

THE BACK STORY

Last October I spoke at a Women's Conference and the word the Lord put on my heart was "to remember" – remember what the Lord has done. I spoke on the spiritual legacy of Asaph, how he remembered what the Lord had done for his ancestors to strengthen his faith. He in turn passed on what the Lord had done for him to his children, who then passed it on to their children – you get the idea.

My daughters, along with my nephews, have an incredible spiritual legacy- the legacy of M.D .Beall. Their great grandmother was the founding pastor of Bethesda Missionary Temple, which became the epicenter for the Latter Rain Revival of the late 1940's. So remarkable was the presence of God in her life that in the 1950's she was encouraged to put her journey of faith on paper. With the guiding hand of Jo Burbank, her story was published as monthly articles in the church's bulletin called the *Latter Rain Evangel*. However, those articles had never been edited and refined as a continuous story and the manuscript had lain dormant for years. After speaking at this conference, I was impressed to work on this project -a project her daughter, Patricia Beall Gruits, for years had encouraged me for years to take on.

In December 2014, the book "A Hand On My Shoulder" was presented to the great grandchildren of M.D. Beall as a precious Christmas gift - one they can pass on to their children, and then to their children - you get the idea!

Although this version of "A Hand On My Shoulder" was written as a legacy for her natural descendants, it is a story to be celebrated by her spiritual descendants as well. So I will be posting her story online, chapter by chapter over the next few months, just as it was published for her great grandchildren, but it is meant to be a blessing to all who read it.

If you would like to receive notification when a new chapter is being posted as well as when a new blogpost is being published, just enter your e-mail information in the "Subscribe" box on the Home page. Be assured, I will not share your e-mail address with anyone or any organization.

A HAND ON
MY SHOULDER

*God's Miraculous Touch on
My Life*

Myrtle Dortha Monville Beall

Edited by
K. Joy Hughes Gruits

To Patricia Beall Gruits

A daughter who faithfully continued the spiritual
legacy of her mother.

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FOREWORD

Myrtle Dorthea Monville Beall was affectionately known as “Mom Beall” to many and respectfully addressed as Pastor M.D. Beall by others. I was blessed to know her as Grandma Beall, not because I was her granddaughter, but because I married her grandson, Joe. I remember pot roast meals with corn on the cob, no matter the season, and always way too much food for the three of us to eat. At Christmas time, Joe would string her lights and then we would join her in the study, her favorite room, knowing that this was the place where many bold prayers had been prayed. This was the place where God gave her the succinct and powerful messages she would preach each Sunday – messages that would lead us to the altar to be touched by God’s presence. When Grandma preached, it was not a canned message, it wasn’t a theological dissertation, it was a fresh and living Word that strengthened your faith and challenged your walk with the Lord.

What made her unique among the great preachers of her day was that she had a uniquely intimate relationship with the Lord. He put His Hand on her shoulder from a young age and revealed Himself more fully as the years passed. She was known as one who truly knew the Voice of God and was obedient no matter the cost. Hers was an extraordinary life of faith, and she has forged a spiritual heritage that is yours as one of her descendants – a gift with which very few people have been blessed.

In the 1950’s Grandma Beall was encouraged to document her journey of faith. Jo Burbank, who became acquainted with Grandma Beall through the radio program “America To Her Knees,” wrote as Grandma dictated the story of her life and ministry. A manuscript was started in 1952 and subsequent chapters were drafted until the year 1956. However, the chapters of this manuscript had never been published together as a complete story and have lain dormant for over 60 years. At the request of Patricia Beall Gruits, your grandmother, I have edited the manuscript. The goal of the edits was to tell her story in chronological order, clarifying her spiritual journey, filling in the gaps when possible and eliminating the repetitions.

In Moses’ final address to the Israelites before they crossed into the Promised Land, he exhorted them: “Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness.” (Deut. 8:2) It was important to God

that the Israelites from generation to generation would always remember what God had done for them. This book, *A Hand on My Shoulder*, was written so that you, the descendants of Myrtle Beall, would not forget what God had done for her. That her journey from a young girl in a small mining town in the Michigan's Upper Peninsula to an influential pastor whom God used to build an "Armory," where thousands of people were spiritually equipped to fulfill their divine purpose, would not be forgotten. As you follow her journey, as you remember what God did for her, may the Lord put His Hand on your shoulder and lead you, as He did Grandma, to a deeper relationship with the Him.

K. Joy Hughes Gruits
December 2014