

WITNESS | BY BOBBI DOWNEY

A Place to Bless  
and Be Blessed

# Church:

OCTOBER — DECEMBER 2025

EARNESTLY CONTENT FOR THE FAITH — JUDGE

# THE Apostolic Faith

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD  
*Jesus*

**VIEWPOINT**

BY SOLA ADESOPE  
SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL

## VICTORIES BEHIND AND AHEAD

**ONE WORD CAN CHANGE  
EVERYTHING.**



postolic Faith saints around the world are thanking God for many spiritual victories that have been won at our camp meetings this summer. At the Portland camp meeting in July, we were thrilled with testimonies of souls saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy Spirit, re-anointed, healed, and delivered. Following it, my family was privileged to attend portions of our camp meetings in Missouri and Florida, where we witnessed the wave of revival continue. At the same time, we began receiving wonderful reports of God moving and working at other camp meetings in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean (read more about these events in the World Report on page 32). God has been good!

At the closing service of the camp meeting in Florida, as everyone was preparing to leave, I could not help but think of those who may be returning without the experience or answer from God that they had been seeking. The Lord reminded me of the account in Luke 5 when Peter had been fishing all night but had caught nothing. Jesus entered his boat and then told him, “Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.” to which Peter replied, “Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing; nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net” (verses 4-5). When Peter obeyed the Lord’s instructions, a miracle happened: he caught more fish than his nets could hold!



and God saved my soul. I can’t sell tobacco anymore.” He said, “You won’t have to do it,” and he moved me to work in the meat department.

There was a man who came in our store building about every night who, in my estimation, was crooked. Before I was saved I had said, “I will beat him at his own game”—and I did. When God saved my soul, He showed me that man whom I had

wronged, and I said, “Lord, give me grace and I’ll make it right.”

He came into the store and bought his groceries. I followed him out to his car and said, “A long time ago I beat you out of some money, because I thought you were a crook. I am here to pay it back to you.” He would not take the money because he knew he was wrong—but my record is clear today. I have made many restitutions.

Before my conversion, I liked to hear the cash register ring. But when the Lord saved my soul, He took the love for the dollar out of my heart.

A little later, the Lord sanctified me. It was marvelous! I knew I was sanctified. After that I heard about the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I did not know what it was, but I said, “I want it, and with God’s help, I’m going to get it.” God baptized me with His Holy Spirit and empowered me for His service. That experience is as fresh today as it was when it happened.

These days are not gloomy for me. I am so happy I don’t know where to start praising God or when to quit. My soul is overflowing with His great joy! My wife and I would not have stayed together much longer if I had not been saved. But the Lord saved both of us, and we have been married almost forty-nine years. That is what God did for us. He took away our

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## A Cleared Record

At salvation, God stirred Lowell’s heart to make things right:

- He quit tobacco sales to honor his convictions.
- He repaid a man he had wronged, even though that man himself had also been deceitful.
- He made many other restitutions, clearing his conscience before God and man.

sins and set us free. We have a happy home, and we have had a wonderful time serving the Lord together these many years.

I’ve experienced many physical difficulties, have been sick and at the point of death, but I know that Jesus cares for me. He has been good to me. I am thankful that I cast my anchor in the right direction forty-four years ago, and it still holds.

*Lowell Montgomery was a minister of the Apostolic Faith Church for many years, and he also served as a Board Member and Corporate Secretary. He was a gentle and inspirational man who, though plagued in later years with many physical difficulties, modeled a cheerful and loving spirit. His hearty smile was a lift to everyone with whom he came into contact. He went Home to be with his Savior on July 9, 1977.*



## FROM THE WORD

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Time is an opportunity. Are you taking advantage of it?



## FROM THE WORD

**10 | EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
The baptism of the Holy Ghost is not just a promise for the disciples of the past, it is for believers of our day.



## FROM THE WORD

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# INSIDE

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Attending church regularly is an opportunity to commune with God, have our souls refreshed, encourage one another, and so much more.

## OUR CLASSICS



**36 | A COVERTIOUS HEART CHANGED**  
“Shik or swim, live or die, I’ll serve You!”

## WITNESS

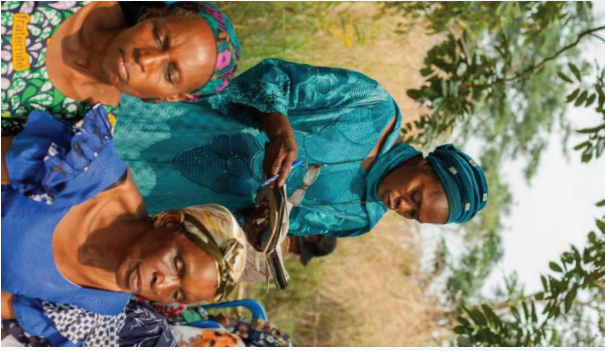


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## OUR CLASSICS



**36 | A COVERTIOUS HEART CHANGED**  
“Shik or swim, live or die, I’ll serve You!”

## 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 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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BY LOWELL MONTGOMERY

## THE BLESSING OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

*If the hearts of Christians are bound together with love and devotion for Christ, marvelous things can be accomplished.*

There is nothing quite so sweet as Christian fellowship, but there is only one way to have it, and that is through deliverance from sin and by living the way Christ wants us to live. We read in 1 John 1:7: “If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” Only the departure from darkness will bring that light. Only by walking in His light will we find that great love of Christ and the fellowship we need. Oh, let us walk together in His light! Let us experience fellowship one with another. In Psalm 119:63 we read, “I am a companion of all them that fear thee [God], and of them that keep thy precepts.” The psalmist’s fellowship was with all of God’s people, not only a select few. God wants all His people to be as one.

The Bible also proclaims, “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20). Whether you are in a church congregation that is large or small, if you believe in His name, you can expect the presence of God to be there.

God’s Word says in Psalm 133:1, “How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Why is it that after a church service, many times it will be 11:00 or 12:00 at night before people leave the altars of prayer? It is because we love praying with and for one another. In Amos 3:3, we read, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” We receive answers from God as we have unity.

Fellowship with God’s people gets sweeter every day. If our hearts are bonded together with love and devotion for Christ, we shall see great

“LET US WALK TOGETHER IN HIS LIGHT!” and marvelous things accomplished. It can be done if we will look to God in faith and believe that He will work through us.

There is no national barrier among God’s people. His love is for the “whosoever will,” so whether we are from North America, Asia, Africa, or any other place in the world, we can have wonderful fellowship with all our Christian brothers and sisters.

Malachi 3:16 tells us that a “book of remembrance” is written for those who speak often to one another about God. Hebrews 10:25 reads, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Clearly, Christian fellowship has God’s approval. During a prayer service, when the ministers anoint the sick with oil and pray for that individual, our hearts unite in faith that God is going to hear and answer prayer. Faith will bring the blessing every time. How we love God for this wonderful way!

In the Book of Philippians, we read, “If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:1-5). When we get to that place of esteeming others more than ourselves, how the glory of God floods our souls!

With God’s love deep in our hearts, fellowship with other believers becomes our joy. It is wonderful to see what God does when we look to Him and believe.

FROM A SERMON  
PREACHED AT THE  
1954 PORTLAND  
CAMP MEETING.

## No Barriers in the Body of Christ

There is no economic, cultural, or national divide in God’s family. His invitation is to “whosoever will.” Whether in Africa, Asia, North America, or anywhere else—we are one in Christ.



If you are still seeking something from the Lord, there is good

news for you: the best is yet to come! Your blessing is not lost or forgotten; it is yet to come. For anyone who feels they have been toiling without success, *nevertheless* can be the bridge from discouragement to deliverance. God's Word is powerful, and there is great power when we obey it because Jesus will show up every time to give us victory. As you read this magazine, may the testimonies of others encourage you to keep trusting the Lord until He accomplishes all His good purposes in your life.



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wanted to keep. I was too cheap

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## The Latter Rain Is Still Falling

“He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain...” —Joel 2:23.

Long before Pentecost, God promised to pour out His Spirit like rain—first in the **Early Church**, and again in the **last days**.

The **former rain** fell in the Upper Room on the Day of Pentecost. The **latter rain** began falling about 120 years ago in outpourings such as the **Welsh Revival** and at **Azusa Street**.

The Latter Rain of Holy Ghost fire is still falling today—on young and old, rich and poor, and wherever hearts are hungry for more of God.

of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

We can see from these verses that the Holy Spirit comes in power! Many of us have experienced a powerful prayer meeting when the fire of God fell. Sometimes, we may almost feel embarrased to talk about the fire of the Holy Ghost because we don't want to be labeled as fanatical. But the fire is not an emotion—it is power! We need it and we thank God for it.

Scripture does not say exactly what the disciples were praying when the Holy Spirit descended, but we do know that some of the

key elements for receiving are faith, consecration, and praise. As we pray, we need to get our focus off ourselves, off others, and on to God. We want to be engrossed fully in Him.

The same Spirit who was at work in our hearts when we were saved and sanctified is the One who will dwell in us when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. Receiving the promise is not complicated; salvation and sanctification are simple enough for a child to receive, and the same is true of the baptism. Some people have received all three of these experiences in a single prayer meeting! That may seem impossible to us, but we serve a mighty God. It does not need to take years to believe, consecrate our lives, and be filled with the Spirit.

Like the disciples, the evidence that we have received

the power of the Holy Ghost will be speaking in tongues, which means speaking a known language that we never learned. That is an unusual witness, and here again some people may not want to have that experience

because they don't want to appear strange or fanatical. The reality is, followers of Jesus will never fit in with the world. We are called to be a peculiar people. So why not receive the gift God has for us?

The founder of our church in Washington D.C., Mary Kelly, taught us not to be concerned about the tongues. She said that when the Holy Ghost comes, He will speak through us. We don't have to be taught to speak in tongues or force Him to do anything. He will make Himself known. For some, this means just speaking a few words, while others cannot seem to stop. It is not about bringing attention to ourselves but about allowing the Holy Ghost to work through us to accomplish God's will. We are not



**A Life That Counted:**  
Shadrach & 73 Days

Though he lived just seventy-three days, Shadrach Aiyai left an eternal impact. During his time in the hospital, his father declared again and again, “**Shadrach is a missionary!**”

To every doctor, nurse, or visitor who entered the room, his father handed out gospel tracts, gave testimonies, and shared God's power in Shadrach's story. He used his son's life—short as it was—as a platform for the gospel.

No more important decision can be made in life than to ensure that you are right with God. Then you can spend your remaining days on this earth, however many or few they are, in a manner that will count for eternity!

<sup>1</sup>“Channels.” On This Day, May 5, 2025. <https://www.onthisday.com/date/2025-05-05/>

<sup>2</sup> Chapman, Milo, Purkiss, W.T., Wolf, Earl., Harper, A.J., Beaton Bible Commentary, Volume 3, (Beacon Hill Press, 1967), pg.333.



**Rev. Darrel Lee** was the **Superintendent** **General from 2000 to 2024** and continues to **serve on the Board of Directors**.

seeking for a language but for the power that we need, and we can only receive it the way God has ordained.

### The former and latter rain

The promise of the Holy Ghost was mentioned in the Old Testament. Job 2:28-29 says, “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.” From these verses, we can note that everybody was included in the promise: young and old, male and female.

We also get a sense of some of the work the Holy Spirit accomplishes: giving prophetic words, dreams, and visions. The word *prophecy* is often used to refer to predictions about the future, but the definition includes more than that. It refers to giving any message that is inspired by God. It means proclaiming the Word of the Lord and preaching the Gospel. “Your old men shall dream dreams” means God will show great things even to those who are up in age. “Your young men shall see visions”

*When someone has a genuine hunger for God, nothing can stop that one from receiving.*

the right words to say. I asked Him to forgive my sins, telling Him that I would try my best to serve Him if He would help me, and in a moment of time, God transformed my life. I did not know that what I experienced that night was called salvation, but I was a different person from that moment on.

When I returned to college, I had no understanding of how a Christian was supposed to live, but God gave me victory over the old habits and appetites that had been in my life. The temper and profanity that had filled my daily vocabulary were gone, and have been gone from that moment until now. Nobody had to tell me not to do the sinful things I had done before because I had no desire to do them. And gradually, God taught me more about Himself and how He wanted me to live. Among the lessons we all must learn after salvation is how vital it is to make our time count for eternity. Time is too valuable to waste! We have all probably said on occasion, “I just don't have time.” However, we all have exactly the same amount of time! When we retire at the end of this day, we will all have spent 1440 minutes. So, it is not a question of how much time we have, but a matter of prioritizing carefully by making good decisions about how it is spent.

I recently read that the average American spends over five hours a day on smartphones. Young people typically spend more than that, while those my age generally spend less. Whatever the exact number of minutes spent, that is approximately one third of our waking hours! Most of us check our phones dozens of times a day. While smartphone usage can be necessary and even productive, it can also be addictive and wasteful. Ultimately, the amount of time spent in any manner is not as important as making sure the time we spend counts for eternity.

### Seventy-three days that counted for eternity

When I think about making time count, Shadrach Aiyai comes to mind. Shadrach was a missionary!

Shadrach, a baby boy in our church family, lived for just seventy-three days. During the last week, or so of his short life, I had the privilege of visiting him

are permitted to hold worship

“patriotic religious associations” and worship with like-minded believers. It's a privilege that I don't want to take for granted.

of five state-sanctioned religious groups belonging to severe restrictions on worship. For example, in China, only I cannot help but feel incredibly blessed to be able to freely assemble

to church!” In some countries, there are many in China still choose to gather and worship with other believers. When I read accounts like these, I sometimes comment to my husband, “Today we get to go to church!”

ever. Now, I try to purposely remind myself to be grateful for it. On the way to a service, I still sometimes comment to my husband, “Today we get to go to church!”

### It's a privilege

Sometimes health, work schedules, or other circumstances beyond our control can make us unable to attend church for a time.

In those cases, God will walk beside us. A few years ago, our church was temporarily unable to hold regular services because of public health restrictions. I was grateful to be able to watch services online, and I also began to appreciate the blessing of attending church in person more than ever. Now, I try to purposely remind myself to be grateful for it. On the way to a service, I still sometimes comment to my husband, “Today we get to go to church!”

especially when they hear that it's free!

opportunities to mention that I attend church. These can become openings to extend an invitation. Especially with people like neighbors who have regular contact with me and know my testimony, there is potential that they will be interested in learning more about my faith.

Special events are also wonderful opportunities to invite someone to church. At my congregation in Portland, we have an annual Christmas on the Campground event that brings many visitors from our community every year. Sunday school activities, vacation Bible School, special meetings, and holiday services are great times to invite others. People also love music and are often open to a concert invitation, especially when they hear that it's free!

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### A blessing awaits

God knew that corporate worship would help people serve Him successfully. He commanded the Children of Israel to worship Him together and blessed them when they obeyed. In 2 Chronicles 5:13-14, we read a beautiful account of how God met the Children of Israel when they gathered for the dedication of the Temple built by King Solomon. It says, “It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, and even the house of the Lord; so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.”

The best part about attending church is that when we assemble with fellow believers to worship God, He meets us there! Let's be sure to take advantage of every opportunity to gather with our church family and enjoy worshipping God together.

### The Best Part

“The priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.” — 2 Chronicles 5:14

Still today, God's presence fills the places where believers gather to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

### WORLD REPORT

## CAMP MEETINGS OFFER NEW AND RENEWED LIFE

Highlights from over a dozen Apostolic Faith conventions held around the world in July and August of 2025.

▶ Camp meetings have been a tradition of the Apostolic Faith work since its founding, and they continue to be a source of great blessing. They are a time when many souls are saved and believers draw closer to the Lord, often praying through to deeper experiences and answers to prayer. This year was no exception! Following are highlights from several of these gatherings that were held in 2025.



▶ **PORTLAND**  
The camp meeting at the world headquarters in Portland, Oregon, had its highest attendance in recent memory. Delegates came from all over the world, including from such faraway places as Australia, Chile, Ireland, Namibia, the Philippines, and Romania. From the beginning, there was an atmosphere of expectation, and the prayer services were powerful. As campers sought God at the altars, He poured out His Spirit in abundance, and many received their deeper experiences, guidance, healing, and more.

▶ **SOUTH KOREA**  
The South Korea camp meeting also drew a large crowd with representatives coming from all six Korean branches as well as Japan and the United States. One high point was the ordination of a pastor for the Daegjeon congregation. Another was the Saturday prayer service in which one from the United States received the baptism of the Holy Ghost while many others were refilled and blessed.



▶ **EASTERN CARIBBEAN**  
Every service of the Eastern Caribbean camp meeting began with the congregation singing “There shall be showers of blessing.” The saints gathered at the Smith Bay church on the island of St. Thomas with joy and expectation, and even the frequent power outages could not dampen their spirits. Several of the teachings focused on “Unity,” and a rich atmosphere of fellowship was felt throughout the meetings.



## A Greater High Priest

The Law pointed to a better way.

- **Jesus revealed the Father** through His compassion, righteousness, and truth.
- **Jesus became the Sacrifice**, rather than only offering one.
- **Jesus rose again** in victory and now intercedes for us at the right hand of God.

He is the **Author of eternal salvation**—the fulfillment of everything the Law foreshadowed.

Have you ever been without a place to call “home”? The Bible tells us that Jesus had nowhere to lay His head at night. Are you overwhelmed with sorrow? When facing the Cross, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray and told His disciples, “My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death” (Matthew 26:38). As He prayed, His sweat became as great drops of blood falling to the ground.

Jesus knows what it is like to be betrayed by a friend, mocked while being falsely accused, and He is familiar with pain. If you have ever been despised or persecuted for your faith, Jesus can empathize. He said, “If the world hates you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you” (John 15:18). He gave this encouragement: “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:10).

We have a High Priest in Heaven who understands, who cares, and who can help.

We have a great High Priest in Heaven who can identify with whatever we are facing today. He is touched by our infirmities, moved with compassion for us, and through His sacrifice on the Cross, He is able to save, heal, and deliver us. There is no one better to turn to with our struggles.

**He gives victory over temptation.** The high priests who came before Jesus needed to offer a sacrifice for their own sins before they could perform the sacrifice for the people. However, our great High Priest “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”

Jesus can relate to the trials of being tempted—though He came to earth as the Son of God. He was also fully human. He was subject to the same types of temptations as we are. At the start of His ministry, He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to fast and pray for forty days. At the end of that time, when He was hungry, tired, and alone—vulnerable both physically and mentally—the devil came to tempt Him.

## The Role of the High Priest

In the Old Testament, the high priest was:

- **A spiritual leader** – He represented God to the people.
- **An intercessor** – He represented the people to God.
- **A symbol** – The sacrifices he offered reminded the nation of their sin and their need for a remedy for sin.

Each act pointed forward to a greater high priest: Jesus Christ.

grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 1:15-16).

**He can relate to our struggles.** No one can truly empathize with another person’s plight without walking the same path. We can tell people that we are praying for them, but unless we have experienced what they are going through, we can’t say, “I know how you feel.” However, there is someone who does understand, who cares, and who can help.

Have you ever felt rejected?

Jesus knows what that is like. The Bible tells us, “He came unto his own, and his own received him not” (John 1:11). When He preached in His hometown of Nazareth, His countrymen were “filled with wrath” and “thrust him out of the city” (Luke 4:28-29). Even His half-brother, James, did not believe until after the Resurrection.

to fill a hungry heart. God did that for Sister Crawford, and He will do it for anyone today.

### A necessity for each of us

Every one of us needs to be saved, sanctified, and filled with the power of the Holy Ghost. We may think we have enough without Him, but God’s ways are beyond our ways. Without the power of the Holy Ghost, even highly educated people can be in error: if we learn to our own understanding, we will fail, but the Spirit of God can guide us, keep us, and use us to reach lost souls.

When I was saved, the only thing I knew about the Holy Ghost was that water baptism was done in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Others have heard about the baptism of the Holy Ghost their whole lives. It doesn’t matter if you’ve known about the experience for years or are hearing about it now for the first time: what matters is how you respond to what you have heard. Will you believe God and receive the promise?

The baptism of the Holy Ghost is not a trophy to put up on a shelf. This is a life-changing experience that each of us needs. We cannot tell everything about it here, but the Spirit will reveal even more to our hearts as we seek God. For those who have already been filled, He has more for us! God is ready and able to baptize, to re-anoint, and to refresh our souls. He will give us the fire that we need to share the Gospel in this generation.



Rev. Josephine McElwee is the Apostolic Faith District Superintendent of the Southern and Eastern United States, and pastor of our church in Washington, D.C.

## What Must I Do to Be Saved?

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

“I tell you, Nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” **Luke 13:33**

“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**

### Confess

“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**

### Acknowledge

“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.”*

*Mudzimu Mate worships at the Apostolic Faith Church in Johannesburg, South Africa.*

in 2024, God brought all four of us to the camp meeting in Portland, and I praise Him for that as well. One thing that our family knows very well is that God is good! He has done wonders in our lives, and I give Him glory.

Another miracle God did for us was in 2022, when our family was preparing to go to Bulawayo for camp meeting. At the last minute, my wife became sick. Our bags were packed and everything was ready to go, but she could not travel in her condition. I went to our bedroom and knelt and prayed to God, and He healed her instantly. By His grace, she was able to make the trip of over 800 km (500 miles) so we could all be at camp meeting.

When I first saw my sister, she came into my heart. She could not walk or even talk, and it looked like her body was shutting down. I was not expecting to see her that way. I called my siblings and told them to come, in case this was the last time we would see her. When we got home, I had to carry her up the stairs to the bedroom. Then, I got on my knees and prayed, “God, heal my sister in this home where she has been brought. We do not want death in here, but we want her to recover.” God did a miracle for us. The next day, she started gaining strength. That day was a holiday, but we were able to find a private doctor who would see her, and He gave

### “One thing that our family knows very well is that God is good!”

care. To do that, they made me sign papers saying I was taking responsibility for the outcome.

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of a church community can also help fend off feelings of loneliness and isolation.

**Music:** Beautiful music with inspired lyrics can soothe the soul and enrich our lives. Many times, a meaningful melody will stay with us and continue to lift our spirits even after the service has ended.

Over the years, I have personally benefited from all



## Stronger Together

Worshiping and serving God alongside others creates relationships that strengthen and support our walks with God.

- Sing with enthusiasm during the time for congregational songs. If we are not blessed with musical ability, it’s okay! The Bible says, “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise” (Psalm 98:4). Congregational singing is not only for the musically gifted—it’s a time for everyone to join in joyful praise.
- Share a testimony about receiving salvation, a recent blessing, or an answer to prayer.
- Say a hearty “Amen!” when something touches our hearts.

Pray among other brothers and sisters at the end of the service.

these blessings and more. There have been many special times when people prayed with me and encouraged me. One time in particular, I received my sanctification while playing at the altar with my cousin, and how we rejoiced together! I’ve also been able to pray with others and share in their joy when they received what they were seeking. These memories are priceless to me.

### More than attend, participate!

It is possible to arrive at church, take a seat, and simply sit back and enjoy the meeting. However, I have found it benefits me even more if I fully participate. Here are a few steps we can take that will truly make us part of the service:

- Remember that we are entering God’s house and that He called it a “house of prayer” (Isaiah 56:7). In our church, we have a room where people assemble to pray before services and to share prayer requests. Arriving early to pray is a great way to begin a meeting. Even if we only have a few minutes, we can kneel at our seats or bow our heads and ask God to bless all that will transpire.
- Extend greetings to others, making them feel welcome. Even those who always attend appreciate a friendly smile!
- Sing with enthusiasm during the time for congregational songs. If we are not blessed with musical ability, it’s okay! The Bible says, “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise” (Psalm 98:4). Congregational singing is not only for the musically gifted—it’s a time for everyone to join in joyful praise.
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suggests that they would see how God would work in new ways, on a new level. For example, the technology we use for Gospel work today was envisioned by somebody long before it was put into use. They had a vision of what we are living today, where people all over the world have the opportunity to hear the gospel. These are some of the ways the Holy Spirit empowers lives. In the same chapter, the prophet Joel spoke about the Holy Spirit being given as the “former rain” and the “latter rain.”

Joe 2:23 says, “Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.” The former rain was to the outpouring of the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost, which we read about in Acts 2.

During the centuries following the period of the Early Church, there are reports of some here

God is ready and able to baptize, to refresh our souls. He will give us the fire that we need to share the Gospel in this generation.

and there receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Then, in the beginning of the twentieth century, a spiritual awakening began. The latter rain was given as a new outpouring of the Holy Ghost. The Welsh Revival occurred in 1904, then the Azusa Street Revival in 1906, which spread all around the world. Our church is here today because the founder of this work, Florence Crawford, was led by God to a place where she could receive the latter rain.

Sister Crawford had a hunger for more of God, and I understand that she was a rich woman, but she went to seek God among poor people. They were people who didn’t look or sound like her, but she recognized that they had the truth. When someone has a genuine hunger for God, nothing can stop that one from receiving. It does not matter who else is around or what rules the government and society have instituted—the Holy Spirit will override every opposition in order



In some parts of the world, gathering for worship means risking imprisonment, persecution—even death. Yet many still choose to meet in secret, driven by love for God.

When we freely gather with fellow believers, we are experiencing a privilege that some only dream of.

In some parts of the world, gathering for worship means risking imprisonment, persecution—even death. Yet many still choose to meet in secret, driven by love for God.

## A Global Perspective



WITNESS

BY BOBBI DOWNEY

# CHURCH: A PLACE TO BLESS AND BE BLESSED

Attending church regularly is an opportunity to commune with God, have our souls refreshed, encourage one another, and so much more.



*The best part about attending church is that when we assemble with fellow believers to worship God, He meets us there!*



Church has always been a key part of my life. As a young child, I gave my heart to Jesus at an altar of prayer after a church service. Later, it was where I developed friendships, married, and learned how to grow as a Christian. The Gospel message was lived and taught to me by my parents, and they also put a high priority on attending church whenever possible. I'm thankful for that upbringing, as it led to positive habits that have held me steady in my faith over the years.

Recently, in studying the early years of the Children of Israel, I noticed the extensiveness of God's instructions to them. God knew what was best for the Israelites in every area of life and He patiently taught them. In addition to commandments about personal behavior, He outlined practices for corporate worship—times when the people were to gather and worship Him together. These included weekly observances of the

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Sabbath as well as annual feasts. The Sabbath offered a needed rest from labor and time for spiritual reflection and instruction. The feasts reminded them of God's deliverance and faithfulness of the past, and pointed to promises to be fulfilled in the future. These gatherings helped reinforce the importance of daily obeying all of God's instructions and keeping Him at the center of their lives.

While much has changed in the world since the Old Testament times, the lives of the Israelites were similar in many ways to ours today.

They married, raised families, worked, and rested. They loved, laughed, cried, and suffered. Some aspects of God's instructions for Christians today are clearly different from what He required of the Israelites—for example, after Christ's ultimate sacrifice on the Cross, animal sacrifices were no longer necessary. However, the underlying principles for a life that pleases

**"It takes purpose and intentionality to keep God at the center of our lives, and a key element in doing so is corporate worship."**

God have not changed. God still wishes, and even requires, our lives to be holy in every area and to be centered around Him.

It takes purpose and intentionality to keep God at the center of our lives, and a key element in doing so is corporate worship. Just as regular visits to the Temple and synagogues were a vital part of the Israelites' worship, attending church is critical for us today. We read in Hebrews

strengthening the faith of his audience. He was writing to converted Jews—those who had received a knowledge of sins forgiven through a born-again experience, which the Bible calls "salvation." These new Christians were wavering in their faith, thinking it would be better to return to the laws, ceremonies, and system of works they had practiced in the Jewish religion. To persuade them against this, Paul demonstrated that Jesus is in every way better than what they had known before. He told them that not only did they have a High Priest in Heaven, but they had a "great" High Priest.

**The office of high priest**

The imagery of the high priest that is used in Hebrews originated in the Old Testament and in the Law of Moses. After the Israelites fled Egypt, God gave Moses instructions for building a tabernacle in the wilderness. To oversee the worship practices that took place in the Tabernacle, He instituted the office of high priest and called Aaron, the brother of Moses, as the first to fill it. He named Aaron's descendants as his successors and appointed the other Levites to assist as priests.

Jesus Christ is our intermediary, representing us before God the Father.

# OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

BY PETE SPERLE

FROM THE WORD

**The Message to the Hebrews**

The Book of Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians who were tempted to return to their former religious system. Paul's message reminded them—and reminds us—that:

- Jesus is better than the old way.
- Salvation is not earned by works, but received by grace.
- Our High Priest is not on earth, but in Heaven.



Jesus didn't just offer the sacrifice—He became it.

By carrying out this annual task, along with the various other sacrifices and observances, the high priest performed another important function of the office. His actions portrayed to the people that they were separated from God by sin, and a remedy was needed to bridge the divide. In addition, the repeated sacrifices illustrated that the blood of animals could not permanently remove sin.

## A better way

The Mosaic Law, with its use of animal sacrifices performed by carnal men, was never intended by God to be a permanent solution for reconciling sinful people to Himself. Instead, it foreshadowed a better way. When God created the office of high priest, He was pointing forward to the day when the Messiah would come and fill it. Jesus is that Messiah and great High Priest. He came representing God to the people of this world. He told His disciple Philip, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). The people saw the Father in Jesus' compassion and authority. He had power to cleanse from sin and cure every disease, and He delivered and healed all who turned to Him. He also calmed a storm, multiplied food, raised Lazarus from the dead, and performed many more miracles.

The people saw the Father in Jesus' righteousness. He was tempted but did not sin, and they could look to Him as an example of how to live according to God's will. Jesus also revealed the presence of God dwelt and sprinkle the blood from the sacrifices on the mercy seat. This provided atonement for the sins of the people for that year, making it possible for God to dwell among them.

## Jesus is superior

In chapter 4 of Hebrews, we find three more ways in which Jesus is superior to the high priests of the Old Covenant. Paul wrote, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find

## Christ Fulfills Every Role

In the Old Testament, when interacting with His people God often used prophets to speak, priests to intercede, and kings to rule. In the New Testament, Jesus fulfills all three offices:

- **Prophet** – God has spoken to us by Him (Hebrews 1:2)
- **Priest** – He is our intercessor (Hebrews 4:14)
- **King** – He reigns over all (1 Timothy 6:15)

Today, Jesus still holds all three roles—guiding, mediating, and ruling from the right hand of God.

spiritual leader, responsible for upholding God's laws and moral standards. When the Children of Israel looked to their high priest, they were supposed to see a godly example—someone who taught and lived in accordance with God's will and reflected who He is.

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## A Voice Set Apart

As a child, Bernice loved to sing—so much that neighbors would gather to listen. Long before she gave her heart to God, someone was already praying: “Lord, capture that voice for You.”

He did. She turned down a secular music opportunity and began singing in church services, street meetings, and even prisons.

It seemed like a big opportunity and a signed contract. However, I soon learned that the man running the radio station was not a godly man. I thought, *“If I keep working with him, who knows where I will end up!”* God helped me to see that I couldn’t continue, so I backed out of the contract. As a consequence, I had to surrender the rights to my song.

Some months later, I heard that song on the radio. At first I was excited and told my mom that they were playing my song, but she corrected me right away. She let me know that type of music was not God’s will for my life, and since I had given my heart to Him, it was no longer part of who I was. I thank God for that now because at the time, I didn’t know anything about the world outside of our little island town. In the years since then, I’ve heard many stories of people who lost their way while seeking fame, but God had a definite plan for my life and He was there guiding me from the start. Instead of singing on the radio, I started singing at church services, street meetings—I even persuaded Pastor

Blayden to allow me to sing at prison meetings. I thank God for the voice He gave me, and for helping me to use it for His glory.

## Trained up by mighty men and women of God

It did not take long for me to receive my deeper experiences because Sister Stewart was right there encouraging me to take the next step. The Lord sanctified me while I was praying with her, and immediately she started telling to me, “You have to be baptized with the Holy Ghost.” I kept seeking God and soon received that experience as well.

The people in our congregation were persistent in the things of God. They stood for the Lord no matter what trials they faced. They had a zeal for God, and I did too. Everywhere the church went for ministry, I was always there. Pastor Blayden saw my passion for the Lord and he nurtured me spiritually. He would sometimes ask me to preach at the street meetings or send me with a friend or two to go talk to a person who had stopped coming to church. He would tell me, “Don’t come back without them.” That could be a real challenge, but God helped me. At the time I was saved, there were almost no young people in the church, but I didn’t struggle over not having friends in the Gospel. My faith was strong because I had witnessed so much and then had my own personal experiences with God. I had no doubt that the Gospel was true and never thought of turning back. On the contrary, I had a mind to press forward. I loved the things of God and the Gospel became everything to me. In time, more young people started coming to church and we began to hold youth services and other activities. Brother Clyde Penn and his wife, Sister Padecia, became the youth leaders, and they always encouraged us in the Lord. In the islands, every year there is something called “carnival”—it’s

## Doors opened by God

After high school, I moved to Brooklyn, New York, for four

years to attend college. Then I went back to St. Thomas and married a man by the name of St. Clair Pinney, who was part of the same congregation as my family. We lived in New York for five years, and then in 1978, God made a way for us to relocate to Houston, Texas. Along the way, God gave us three children.

In Houston, the Lord opened many opportunities for us. My husband got a great job as a plumber, which made it possible for me to stop working and be a stay-at-home mom. Eventually, when our youngest was a bit older, I decided to take a low-stress, part-time job at an insurance and notary company. Little did I know, God had a much bigger plan in mind. After a couple years, the Lord prompted me to buy the business. He provided the money to purchase it in a miraculous way, and over the next thirty-plus years, He blessed the company abundantly. Our clients were dear to us—I got to know about them and their challenges, prayed with them, and even attended their funerals when they passed away. That work



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## Too much to tell it all

God has done so much in my life that I can’t really tell it all, but I can say that the Lord has done great things for me. In 1995, my husband was in a near-fatal car accident, but God spared his life and gave him a

renewed determination to live for Him. God also carried us through a time of grief when our daughter passed away at age thirty, and then He helped us raise her two children until they were grown. A few years ago, I was diagnosed with cancer, but God turned that into a testimony too. Through all the twists and turns of life, I have learned that we can trust the Lord to handle everything we face. Each experience has been a steppingstone to the next, and I can look back now and see that God had a purpose for everything He allowed. It all fit into His plan. God has been so good and so real in my life, and I give Him all the praise.

**Rev. Bernice Pinney served as pastor of the Reed Road Apostolic Faith Church in Houston, Texas, from 2008 to 2025. At her retirement, many in the Houston congregation expressed deep gratitude for the years of love, hard work, and spiritual training that she invested in their lives. In addition to caring for their souls, she showed concern for their overall wellbeing and oversaw major repairs and renovations of the church building. Her labor for the Lord will be appreciated for generations to come.**



supported our family through high many highs and lows, until we sold it in 2020.

During those years, God also helped me to serve as the youth leader at our church in Houston. We did not have many young people in the congregation at first, but God gave creative ideas to reach children in our neighborhood kids to church. Children started to come, and soon they were inviting their friends too. We also held vacation Bible school, served special meals, took group trips to recreation centers, and encouraged them to go to our church youth conferences and camp meetings. It was a great blessing to see many of those young people come to know the Lord and become part of our church family. In 2008, I was asked to serve as the pastor of the Houston church, and God helped me fill that role as well.



“ANOTHER MIRACLE GOD DID WHEN HE SAVED ME WAS TO HEAL ME OF AN AILMENT I’D HAD FOR YEARS. EVERY SUMMER, I WOULD DEVELOP PAINFUL BLISTERS ON MY FEET, TO THE POINT THAT I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PUT ON SHOES. . . . THE SUMMER AFTER I WAS SAVED, I FOUND OUT GOD HAD TAKEN AWAY THAT DISEASE COMPLETELY.”

At church, I also learned about sanctification and began seeking that experience. In December of the same year I was saved, at my first camp meeting in Bulawayo, God sanctified me. The experience was just as real as salvation had been. At salvation I felt such joy, and when God sanctified me, He gave me an abundance of peace. There was still more that God had in store for me. He knew I needed power to be able to

serve Him. It was a few years later, as I was tarrying in prayer after a regular church service, that He baptized me with the Holy Ghost. It made another big difference in my life, because God gave me power to do more for Him.

“At my first camp meeting in Bulawayo, God sanctified me. The experience was just as real as salvation had been. At salvation I felt such joy, and when God sanctified me, He gave me an abundance of peace.”



» Midezimu and his wife, Christine



“Around age twenty-eight, I started thinking about marriage, and I sought the Lord in prayer about it. In the right time, He led a beautiful woman into my life, and we married in 2007.”

Jesus offers us the greatest invitation ever extended. He invites us into the Holy of Holies, to the throne of grace.

Jesus resisted by quoting Scripture, and His triumph opened the way for our victory.

A key reason why Jesus suffered temptation is given in Hebrews 2:17-18. It says, “Wherefore in all things He behaved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” We can look to our great High Priest for encouragement, strength, and an example of how to prevail over temptation.

**He grants us access to God.** Jesus offers us the greatest invitation ever extended. He invites us into the Holy of Holies, to the throne of grace. The moment He died, the veil in the Temple that separated the people from the Holy of Holies tore in two—from the top down. The Ark of the Covenant with its mercy seat, where the presence of God dwelt, was exposed. Where once only the high priest could go, and even then only once a year, now everyone has access.

Through His death, Jesus, our great High Priest, made a way for us to approach the very throne of God.

Animal sacrifices could not remove sin, but through the Blood of Jesus, we can be saved and sanctified—our sins forgiven and our hearts cleansed from all unrighteousness. We can be reconciled to God, made ready to enter His presence.

Because Jesus opened the way, we can “come boldly to the throne of grace,” approaching God with confidence that He will hear and answer our prayers. The writer of Hebrews explained, “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; and having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water” (Hebrews 10:19-22).

God is waiting to hear from us. Day or night, we can call on Him. Jesus has invited us into His presence.

## One Mediator

Under the Old Covenant of the Law, people relied on alliple men to represent them before God. We are blessed to live in the dispensation of a better way; we have a superior Mediator.



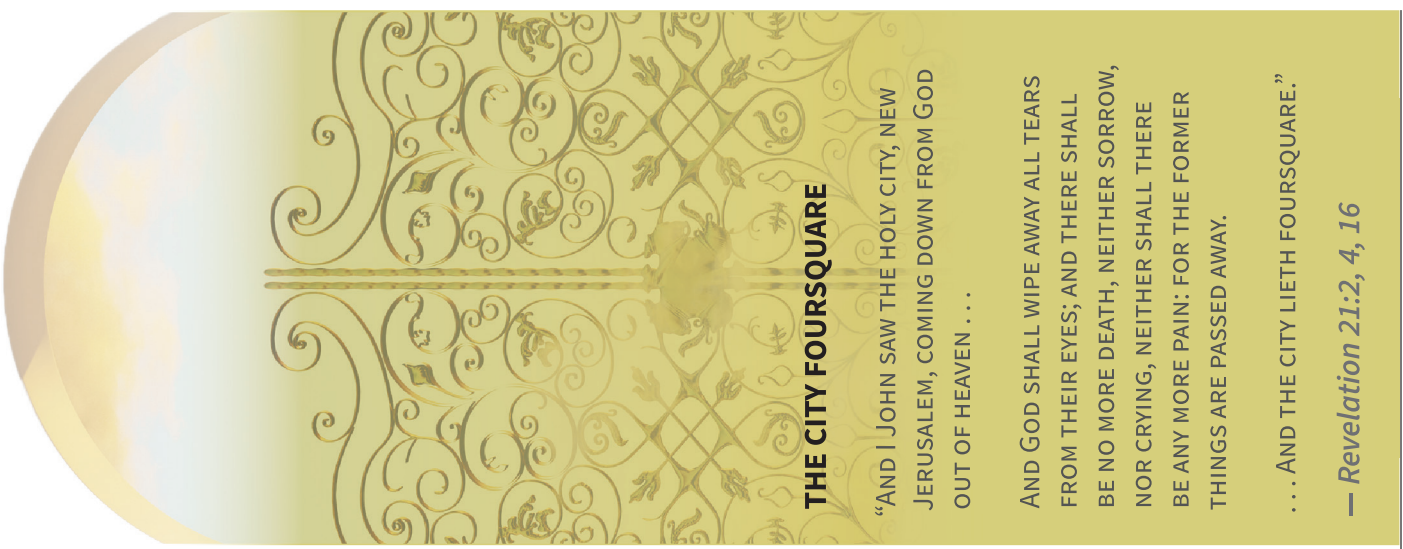
Rev. Pete Sferite is pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church in Sacramento, California.

## Why Jesus Is a Greater High Priest

- **He can relate to us** – He suffered and was rejected by his closest companions.
- **He gives us victory** – His triumph over temptation opened the way for ours.
- **He grants us access** – The veil to the Holy of Holies was torn and now we can come boldly to the throne of grace.
- **He continually intercedes for us** – Right now, Jesus is representing us before the Father.

He is Jesus, and He is the only way. “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).

Today, Jesus is at the right hand of the Father, interceding for us. How wonderful to know that the Son of God is representing you and me to the Father right now! With Jesus as our advocate, we can have victory. He “is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25). We thank God for our great High Priest!



**THE CITY FOURSQUARE**  
 “AND I JOHN SAW THE HOLY CITY, NEW JERUSALEM, COMING DOWN FROM GOD OUT OF HEAVEN . . .  
 AND GOD SHALL WIPE AWAY ALL TEARS FROM THEIR EYES; AND THERE SHALL BE NO MORE DEATH, NEITHER SORROW, NOR CRYING, NEITHER SHALL THERE BE ANY MORE PAIN: FOR THE FORMER THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY.”  
 . . . AND THE CITY LIETH FOURSQUARE.”  
 — Revelation 21:2, 4, 16

At age twenty-one, I reached a breaking point. I resigned from my job and went to stay with my parents. When my mom discovered that I had been involved in sinful habits, she was so disappointed. She hadn't expected such things from me. She cried when she spoke to me about it, which made me feel even worse. One night, kneeling by my bedside, I prayed a very short but sincere prayer: “God, I want to worship You in a righteous way.” I didn't even know that there was a group of people who worshiped in that way; the prayer just came from my heart. But God saw my earnest desire and He was faithful to me. A couple weeks later, I met someone who invited me to his church, the Apostolic Faith. At my first service there, I felt like the preacher was talking about me specifically—it was as if he knew exactly where I was coming from. I did not pray after that service, but a few weeks later, while visiting my brother in Bulawayo, something urged me to look for the Apostolic Faith there. I found it and went to a Sunday service. As soon as I stepped inside the church building that

“When I was about seven years old, all of a sudden, my mom changed. She started doing things I thought were strange, like going to church. And if anyone in need came into the store, she would give away groceries to that person. . . . Though I was young, I decided to go to church with my mom to understand what had happened to her.”



usually bossed around would make fun of me. When I was thirteen years old, one day the church workers held a street meeting at the town square market. That particular time, one of the vendors did not want the church service to be held, so he called the police to remove us. However, when the police arrived, they just stood and watched the meeting. After it ended they told Pastor Bylden, “We were sent here to remove you from this corner but something kept us back. We couldn't do it.” The power of God was so real that it stopped them. Even though I had seen God's power fall among His people many times, this incident made an impression on me. I began to realize that the Gospel was bigger than just the church group—it was real even for the police officers. Not long after that, following a church service, a woman named Sister Stewart said to me, “Bernice, why don't you just come and give your heart to the Lord?” That day, I surrendered to God, and He changed my whole being and the course of my life, for the better. Our church had open windows, so everyone outside could see that I had been praying. Before I left the building, the whole neighborhood knew that Bernice had gotten saved, and they couldn't believe it! The other kids teased me saying, “Ain't no way you are a Christian.”

Through I was young, I decided to go to church with my mom to understand what had happened to her. No one else in the family went with us, and she would stop on the way home and buy me a little cake. That made me really want to keep going. The church services were held in the home of Pastor Aigemon Bylden at that time. They were simple gatherings, but the power of God descended

was born on the island of St. Thomas into a big family—there were ten of us children. My mom owned a small grocery store and I was a mama's girl, so I was with her at the store all the time. When I was about seven years old, all of a sudden, my mom changed. She started doing things I thought were strange, like going to church. And if anyone in need came into the store, she would give away groceries to that person. Sometimes they were not even in great need, yet she would pack up a whole bag and give it away. That worried me—I thought we might not make enough money if she kept doing that.

I surrendered to God, and He changed my whole being and the course of my life, for the better.



BY BERNICE PINNEY

## THE POWER OF GOD IS REAL!

Each experience in Bernice's life has been a steppingstone to the next, and God has had a hand in it all.

WITNESS

## ONCE RELIGIOUS, NOW REDEEMED,

BY MUZZIMU MATE

Muzzimu discovered the wonderful change that true salvation could make in his life.

I just told God, “I want to end at that city Foursquare,” and God came down and saved my soul.



“God I want to worship you in a righteous way.”



That heartfelt prayer, whispered at a low point, was the beginning of Muzzimu's turnaround. A few weeks later, God led him to the joy and peace he had been missing.

WITNESS

A s far back as I can remember, I always loved God. My family was Christian and I attended a missionary school in

Zvishavane, Zimbabwe. As a young boy, I was involved in our church choir, the Scripture Union, the Preacher's Club, and eventually became one of the youth leaders. Yet, despite all those Christian activities, there was no sense of satisfaction in my heart. I was doing everything I thought a Christian should do, but something was still missing.

After graduating from college, I started working and was no longer involved with church activities as I had been before. For a brief time, I took on sinful habits like drinking and smoking. Those choices made me feel even more empty inside. There was no happiness in my life, and I knew that whatever was missing was not something that work or friends could offer.



Muzzimu with his wife and children at camp meeting in Portland, Oregon, in 2024.

Aigemon Bylden, pastor of the Charlotte Amalie church from 1938-2001.



“Sister Stewart said to me, ‘Bernice, why don't you just come and give your heart to the Lord?’”

before he was a Christian, and he had been wealthy. He had owned property and some stores, but when the Lord saved him, he gave them up to serve God. He began to preach in the streets and went door to door telling people about the Lord. I also noticed that sometimes his shoes had holes in them. He looked poor to me, and I felt that might happen to my mom too because of the way she was giving away groceries. As a little girl, the things I was seeing did not make sense to me. I kept going to church with my mom but didn't pray for myself because I was mostly there to find fault. Also, I had a reputation in the neighborhood for being bossy, almost to the point of being a bully. My mom was generous with customers, but I was not! I didn't let anyone get away with anything, at the store or at school. Because of my reputation, I knew that if I became a Christian, the kids I

The Charlotte Amalie Apostolic Faith Church in St. Thomas in 1973.

