

Chapter 28

Miracles and Multitudes

Many miracles were performed during the Convention which occupied several months following the Dedication Day of the Temple on February 13, 1949. It was a time of supernatural confirmations of faith too numerous to mention. God was stirring our hearts to believe, and He was getting the glory.

One such occurrence concerned a young lad who was brought to the Convention from Canada by his father. During his visit to the Temple, hands were laid upon him for release and healing. His father took him home in faith. This boy had been born with one limb shorter than the other by a few inches. There was no earthly cure for his condition. But on the morning of the day following the laying on of hands for healing, the boy came downstairs from his bedroom. To the utter amazement of his family, they found that God had performed a miracle in the night. Both his legs were now the same length!

This was a wonderful miracle of healing - a complete and prompt correction by God of a physical condition that the doctors apparently had given up as hopeless. The family of the boy was so transported by the goodness of God that they sent us the testimony, and the case received widespread publicity. Even one of the leading news commentators of one of the large radio stations in the Detroit gave forth the story of this miracle as one of the top news items of the day.

A District Superintendent of the Wisconsin Assemblies of God came to the Temple along with his Presbytery to investigate and observe firsthand what he had heard to be a great move of God. His testimony was terse and straightforward and spoken without a doubt or hesitation. "I ran into God!" he declared; and then added, "I'd hate to think I didn't know God when I met Him!" This man went back to Wisconsin with his Presbytery on fire for God, determined to do God's will and to identify himself with that which God was doing in the earth. Many new churches were opened up all over the world following the Convention where the great Truth of the Ministry of the Body of Jesus Christ with all the gifts of the Spirit were taught and demonstrated.

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During this time when the overflow crowds were so mighty because so many were being saved and healed, we had to move the Sunday meeting to the Coliseum at the State Fair Grounds in Detroit, where there was seating for 10,000. Yet even this tremendous capacity was not enough to accommodate the crowds. Every available seat was taken in the balconies as well as in the main auditorium. Thousands stood along the walls as well. Such a demonstration of the moving of the Spirit of God over the people we never saw before. At the close of this epoch-making meeting, when the people were asked who among them would like to make a decision for Christ, they left their seats or their positions by the walls and came down the aisles in droves. I never saw the like of this demonstration in my life – no, not ever!

They filled the inquiry rooms. When one was occupied to capacity they would be directed another inquiry room clear across the great auditorium. Without confusion, but with great determination and calmness, not one broke ranks but marched from one inquiry room to another until they had filled the rooms on the north, east, west, and south sides of the auditorium. When every inch of available space where people could be prayed with had been taken, one group of very well-dressed women, who could find no place in any of the inquiry rooms, said to a worker who was standing by: “Is there no place for us? Is there no one who cares for our souls?”

They were standing near a hamburger stand where the remains of sandwiches, hot dogs, and waste paper had been thrown on the floor and under the counter. The worker looked around, seeing no available space but a littered hamburger stand, answered the women, “Well, there doesn’t seem to be any space but this!” Then and there even in such unbecoming surroundings, these well-dressed women knelt among the debris beneath the counter of a hamburger stand and gave their hearts to the Lord.

Such scenes were repeated throughout the Coliseum. By the end of the meeting there were some two thousand who had prayed through to an actual experience. So the Revival continued to mount without diminishing, reaching proportions we never thought possible to witness in our day. God was doing the “exceeding abundantly” beyond all that we could expect or wish. In the days that followed, people came from everywhere to receive the confirmation of their call and ministry. Gifts of the Spirit were received by the laying on of hands and by prophesy,

arming believers with spiritual strength and power. They left the Convention with a new determination, a new zeal, and a new vision, having seen God in reality.

Without publishing any advertisements, sending out invitations or dispersing handbills, without any publicity save that which was inspired by the personal experience of our visitors repeated by word of mouth, and the news releases by radio commentators, newspaper reporters and similar agencies, we found people flocking to our doors from every part of the world. Over and over again we saw the fulfillment of that prophesy given to us years before in Vancouver.

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

Truly Bethesda Missionary Temple had become an Armory.