

Chapter 26

The Answering of Many Questions

The Revival tide was mounting as the Armory was going on to completion. The building was plastered and the floor was laid. The interior began to take the shape of a sanctuary where God would dwell. I felt definitely that the decorating and the furnishings for this Temple of God should require much of my personal time, attention, and prayer. I was very zealous that the carpeting, draperies, decorating, and the furnishings should in every detail reflect our love, esteem, and appreciation to God and to all who had so loyally given of their time, their prayers, and finances to make this Armory a memorial to His faithfulness. The time for the dedication services for the Temple was drawing near. We were all eagerly working toward that great day.

In the midst of this, I received a telephone call from an evangelist, Vera Ludlum, who was a member of our religious organization, the Assemblies of God. She said she had heard from her mother and father in Canada that God was moving there in revival power in a way that the church had never before seen. They invited her to come to witness this supernatural moving of God. During our telephone conversation, she told me they were driving to Canada, and since the back seat of their car was empty, she and her husband would like to take me with them. I was immediately stirred to tell her there would be no possibility of my going as we were at a most crucial time in our building program where I felt I was definitely needed every minute. Besides, I felt it impossible to ride in the back seat of the car as it made me very ill. I was just ready to give her all the reasons why I couldn't possibly go, when the Lord spoke to me:

“You go! I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” (*John 10:10*)

I didn't know what connection this Scripture had with the Lord urging me to go, but I knew the Lord had spoken to me. So instead of telling her all the reasons why I couldn't go, I thanked her for the invitation and said I would be very happy to go along with her and her

husband. She told me this outstanding Revival was in Vancouver, but I didn't realize when I said yes that it was Vancouver, British Columbia!

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In the days that followed, I began to make arrangements for my departure. While I was gone I needed someone to take my place in the church. I had no one to minister at the pulpit or anyone to take our radio broadcasts. (My son, Jim, was not in the ministry at this time.) However, I prayed and the Lord showed me where I could get someone for both the pulpit and the radio. This presented a real problem for the person who was to take my place, but I told him that God had spoken to me and would remove all hindrances. We both realized it would have to be a miracle. But, of course, we are serving a miracle-working God. Right on time He performed the miracle that was needed to make it possible for this person to come to Detroit and to be there until I returned.

The Lord smoothed out every difficulty, and in no time I was ready to leave with my friends. I often think if I had known what was going to come from this trip to Vancouver, in blessing and in sorrow, in losing old friends and gaining new ones, I wonder what my reaction to the invitation would have been. It certainly is the blessing of an all-knowing God that we do not know what tomorrow holds for I am sure in our human fear of suffering and misunderstanding, we would hesitate to do the thing that would ultimately bring us and so many others much blessing and help. I personally have thanked God many times that I did not know the result of that Vancouver trip before I went. I have thanked Him that I did go and that He was able by His grace to trust me with so tremendous a responsibility. The results of the Revival in Vancouver brought to the lives of many a complete change in their beliefs and their mode of worship.

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The church we attended in Vancouver was Glad Tidings Tabernacle, pastored by Rev. Hugh Layzelle. It was an Assembly of God church as were we in Detroit. We had no thought at any time that we were doing anything contrary to the rules and regulation of the Official Headquarters of our denomination and the belief of the people with whom we were in fellowship.

When we walked into that little humble church in Vancouver, we were met by the lovely presence of God in the meetings. In fact, I had never before in my life sensed the presence and power of God as I did in that church. The worship was heavenly, the teaching so down-to-earth and so full of truth that we certainly felt we had come into a new realm – into another one of His lovely chambers of revelation and truth. The services continued until midnight; even then it seemed hard to leave and wait until the next morning. It was an experience I shall never forget for I had met God in a new way. It answered to my heart's satisfaction many of the questions that were constantly in my mind concerning the things God had asked me to do. Many of the undertakings that I was doing in blind faith and obedience were now being revealed to me. I received an understanding of many things that had caused me to lie awake night after night. Yes, God met me!

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One day I was sitting in the congregation thinking in my heart of the command God had given to build an Armory where soldiers would receive equipment. As I thought on this, there swept over me such a realization that I had really no equipment of my own. So many times I had felt the need greater than what I had in the way of helping others in deliverance and healing. While I thought on these things and expressed my need in the meeting, they called me to come forward. The Presbytery²² laid hands on me. Among the many things that were prophesied, one part of the prophesy was almost more than I could receive. These men, who had never been to Detroit, who never at any time had seen the building that God called an Armory, a building almost in a state of completion, began to prophesy concerning it.

“They shall come to thee from the ends of the earth
and shall go forth from thee as lions equipped as from a
mighty Armory.”

My heart seemed to overflow because of the greatness of God in

²² Ministers and church leaders

granting to my heart this great confirmation and encouragement.²³ Also prophesied were the gifts of wisdom and knowledge, discernment of spirits, and healing. This prophesy regarding the gift of healing was a definite confirmation of a burning I had been feeling in my hands for some weeks, almost to the point of a burning ache. It seemed to be relieved when some were prayed for and received their healing. I still have the sign in my hands until this day and will say further that I have seen in a measure of confirmation all that was spoken and prophesied that day.

I also learned that walls do not stop the prophetic word. When it was prophesied “that they would come from the ends of the earth” certainly God's Word went forth to the ends of the world, even as it did when God spoke to Noah and told him that two by two every living thing would come to him to the Ark. I have often wondered what means of transportation Noah used to bring all of these animals over the world, every species into the Ark, but I never understood until then that it was because God had sent out His Word and said it would be so. Animals and every living thing left their place of habitation and started for the Ark to fulfill the Word of God that had gone forth to Noah. When the Ark was ready, the animals were there ready to enter the Ark and then God shut the door.

So it was with the Armory. When I returned from the meetings in Vancouver, people began to come from the ends of the earth to the Armory to have hands laid on them and the prophetic Word to go over them. They came to receive an impartation of spiritual equipment to be given them in words of confirmation by the Spirit through the words of the Presbytery. They continued to come and fill the auditorium from morning to night.

For three and a half years they came! We did not know who they were or where they came from until they would make it known in the meeting just who they were, what part of the country they were from, and just why and how they got there. We were made conscious of the

²³ Hugh Layzell confirms Myrtle's account in the book *Sons of His Purpose*. He states, "After a day or two, the brethren agreed to minister to her in presbytery. Audrey and I remember this incident very well. As soon as she knelt before the presbyters, Ern Hawtin began to prophesy. He said, (something like this) 'Has not the Lord called you to build for Him an armory, where His last day army will be trained and equipped with the gifts of the Spirit in order to take the gospel to the ends of the earth in these last days?' This was, in effect, the very word she had received from the Lord concerning the Church in Detroit."

fact that it was the Word of God that had gone forth and impressed their hearts to come to Detroit – to come to God's spiritual .Armory where they would get equipment for the “warfare” that lay ahead for the Sons of God. They waited before the Lord from morning until night with fasting. Even District Presbyters (pastors, directors) came with their whole Presbytery (church leaders) from different states. The testimony of all was: they met God as they entered the doors. This was a great hour of restoration of the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit in His Church.

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Note by Patricia Beall Gruits:

At the first service after mother's return from Vancouver, December 5, 1948, we gathered together in the Basement Church with great expectancy, eager to hear what had happened in Vancouver. My brother, Jim, opened the service and asked the people to stand. Suddenly everyone in the building started singing praises to God. This spiritual worship and praise which was unheard of at this time continued for about an hour. Then Mrs. Tubby went to the piano and was inspired to sing:

*“This is the promise of the coming Latter Rain,
Lift up your eyes, behold the ripening grain,
Many signs and wonders in His mighty Name,
Drink, oh drink, my people, for this is Latter Rain.”*

In her message that momentous morning, mother shared her experience in Vancouver. She told how moved she had been by the presence of God and the fresh revelation of teaching. But most of all, with great excitement she gave testimony of how the Word she had been given by God to “build an armory” was confirmed through prophesy spoken by men who knew nothing of the project. Although there had been a revival that began years earlier at Bethesda, this Sunday marked the beginning of what would be known as a Latter Rain Revival – a revival marked by a new sound of worship and the laying on of hands with prophesy.