

Chapter 25

The Temple Rises: 1948

In receiving the Lord's orders to erect the Armory, I seemed to envision while in prayer the design of the finished building. When the architect was called, I described the plan I felt God had given me. After he had drawn it up according to scale, he remarked: "Well, you certainly got the plans somewhere, for they are really workable." I think I am able to understand the feeling Noah must have had when he saw before his eyes the plan God had given him for the Ark, because we know that anything that is God-given is always workable.

Finally the building got underway. The great steam shovels and all the other necessary equipment for the huge excavation were on the job. The laborers with complete confidence were putting in their hours of labor. Watching them work, I realized what all of this meant to the livelihood of many families. Many times this thought brought a sinking of my heart as I reflected that I had no visible finances. All I had was my faith in God that when their work was done, we would have the necessary funds to pay them since they were working in good faith, believing we were financially able to pay them.

But I have this to say for the glory of God. There was never a part of the work completed, never a bill handed in that God did not prove Himself faithful. By means and methods known only to Him, He enabled us to pay every bill promptly when it was due. And I might add, the bills for so large a structure were not in the hundreds of dollars, but in the thousands. We had bills turned in for \$14,000.00, for \$20,000.00. Our seats in the building alone cost \$45,000.00 and the steel, \$75,000.00.²⁰

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One such bill was turned in by a contractor who had heard we were building on faith. Evidently he had no faith in our faith, for he handed

²⁰ Construction took place in 1948. In today's currency the \$75,000 bill would be around \$1.1 million.

in his bill with rather a hard spirit saying he must have his money by the next morning. It happened that I had no money at all, not a cent to meet this particular bill, because I did not expect it would be presented so soon. We had a small gathering that evening for prayer. I told the people that though I had no money, I had to have several thousand dollars by the next morning. A gasp went up from the gathering. When I heard it, I said: "Why do you gasp? God owns everything, and God will provide."

Then I saw before my very eyes our lovely Lord pouring out upon His people the grace of giving. The people stood up weeping and emptying their wallets. They were stirred in their hearts by God, and everyone gave all they possibly could as they were moved upon by the Lord. I had heard of things like this happening, but I had never before witnessed it.

In the morning when I came down to do the broadcast,²¹ there were more people waiting for me. People I had never seen before, telling me that the Lord had awakened them and that they had no peace until they brought the money to me. What these people gave amounted to many thousands of dollars. When the doubting contractor arrived, his money was ready for him as it had been for all the others. Thus we were made to know afresh that God's callings are His enabling. What He has promised to do, He is able to fulfill.

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At the time the Armory was being built, obtaining steel was still a problem due to the shortages after the war years. Steel was at a premium in both cost and availability. Many times we could get only one small piece from a box load of steel. But we knew the materials for the Armory were already provided by God. To the amazement of all who were watching and predicting that it would never be built, we saw the steel come in. We saw the fabrication of it; we saw the day when it was delivered to the site.

I shall never forget the day they brought the tremendous piece of fabricated steel that was to support the balcony. It weighed about 20 tons. We had to have the police clear a way through the streets as it was brought up. I sat in a car across the street and watched them swing the

²¹ The "America To Your Knees" broadcast on WJLB from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

huge piece of steel by electric hoists, as men standing on precarious perches waited for the steel to swing into position where they could take hold of it and fasten it in place. I sat in the car crying out to God in prayer that none should be hurt because we had been warned that on jobs as large as this, one or more fatalities was inevitable. But God was good. When the work was completed, there was not one worker with even an injury. They all called it a miracle. With every part of the work, God gave wisdom to the workman and the finances to pay his hire. With the problems of availability of materials and craftsmanship, He also proved faithful.

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When the time came for the delicate task of the acoustic plastering, we realized we were facing a tremendous problem in finding the right man to do the job. The importance of good acoustics in a building of this size and purpose was great. And of course, the cost was a major point of concern as well.

As mentioned in previous chapters, God had given us the power to deliver many helpless victims of drugs, alcohol, and nicotine. At this time, a member of another denomination on the west side of Detroit brought a man to us who had been bound by the habit of drink; he was very thin and worn. The good Christian who had brought him said, "Sister Beall, we hear that you are able to deliver men like this."

I replied, "Yes, God has been merciful every time we have prayed for such a victim."

So we prayed for this man and he was delivered from his addiction that bound him. He was delivered, saved, and soon thereafter filled with the Holy Spirit.

Sometime later this man came to us and said he had heard we were seeking an acoustical plasterer for our building. He told us he was the kind of plasterer that we were looking for. He learned his trade in England and when actively engaged in this trade, he was considered one of the best. He took my husband to see some of his work. It was evident that indeed he had been one of the very best. He offered to do our building, and we knew that God had answered our prayer by delivering this man.

He did a beautiful job. Everyone who looks upon the work realizes that God surely gave this man the ability and wisdom to perform an outstandingly wonderful creation of art in this plastering. He gave us a

building where the acoustics are as nearly perfect as in any building we have ever been in. And so we repeat, with a heart full of thanks and praise that God's ways are perfect.