her vows were not mine, and my vows were not hers. My vows are not dependent upon Wendy fulfilling her vows, nor are her vows dependent upon me fulfilling my vows. We are individually responsible to God to keep the commitments we made.

We do not minimize the suffering that broken vows create. Wendy and I have friends and family who have dealt with this situation, and we know the sorrow and grief that comes with it. Yet, I think of the privilege the one who stays true to his or her marriage vow has—he or she may be able to influence that one who has departed! Prayers can change

circumstances do not change the sanctity of the marriage vow; the union that was established is permanent in God's sight. The world accepts almost any reason to dissolve a marriage, but marriage is not merely a social or civil institution. It is a God-ordained and sacred ordinance. The marriage bond was established by God himself. No man or woman, state or government, legislation or law, can break or change God's Word, and His Word says marriages are only to be dissolved by death.

The world has made a mockery out of the Word of God in our day, and especially

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## GROWING UP, I

ALWAYS wanted to be a Christian, as it was apparent to me that God blessed the lives of those who served Him, however, my teenage years, the devil, the world, and I wouldn't be ready to meet him. Part of me wanted to surrender to God, but by that time I was married in adultery. My first husband was still living, and I knew I didn't want to be in a wrong marriage and be ready for Heaven.



BY DEE CUMMINGS

Many times, I told God that I didn't know how I could get along without my husband, but if He would serve Him, however, my teenage years, the devil, the world, and I wouldn't be ready to meet him. Part of me wanted to surrender to God, but by that time I was married in adultery. My first husband was still living, and I knew I didn't want to be in a wrong marriage and be ready for Heaven.

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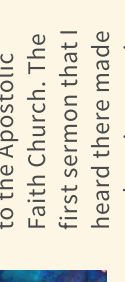
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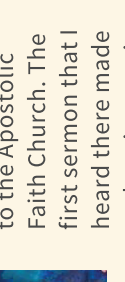
## WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT HIS CHILDREN

WE ARE JOINT HEIRS WITH JESUS



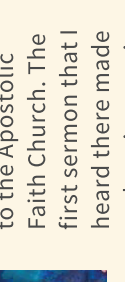
BY LEROY TONNING

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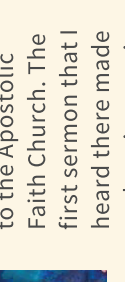
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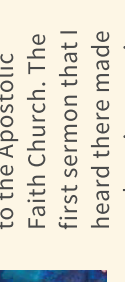
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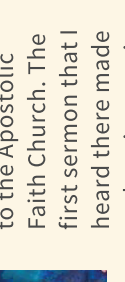
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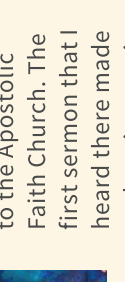
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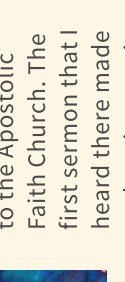
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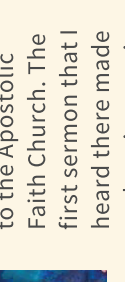
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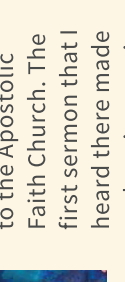
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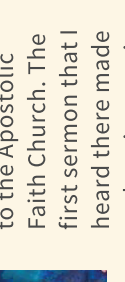
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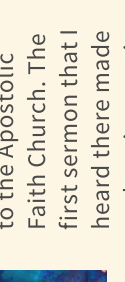
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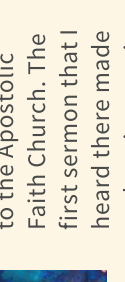
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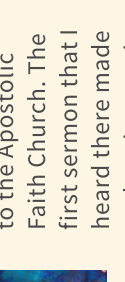
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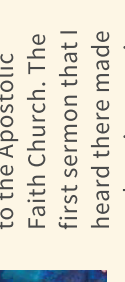
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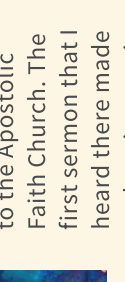
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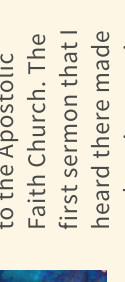
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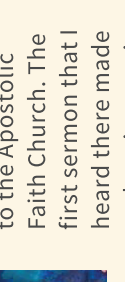
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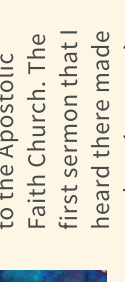
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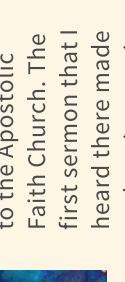
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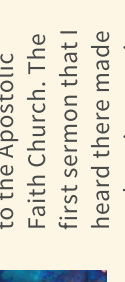
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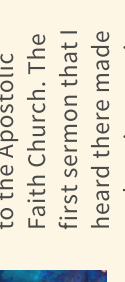
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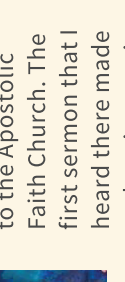
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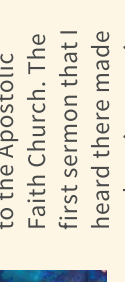
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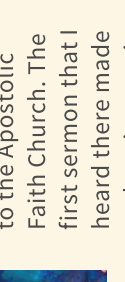
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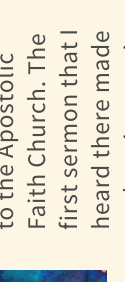
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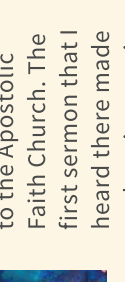
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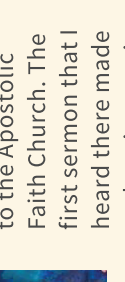
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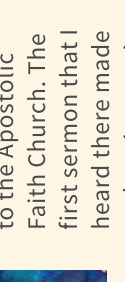
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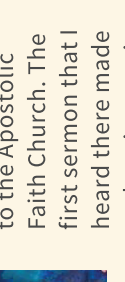
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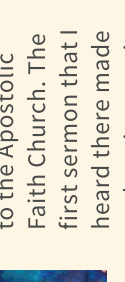
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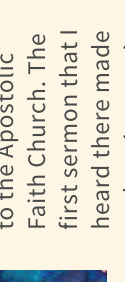
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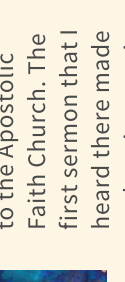
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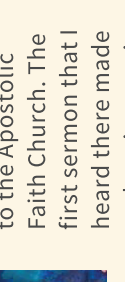
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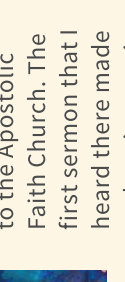
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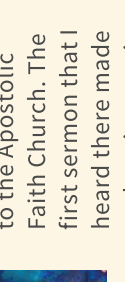
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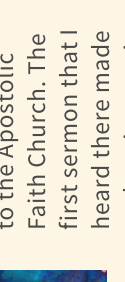
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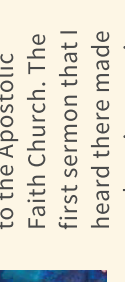
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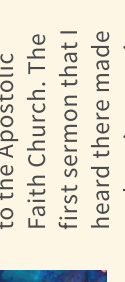
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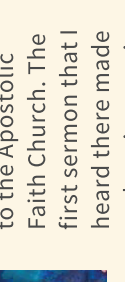
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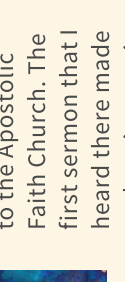
BY LEROY TONNING

HE WILL PERFECT US



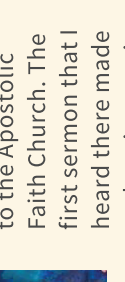
BY LEROY TONNING

WE ARE JOINT HEIRS WITH JESUS



BY LEROY TONNING

WE ARE HIS FRIENDS



BY LEROY TONNING

WE ARE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN







**“I knelt, asked the Lord to forgive me, and gave everything I could think of to Him. He wonderfully saved me and replaced the restlessness and guilt in my heart with peace and joy.”**

**Peace for my restless heart**

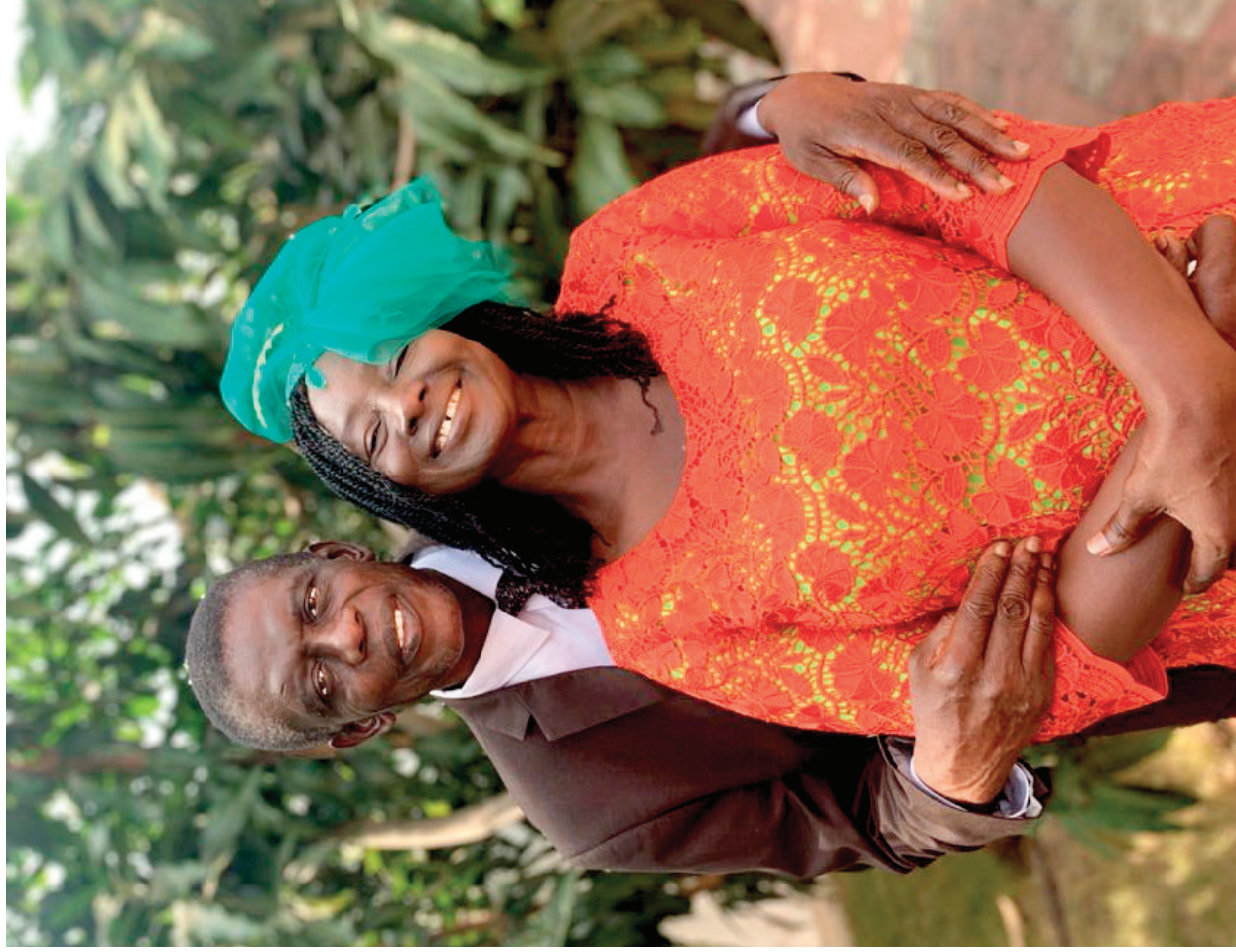
In 1978, after other vacation plans had fallen through, God made a way for me to go to the Midwest camp meeting in Murphyboro, Illinois. I had no intention of giving my heart to Him, so after every meeting, I immediately went back to my cabin to avoid the prayer time. However, several people, as well as the Lord, talked to me, and I could see that everyone was happy except me. Finally, I told God that if He would give me that happiness, I would give Christianity a try. I knelt, asked the Lord to forgive me, and gave everything I could think of to Him. He wonderfully saved me and replaced the restlessness and guilt in my heart with peace and joy.

**Life lessons**

Time went by and I married Larry, a young Christian who had been raised in our church in Portland, Oregon. When our first child was born, we thought everything was “coming up roses” in our lives. However, when our daughter Monica was a little over a year old, we found out she had leukemia. Despite the devastating news, God was with us in a wonderful way during this time. Many prayers went up for our little girl, and we believed God could heal her. After a period of terrible sickness, she went into remission, but just when she was on the road to recovery, she took a turn for the worse, and the doctors said there was nothing more they could do.

God did not choose to heal Monica, but we were so thankful for the Comforter who wrapped us in His arms during those hours. God also blessed us with another baby girl just two months before Monica passed away. Only He could have known she would bring us the joy we needed. We were later blessed with two more daughters.

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**D**uring my teenage years, I had a desire to live a good, moral life, but I could never do it. I was raised in a Muslim home with good values, but I couldn't seem to stop myself from joining my friends in doing things I knew were wrong. What bothered me the most was when my own friends would rebuke me for wrongdoing, which usually happened when I was caught in a lie.

In my last year before graduation from secondary school, I wondered if fasting would bring the change I felt I needed in my life. In all my years growing up, during the annual Muslim fasts our family would sometimes go into town and eat while pretending we hadn't broken the fast. That last year of school, I completed the entire fast. However, it was to no avail, which really upset me. I was left with many questions and one conclusion: the Islamic leaders had been deceiving me, because there was no transformation in that religion.

» *Joseph and his wife, Amma.*

**OUT OF ISLAM**

Jesus made the transformation that Joseph had not found in Islam.

BY JOSEPH AMPOFO ANSAH

WITNESS



**“The God of the mountains is also the God of the valleys, and through everything He has been with my family.”**

**A new prayer**

I had lived my entire life in Ghana, and after graduation I planned to travel to Nigeria where they were having an economic boom. I hoped to make some money and then continue on to America for even greener pastures. However, God, in His own way, foiled those plans. I had given my savings to my elder siblings and they spent it, so there was no means to travel. Instead, while waiting for my school certificate results, I decided to visit an uncle. He attended the Apostolic Faith Church, and when I arrived, he started explaining the Gospel to me. He said that I should ask God to show me the right way to worship Him. Later on, my uncle's son came to our house and invited me to church. However, I was not ready to accept the invitation.

Soon, I started praying as my uncle had suggested. During the regular Islamic prayer times, instead of the usual recitations, I began asking God to direct me to the right way of worship. Around the same time, my elder sister started attending church. One day, when she was reading the Bible, I sat by her and listened to what she was reading. She read John 14:9 where Jesus said, “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?” I wondered why the Islamic religion referred to Jesus as a prophet, when He said He is the same as the Father. That verse was the tipping point for me in realizing that Islam was not the right way to worship God.

**The transformation I longed for**

Not long after that, I went to a motorcycle shop with two friends and we happened to pass the Apostolic Faith Church while they were holding revival meetings. I saw my uncle there so I went to greet him, and as usual, he invited



» *A photo from the 1970s of Lawrence Kotéi (the uncle who invited Joseph to church).*

us to the meeting. This time, he asked when we would visit. Not having any good answer, I just told him I would go on Friday. But when that day came, I was very uncomfortable. Everywhere I went, I heard this question in my heart: “Are you not the one who promised your uncle to attend his church?”

Finally, I went to the church service in the evening, and it was a wonderful experience. I had been to other Christian churches as a child when visiting family during holidays, but I'd never been to a church like this one before. I enjoyed the songs, testimonies, and preaching so much that I decided to go back on Sunday morning and then again on Sunday evening. By then, I had heard the message of salvation and testimonies of young people whose lives were changed, including one of my cousins who was now sober and living a different life.

That was the transformation I had been longing for.

Having never been taught how to pray directly to God, after my first services I just recited the Lord's Prayer and then went home. However, that Sunday evening, I was determined to get saved. I told God that He must save me that very night. As I prayed, the Spirit of God started revealing my sins to me, so I asked for forgiveness. Before I realized it, joy had come

» *In 1995, Joseph was given a special opportunity to study in the Netherlands.*



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WITNESS

BY ELLEN MORGAN

**A RESTLESS HEART FINDS PEACE**

Doing her own thing did not satisfy, but Ellen found what she sought in Jesus.



**“A life free from condemnation is the most beautiful way to live here on earth.”**

**W**hile I was growing up in Richland Center, Wisconsin, I did not appreciate the blessing of being raised in an Apostolic Faith Sunday school and church from my earliest memories, and though I did enjoy the Christian music and fellowship, I thought Christianity was too strict for me. I remember trying to believe that Heaven and Hell were not real so I would not have to worry about eternity. I decided that when I grew up, I would move away from home and wouldn't go to church or obey someone else's rules.

Despite my resistance, God had planted something in my young heart that I could never get away from. Even after I went away to college, God was always talking to me, and I had a restlessness inside that I could not calm. As I walked to and from classes, He reminded me of Sunday school songs I had learned as a child, such as “Heavenly Sunlight” and “Jesus Loves Me.”

» *Ellen and Larry in 1987 with their oldest daughters, Monica and Breanna.*

