

*Many Mighty
Miracles*



Through Minnie

Adriel Alexander

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Left to right: Papa Mart, Mama Minnie, Albert, Cassie, Ellis, Nassie, Tennie, Adriel, Earl, & Martea



**Mart & Minnie Alexander's 50th Anniversary
December 1954**



1923 – Mart & Minnie Alexander's home



Adriel & Olive Alexander



Minnie Alexander



**Mama Minnie
Mother's Day 1977**



Montez Cook
Nov. 12, 1983



Adriel & Olive Alexander
October 18, 1980
38th wedding anniversary



Adriel Alexander Family – Left to right: Jill, Connie, Judy, Kathy, Larry, Ronald, Olive & Adriel

PREFACE

This book has been written for only one purpose—to glorify God. When God is glorified, men are edified, inspired, encouraged, and brought to a closer relationship with God. Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32). This is what I shall endeavor to do. I shall in no way attempt to exalt the person that shall be spoken of often in this book; she was only a vessel used of God.

I have never attempted to write a book before, but for some time I have been impressed that I should write of Mother's life and ministry. I feel that I am nearing the end of my life now, unless God works a great miracle in my body. So I have prayed for God to at least allow me to live to finish this book and to place His blessings upon each word I write. I feel that God can get greater glory from this book by it being written in the midst of the fiery trial of affliction, such as I am suffering at this time.

I am one of a family of nine children, one of whom was taken home to be with the Lord in infancy. My mother said many times that I have been sick more than all the other children combined. Many of my sicknesses have been of a very serious nature that I feel sure would have been fatal had I failed to "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5).

I am now sixty-two years old, and I am very grateful that God has given me these many years. We sometimes do not know the mind of God concerning our afflictions, but we must be consecrated to wait upon Him and trust Him unto death. That was the determination of Job when he was sorely afflicted in body. He said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15). In this we can see that Job was not sure about what God was going to do, but Job knew what Job was going to do. We need to get it fixed and settled before the trial of our faith comes, or we are apt to make the wrong move when it does come.

My present affliction is the greatest of all that I have ever gone through. I have lost about thirty-five pounds that I did not desire to lose. I am in a very weakened condition and have no appetite for food. I suffer continually in my entire abdominal area, and my skin is a terrible yellow color. If I did not know the power of God, I would know that my life on this earth would be very short. But I know my Redeemer liveth and that He "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). I am asking Him to heal me for His glory, but at the same time saying, "Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done." He will do the best for me, for I know that I love Him because I love the brethren. I love my enemies, if I have any; however, I do not believe there is anyone who really hates me. There are many who hate the truth for which I stand, but Jesus said, "If they hated Me, they will hate you also." He also said, "They hated Me without a cause." In reality, it was not Jesus whom they hated, but it was the doctrine, or message, that He preached. How could they hate Jesus when He went about doing only good to all? They hated His words because He spoke the Word of God, which is "sharper than any twoedged sword" (Hebrews 4:12). It cut them and condemned them because their "works were evil" (1 John 3:12).

In reference to my physical condition at the time of this writing, isn't it only reasonable to think that one would be very sincere in what he says or writes when feeling that he might be called shortly to stand before God to answer for his words? We shall give account for every idle word. Jesus said it would be better to have a millstone hanged about our neck and be cast into the sea than to offend one of His little ones. Keep this thought in mind as you read this book and know that it was meant to help, not hurt.

For sixty years I was taught the Word of God by my mother, both privately and from the pulpit. As I elaborate on the subjects that arise in the course of writing this book, I strive to convey her convictions and express her feelings concerning each subject. She walked closely with God; therefore, He revealed to her much truth that the nominal Christian could not grasp or understand. She manifested such love, joy, peace, and all the fruit of the Spirit to such an extent that many of her close acquaintances felt that when God got ready to take her, she would just arise and go as Elijah did. We can follow her example, for she followed the Lord.

As my title implies, the miracles of God came through Minnie, but the power was God's. She often said that she was not ashamed of God but was ashamed of herself. She felt that she was one of the smallest of God's people and desired no praise from man, only the approval of God. She yearned not to be great in this world, but she worked diligently toward gaining a great reward in Heaven. According to Jesus' words in His Sermon on the Mount, her reward shall be great. "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven" (Matthew 5:11-12). Very few people who have lived in our land of the free have been persecuted more than she. The Apostle Paul wrote, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12). She lived godly and was persecuted severely.

Although she has gone on to reap her reward, her life and ministry continue to be a great inspiration and blessing to many who knew her. It is my sincere prayer and desire that many more will be blessed by reading this sketch of her life for God. This little book contains only a token of the many things that God did through her consecrated life. Although the writer is her son, it is impossible to recall and record all that God did through her. Many times during her last years on earth, she expressed her regrets of not having kept a diary from day to day of the things God did for and through her.

May God use this account to bless every soul who reads it. May sinners be saved, the sick and afflicted be healed, and the weary ones be strengthened.

Chapter I

HER CHILDHOOD

On November 30, 1890, a beautiful, black-haired baby girl was born to Jack and Nancy Bell of Quitman, Louisiana. They were poor folks but were very happy to have this addition to their family. She was their second child and their first girl. Their son, Jackie, had celebrated his second birthday on August 11. They named their little daughter Minnie Delitha. No doubt, God was the only One who knew that this child was destined to be a very special vessel in His kingdom.

Her parents were ordinary, respectable, hard-working people who believed in God and belonged to a Baptist denomination, but they had no strong religious convictions. They more or less followed the crowd and the customs and traditions of men. They knew little about God and, therefore, were not able to teach their children much about Him. One truth that Minnie was taught by her mother, whom she remembered and mentioned many times during her life, was that we must love everyone, even our enemies. I shall write more about this later and also how it influenced her life.

As the years went by, Minnie learned to do many chores on the farm. Her parents worked hard and managed well. Soon they owned their own farm, where they kept cows, horses, other livestock, and poultry. In addition to working in the cotton and cornfields, Minnie cared for the animals at an early age. As her mother's health was poor, she had to do most of the housework and chores (washing clothes, milking cows, etc.). By the time she was eight years old, much of the responsibility of caring for her younger sisters and brother was hers too. (There were three sisters born before a baby brother. She was delighted when he came along. Then she had two brothers and three sisters.) One day, her little sister Tennie, who was just younger than she, became ill with congestive chills and died. This was a sad experience for the entire family and made a lasting impression upon Minnie.

Education was a luxury in Minnie's childhood days. They lived several miles from a school and had to walk. Also, school was open for classes only about three months during the year. As the oldest daughter, Minnie had to stay out of school many days to care for her sick mother. In addition, Minnie had a chronic spleen condition in her own body that also caused her to miss school often. Therefore, she received a very limited formal education.

One day at school an older girl commented to her, "Minnie, you must be part Negro, because you have black, kinky hair like they have." This caused hatred in her heart, and when Minnie arrived home from school that day, she told her mother that she hated that girl. Her mother told her that she could not go to Heaven if she hated anyone. Minnie replied, "I'll just have to go to hell then." However, her attitude changed completely when she was saved a few years later.

Chapter II

HER CONVERSION

Though not yet a Christian, Minnie's life revealed that she possessed some very essential qualities for becoming a devout servant of God. She loved and honored her parents and endeavored to please them in everything she did, always carefully obeying their commands. She often spoke of the only two times that she could recall displeasing her father. Once she got busy playing and allowed the calves to get with their mothers before milking time, and they got all the milk. For this, she got the only spanking of her life. However, she was scolded another time by her father for failing to be more respectful to a man only slightly older than she. She had simply addressed him by his first name without preceding it with "Mister." For as long as she lived, she never forgot this. From that time on, she always addressed adults, whether older or younger than she, as "Mister," "Missus," "Uncle," "Aunt," "Brother," "Sister," etc. (except for her children, grandchildren, or other members of the family).

Minnie was wonderfully converted at the age of thirteen. There was a series of meetings being conducted at the church where they attended, and she was becoming more conscious of a spiritual need in her life. A girl cousin about her age, by the name of Nova Neal, was staying in their home and attending this meeting. Minnie and she were close friends, and they began discussing their spiritual aspirations. They agreed that they should join the church at the next service but felt that they should first get saved. God was revealing things to them that they had not been taught. Never had they heard their preacher mention anything about getting saved; he said to merely join the church and be baptized. There was a grove of trees beyond a barn that belonged to Minnie's father. There they spent most of the day praying and seeking God. They both experienced a wonderful conversion in that grove prayer meeting. They were born again, even though they did not realize that the Bible taught this. After this experience, they both felt that they could join the church conscientiously, and they did so that night.

Nova Neal will not be mentioned further, but I feel it is good to let the reader know that she was faithful in her Christian

experience and walked in all the light that God shed on her pathway, even in the face of much opposition and persecution because of her trusting in God completely.

Chapter III

COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE

Minnie was a very attractive young lady with long, black hair that hung in waves from her head to its very ends. She was dark-complexioned and had large, brown eyes with long eyelashes. Many young men were attracted to her, not only because of her physical beauty but also for her manners and good behavior.

James Martin Alexander (a young man in the community, eleven years older than Minnie, whose folks were neighbors and good friends to her family) had been very fond of Minnie since she was just an infant. In fact, when Minnie was only about three years old, Mart told her mother that Minnie belonged to him and would one day be his wife.

As the years passed, Minnie met other boys that she liked, but Mart was the only one she loved. I have heard her express wonder as to why she was attracted to him, for he was worldly and had ways that did not appeal to her as much as some of the other nicely behaved young men who were interested in her. Yet, she had a love for him that she did not have for the others. I also heard him say many times that he and Minnie were meant for each other. He never felt toward other young ladies whom he courted as he did toward her.

Mart waited for her to become old enough to marry. He celebrated his twenty-fifth birthday on August 27, but she would not be fourteen until November 30. There was no doubt that they were in love, but she contended that they should wait until she was fourteen. So their wedding date was set for December 7, just one week after her fourteenth birthday.

It was now time to get the approval of her parents. Her mother gave consent, but her father thought she was too young and was needed so much at home to help with her sick mother. Finally, he agreed to their getting married, provided they make their home in his home the first year. They agreed, and the final arrangements were made. On December 7, 1904, they were happily married.

Chapter IV

EARLY MARRIED LIFE

As mentioned earlier, Minnie had an affliction in her side that had caused much suffering since her early childhood. When able, she was a very hard worker, but due to this chronic spleen condition, she would often be disabled for weeks at a time. Not more than three months lapsed between spells of chills and fever, caused by this spleen ailment, according to her doctor. The best medical care available was given her as several doctors were called in to treat the case. In her side was a hard knot about the size of her hand that had grown as her body had. The doctors prescribed the same treatment: purgative and quinine for breaking the chills and fever, while keeping her side painted with iodine to draw some of the poison out of her system. This really complicated the problem, as now she suffered on the inside from the swollen and inflamed spleen and on the outside with blistered skin. The pain caused by her clothing touching this tender, bleeding spot was almost more than she could bear. She often referred to this after she learned to trust God. She said she was like the woman in the Bible who "had suffered many things of many physicians . . . and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse" (Mark 5:26).

The year that they had agreed to spend in the home of her parents passed, but Minnie was needed so much that they agreed to stay longer. No one knows how long they would have lived there had the house not been destroyed by fire from a gasoline lantern. Following this disaster, both families made their home in the house that Mart had built before he and Minnie were married. They all labored together, and in about three months, Mr. Bell's new home was ready to move into. This ended the two families dwelling together.

On January 18, 1906, God blessed Minnie and Mart with a fine son, whom they named Albert Mouton Alexander. He was her parents' first grandchild, and they thought he was great. As the two families lived just one-half mile apart, they visited each other often, and Minnie continued to help her sick mother as much as possible.

Minnie was thankful for her new home and enjoyed her little son so much. Her husband was good to them and worked hard to provide their material needs; however, he was not at all interested in spiritual matters. She was a Christian and wanted to attend church services, read the Bible, and pray. He was not a Christian and could see no value in such "nonsense." He loved playing his fiddle for dances, partying, drinking, and such. He loved the world, and the love of the Father was not in

him; however, he made no profession (this is better than professing and not possessing).

Though still a babe in Christ, she used great wisdom in reacting to the opposition she received because of serving God. She could have become discouraged and given up, or she might have reacted in such a way as to lose her husband's confidence in her. "He that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30). Mart said many times in later years that it was Minnie's life that won him to Christ. "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband" (1 Corinthians 7:14).

Sometimes Mart would permit her to attend the church services, but at other times he would refuse. One prayer meeting night, she was **so** anxious to go and was getting dressed when he asked where she was going. When she told him, he again refused to let her go. She pleaded, but to no avail. She went to her usual place of private prayer, a grove behind the house, and wept before the Lord. She prayed for her husband to be saved. God gave her peace and sufficient grace to return home and prepare an unusually good meal for his supper. Minnie was kind and affectionate toward him, as though nothing had happened to grieve her. He was not saved immediately, but God was working with his soul. He continued in his worldly activities, trying to enjoy life. He was invited to most dances in the community because of his excellent fiddling ability. Contrary to Minnie's wishes, he would occasionally arrange for a dance in their home. Though she would take no part in the party, she was courteous and nice to those who attended.

After a party at their home one night, she went to the bedroom to find her little daughter, Cassie, the second child, burning with fever. She fell to her knees and cried out to God to heal the child and to make her husband willing not to have any more dances or parties of that nature in their home again. God honored that prayer, and never again was there another party in their home. He was not a Christian yet, but little by little, he was being convinced that he should be serving the God his wife worshiped and served.

Chapter V

A MARVELOUS AND GLORIOUS EXPERIENCE

Minnie was walking in all the light she had and was hungering and thirsting for more of God's truth. There was not much spiritual food at the church she attended; therefore, she was being starved. The members and the preacher seemed happy and contented with their form of religion. They laughed and joked with one another, smoked and chewed tobacco, dipped snuff, drank their favorite alcoholic beverages, and did just about anything that the worst of sinners would do. In fact, they were the worst of sinners, because they were hypocrites standing in the way of those who would become real Christians. They were the blind leading the blind. One truth they taught was that they were sinners; then they added a lie, saying that everyone was a sinner. They taught that there were two kinds of sinners: lost sinners and saved sinners. Of course, *they* were the saved ones. They scoffed at the idea of holiness. (When I say "they," I refer to the majority.) There was at least one in that congregation who did not scoff at holiness but desired it for herself. I am persuaded that in most congregations of professing Christians today, there are a few whose hearts are right with God. Let us not condemn them, but let us pray that God will lead them into His marvelous light, as we shall shortly see that He did for Minnie.

She heard of a holiness preacher conducting a series of services in Quitman (about five miles from her house), and she wanted so much to go hear him. She felt sure her husband would not go but thought perhaps some of the neighbors would go if they knew about it. For two or three days she talked it up, trying to get some people interested. Several agreed to go if they had some way to travel besides walking, and to her surprise, Mart volunteered to drive them with his team and wagon. How happy she was! She contacted the ones who had shown interest and urged them to be ready to go the next evening in time to arrive early for that holiness meeting.

When the preacher began speaking, there seemed to be a halo around his head; he spoke such wonderful words of abundant, victorious life. Never before had Minnie heard any man speak as he did. He told of God's love for His people and how He had sent His Son to save them *from* their sins, not *in* their sins (Matthew 1:21). He told of God's holiness and how His Son, Jesus Christ, came to earth and walked among sinful men as an example for them to follow. He lived a sinless life and loved His enemies. This minister explained that the Bible says that without holiness, "no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14).

I feel that today there are some folks who really love God but believe they are still sinners. The reason for this is because they do not understand that a mistake is not sin, and neither is temptation sin. Sin is a willful transgression of God's known law or will. To do something that is contrary to God's law through ignorance or unawareness is not sin; it is a mistake. No one is free of mistakes, but we can be free from sin. If I would unknowingly shortchange someone, I would make a mistake.

If I do the same thing knowingly, I commit sin. I cannot avoid the former, but the latter I can. There are no sinning Christians. Those in doubt of this doctrine should prayerfully read the entire sixth chapter of the Book of Romans and verses 1-10 of 1 John, Chapter 3. Many other Scriptures also clarify this topic.

Minnie could hardly wait for the altar call to be made so she could go forward and pray. Prior to this, she was quite timid in a crowd and would do nothing to attract attention. Now she cared not what others thought or said. She poured out her heart before God and asked Him to fill her with His love and grace. She arose from the altar with such joy and peace flooding her soul that she burst forth with praise and shouts of victory. The place was filled with people who were amazed at her boldness and lack of timidity and fear. Her words were clear and easily understood by all present; all was done decently and in order. Her cup was running over with the love of God. She now remembered the girl (spoken of earlier) whom she had hated for insulting her. Quite some time had passed since she had seen that girl, but the first thing she wanted to do after this experience was to hug her and tell her how much she loved her.

Finally, the service was dismissed and all were leaving for home. While waiting in the wagon for the team to be hitched, Minnie reached into her pocket for the small package of snuff that she always carried when on outings such as this. Since she had acquired the snuff habit while quite young, she was very addicted to it. No thought that it may be wrong had ever crossed her mind, as most of her acquaintances used tobacco in one form or another. She had desired before to break this habit, but only for the purpose of saving money. She realized there were necessary items that could be bought with the money she spent on snuff. Several times, she had attempted to quit and had succeeded for as long as three months, only to make up for lost time whenever she started back. She had concluded that she just could not kick the habit. When she started this night to take a dip, a voice spoke, "Don't do that." The night was dark, but she could see all kinds of filthy things in a vision far below her. The voice spoke again, "You are lifted out of those things and set on higher ground." She was startled! What could this mean? The evangelist had not mentioned this in his sermon. She quickly placed the snuff back into her pocket, and away they rode toward home. She spoke to no one about the vision or the voice but pondered these things in her heart. By the time they reached home and went to bed, the hour was late and they were soon asleep.

Out of habit, upon arising each morning and preparing for breakfast, Minnie would take a dip of snuff. Without thinking of the happenings of the night before, as she started to place the snuff box to her mouth, she heard the same voice say, "You don't need that." She immediately dumped it into the trash, and the desire and taste for snuff were gone forever. Praise God for the victory that overcometh the world (1 John 5:5)!

Chapter VI

CHRIST APPEARS AND SPEAKS

Joybells were ringing in Minnie's soul as God was gently leading her to higher heights and teaching her His perfect will. She was now thrilled at the wonderful truths revealed to her as she read His Word and communed with Him in prayer.

One day while Minnie was reading her Bible, she found something that wonderfully blessed her soul. Psalm 103:3 told her that God forgives all our iniquities and heals all our diseases. She said, "Lord, You have fulfilled the first part of that promise for me, and I believe the other part is for me also." She made no vow to God but merely pushed her remedies and medicines aside and began to trust God for the healing of her body. She had a large medicine cabinet full because of the serious illnesses she had suffered most of her life. Minnie was only eighteen years old at this time, but she said she had taken more medicine during those few years than an average person would probably consume in a long life (about as much as could be hauled in a pickup truck bed, she estimated).

As mentioned earlier, Minnie had a chronic spleen condition that had caused other complications. Also, she had inherited asthma of the most severe form from her father. If she had a slight cold, she could not lie down to sleep; even when sitting up, she could be heard from another room gasping for breath. Her doctors had said that these were two incurable diseases, which would go with her to her grave. However, with her faith and trust in God for soul and body, she enjoyed better health during the following eighteen months than she could ever remember. Minor headaches, colds, etc. would occur, but through prayer she was speedily delivered.

Eventually came the trial of Minnie's faith. She was forced to bed with chills and fever as had been happening about every three months before she began trusting God. At around ten o'clock each morning, she would begin burning with fever and shaking throughout her body. She called mightily upon God as she searched her heart and life to find whether she had failed Him in any way. In a couple of hours the fever would subside, her temperature would return to normal, and she would be much improved until the next day.

On the fourth morning while alone with God, lying on her bed and praying that another chill would not occur, Minnie told God that she was willing to wait until He saw fit to heal her, but her entire family was urging her to get a doctor or use some remedy to break the chills. This trusting God for the healing of one's body seemed very strange to them, as they had never heard of anyone else practicing this. Pressure from the family and friends was increasing with each passing day. As she earnestly asked Him to come to her rescue, Christ appeared in the room at her left side and said: "I have healed you without medical aid for eighteen months. If you will promise to trust Me completely for as long as you live, the chills will not come." She pondered this for a short time; then she replied, "Lord, I am willing to do that, but my husband, father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all of my friends, including my pastor, will be against me."

Christ said: "I will be with you. Just hold up the standard; they will have to come to it." Then all the faces of the ones she had mentioned appeared to the right of her bed. Christ asked, "Will you stay with them or follow Me?"

She replied, "Lord, I'll follow You." At this, heaven came down and glory filled her soul. She sprang from her bed and ran, leaping and shouting and praising God. Her husband, who was working not far from the house, heard the commotion and came running to see what was wrong. He thought the chill had come early, and she was dying. They met on the front porch, and he asked what was the matter. She said, "I'm not going to have any more chills!" He looked at his watch and said, "It's about an hour before chill time." When she told him the story and about her vow to Christ, he replied, "I've never hated anything so much in all my life!"

Many times through the years, I heard my father explain how he felt about this vow my mother made. "Though I was not a Christian," he said. "I realized that it was a very serious thing to break a vow made to God. I also felt that if she kept this vow, she would die. I was between a rock and a hard place," he explained.

Minnie witnessed to this experience many times and told how crushing those words were coming from the husband whom she loved so much. However, God kept pouring His glory into her soul, and she continued to rejoice.

Mart hastened to go and tell Minnie's parents and best friends what had happened. Upon his return several hours later, he had a sad report from each one. Her mother had said she did not want to even know when Minnie was sick if she was not going to take medicine and have a doctor. Her father's reply cut deeper. He said, "Tell Minnie that if she will get the best doctor and take his medicine, I will pay the bill." This implied that he felt she was trusting God merely to save the doctor's bill. He knew that they had always paid their bills promptly; his statement hurt her very much! Her pastor said she should never have made such a promise to God. Each one sent very heartbreaking words, except her dearly beloved Aunt Bessie Vail. She said, "I know I could never have that kind of faith, but I hope Minnie can." Minnie greatly appreciated this remark and took courage from it. Her love for this aunt multiplied, and she spoke well of her wherever she went.

Bitter persecution was forthcoming in the months and years ahead. The Apostle Paul's words in 2 Timothy 3:12, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution," certainly were fulfilled in her life. Why is it that many professed Christians today are not suffering persecution? Could it be that they are not living godly? Paul did not say *some* will suffer; he said *all* who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

I am persuaded to believe that if we take our stand for God and His Word and let the world know where we stand, we will be persecuted just as much as other great Christians have been. Some refuse to preach the whole truth and warn people how they must live by every word of God in order to be saved and make Heaven their home. God expects us to warn the people that He is a jealous God and that He demands our loyalty and obedience to His Word.

The gift of God is salvation of both soul and body through Jesus Christ. Isaiah 53:5 says, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Many of the same people who claim to have trusted God for the salvation of their souls are afraid to trust Him for their bodies. If you feel it is God's will for you to suffer, then do it gladly with grace and patience. If you feel it is not His will, then find out the hindering cause and get God to remove it. We need to stop acting like rebellious children who try to get something from their father, and if he won't give it to them, they run pouting to their mother to get it. This is exactly the way many are treating God. If He has allowed it to teach a lesson, do not refuse to submit and learn the lesson. All that most people care about is relief, not whether they grow spiritually or whether God gets glory from their healing. "Just give us relief!"

"Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus." Those who have never trusted God for both soul and body do not truly know the meaning of that grand old song. Christian, why do you find it difficult to trust Him for the body and all the other needs of this life? You have trusted Him for your soul, which is by far your most precious possession. Your soul is immortal while the body and all of your material needs are only temporary and very unimportant when compared to the soul. Have you found Him faithful to your soul? He will be just as faithful to the needs of your body if only you will allow Him. He really desires you to, and you are missing a great blessing by not doing so.

Old Brother James T. Hooten, a wonderful pastor and evangelist of the Church of God, would say that a pastor who did

not preach divine healing to his congregation and practice it in his own life should have to starve. He explained that the people were spending their money for drugs and doctor and hospital bills that could be paid to the preacher. Just think of the money that folks in your church spend each year for medical expenses that could be used to buy needed things for the church or to send missionaries out to preach the Gospel to others. Trusting God for divine protection and care in this life should be a part of the faith, which a Christian's life demonstrates to the world, and this should be only the beginning. We all should earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints so that we will work miracles, cast out devils, heal the sick, and work all the other signs following believers, as spoken in Mark 16:17-20. Many will never see these signs happening until they truly return to the old paths and walk in the light of God's Word.

Chapter VII

THE USE OF DIVINE HEALING

At this point I would like to include a section from Brother E. E. Byrum's book entitled *Divine Healing of Soul and Body*, which was copyrighted in 1892. Brother Byrum was a wonderful man of God who did all the works of Jesus, including raising the dead. This section from his book on "The Use of Divine Healing" clarifies and emphasizes the very thing I am trying to impress upon the reader.

Everything in the divine economy is for a wise purpose, and is consonant with the highest reason.

Before entering upon the objects of divine healing, it might be well to inquire briefly into the uses of affliction. And this must be approached by first considering the author of afflictions. Peter's testimony of Christ is as follows: "Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him" (Acts 10:38). Here afflictions are ascribed to the devil, to his oppressive power over human flesh. Doubtless, they are usually the results of violated natural laws through evil lusts and carelessness, infused by the devil. His object in these afflictions, of course, is to break down and destroy these temples of God. But God also has a permissive will and purpose in men's afflictions. By these afflictions upon His children, He has taught them many profitable lessons and brought them nearer to Himself, and they have also learned thereby to hold more sacred and obey more carefully the laws that God has enacted in the realms of nature. Doubtless souls have been saved, and others arrested from apostasy by the strong hand of God in affliction. There have been instances where God has evidently sent physical judgment upon men; but these are exceptional. Usually disciplinary suffering is the effect of violated organic laws. But whatever gracious fruit sickness may bring forth, it is not to the glory of God that His children should continue long under its prostrating power. If a more perfect conformity to natural laws is needed, or if spiritual lessons or advancement in divine grace is the divine object in permitting these attacks, let the soul draw nigh to God, find out His good purpose, and reach the same. And when this is accomplished, the divine use of the affliction terminates, and the affliction should also. But should no special blessing be contemplated and the suffering be only the oppressive work of Satan, why should it be protracted? Is there no balm in Gilead? Is not our God able to deliver His children out of all trouble and afflictions? "Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is now their God?" (Psalm 115:2). Let it be known that God is indeed with His people and is a present help in every need.

What good then can the Lord accomplish in the exercise of His divine healing power? We will only mention a few things.

First: Health is the normal state of man, an important condition of his usefulness. Deprived of this, he is unable to answer the end of his active existence. He is not qualified to meet the duties he owes to himself as a man, to his country as a citizen, to society as a neighbor, to his family as a husband and father, nor to his God as a Christian. Not that he cannot be a Christian in prostration, but that he cannot fill the sphere of active Christian labor. Instead of filling life's duties in these several relations, he is a care and burden to others. Hence, it is to the glory of God to heal His children, that Satan be defeated, and they be able to bring forth fruit unto God.

Second: By the exercise of His healing power, in answer to prayer, the Lord manifests unto His creatures His

precious attributes of sympathy, compassion, and love. Behold His heart of love toward suffering humanity: "And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick" (Matthew 14:14). Blessed be His dear name! Wherever His eyes beheld the oppressed of Satan, beneath the heel of sorrow and affliction, His hand of love was stretched forth to heal, and His kind heart overflowed with words that soothed the troubled soul. Had He passed through this valley of sin-inflicted wretchedness with no eye to pity the suffering, no tears to shed with the bereaved, and no outstretched arm to raise up the sick, could men have learned that His heart is kindness, and His Father's name love? Ah, the healing mercies of the Son of God are needful to reveal the character of that compassionate God, who only can bind up our wounds, heal our sorrows, and sweep away all our diseases.

And who will say that His crucifixion, resurrection, and glorification have stripped Him of His power to heal the sick? Nor do the glories of His Father's throne, and the lofty praises of the angels in Heaven turn away His pitying eye from the pangs that oppress His frail brethren yet in the flesh, or prevent their humble prayers from reaching His ears. Thank God! "He knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust" (Psalm 103:14). He yet walks with His church, showing forth even "greater works" than He did while incarnate. He is near to all them that call upon Him, and His tender mercies are over all. While on earth He turned no sufferer away unhealed, and His heart is no less "touched with the feeling of our infirmities" today. All must admit that He has the same power to heal. Then why not do it? The person who could stand by the side of an awful sufferer, who is imploring help, and having all power and authority to remove the same by a simple touch, yet would not do it, what would be the thought of such a person? Would not all pronounce his a heart of stone? And do not all who confess that Christ is able to heal His saints, and yet will not answer their prayers in doing so, virtually ascribe to Him this same cruel, unfeeling heart? Do they not, in direct opposition to the Word, picture Him as an unsympathizing High Priest, whose heart cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and not even with the most intense pain and sickness? O my Lord and Savior, how Thy Name is dishonored, and Thy holy character slandered by the false doctrines of men! How the cursed unbelief that has come down from the dark ages of confusion, and spread forth from the pulpits of worldly wisdom, and godly ignorance, robs our Blessed Redeemer of His loveliness and tender compassion!

It is not enough to say that He exhibited His love to suffering humanity while in the flesh, and that is sufficient? Is it sufficient to prove that a man is good and holy now, because he gave evidence of that fact in past years? If Christ cannot or would not heal the sick today, would it not give place for doubts that He ever did, and the idea that those miracles on record were forged? Surely this, or the ridiculous idea that He has changed. Though men may intellectually credit the works of Christ, wrought over eighteen hundred years ago, to really impress their mind with His true character of love, they need to see the same manifestations in the present, ever-living Jesus. If He be indeed the divine Saviour, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8). He must continue to confirm His love to His saints; and so He does. And he that denies it must shut his eyes and stop his ears from seeing and hearing the gracious works of God, and seek to rob Him of His power, or of His very essence—love.

Third: We will notice one more point in the use of divine healing. In the name of the Lord we affirm that the supernatural healing of the bodies of men is one of the Lord's permanent factors in the salvation of souls.

During the personal ministry of Christ, nearly all who believed in Him were constrained to do so by the miracles they saw. Yea, "many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did" (John 2:23). These miracles were usually those of healing.

The same was true of the Apostles' labors. About five thousand souls were converted to God through the preaching of a half sermon, which was backed up by the healing of a poor beggar at the "gate of the temple which is called Beautiful." (See Acts 3 and 4:1-4.) But since divine healing has been repudiated in the dark ages of the past, it has taken, on an average, about five thousand "fine sermons" to half convert one soul.

After spending the night in prison, and being tried by the high priests the next day, the Apostles, Peter and John, were permitted to return to their own company and report the good time they had enjoyed, after which they all

bowed down and prayed as follows: "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak the word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus" (Acts 4:29-30). These inspired Apostles knew how to pray for boldness and authority to preach the Word; namely, they wanted the hand of God manifest with them, confirming the Word with miracles, especially the healing of the sick. Do we not need the same boldness and authority today? A ministry that is void of the divine seal of healing power is a poor, lame excuse for the messengers of the Almighty God.

Observe the use the Lord made of a case of healing at Lydda. Peter there "found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole." You see, Peter did not heal the man, but Jesus did. "And he arose immediately. And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord" (Acts 9:34-35). A very happy effect indeed! We have seen men and women melt down before God and get saved in these last days, on seeing the love and power of God displayed in instantaneous healing.

"The day of miracles is past" is a disgusting apology for an unsanctified and powerless ministry. It is much more congenial to the flesh to adopt this falsehood than to mortify the deeds of the body, die to all pride, selfishness, and worldliness, and thus become pure in heart, and filled with power, an instrument through which God can bless suffering humanity.

The Apostle Paul did not entertain the popular view of miracles so often heard from the faithless pulpits of our age; namely, that they were only intended to confirm the divinity of Christ and His Word, and hence passed away with the Apostles. "For," says he, "I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God" (Romans 15:18-19).

To make the Gentiles obedient to God, he regarded as the divine object of miracles. So long, therefore, as sinners are to be subjected to God on earth, the original object of healing yet remains, and, of course, the gracious gift continues in the church, even until the end of time. To this end, the Lord commissioned supernatural healing in connection with the preaching of His Word to the end of the world (Mark 16:15-18). And for the same reason, He set the gift of healing in the body, His church, as a permanent agent in the plan of salvation (1 Corinthians 12:9). But observe, He only put those gifts in His own church. Hence, when men went from the divine fold and the faith once delivered to the saints, to human organisms, these signs did not follow. And to excuse their impotency, the falsehood was coined that God had recalled that gift. But since the return of the holy remnant to the real Zion of God, the church of the firstborn, which are written in Heaven, all these primitive gifts are found just where God placed them, and they are again being used to the glory of His name.

Chapter VIII

PERSECUTION FIRES BEGIN BURNING

God was true to His promise as always: Minnie's chills and fever were gone for good. But God had not promised that other afflictions would not follow. The knot was still in Minnie's side where her swollen and inflamed spleen was, and the asthma was just as bad as ever. God would remove them one at a time as He saw fit. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19). God also said that His people are a tried people. You see, if we were never sick or afflicted, how could we prove that we practice what we preach? Job's afflictions proved his love and devotion to God and have been a blessing and inspiration to millions going through similar situations.

After Christ appeared to Minnie and she vowed to Him that she would always trust Him, several months passed before another serious sickness occurred. The eyes of some were opened when they realized that she had had no more chills according to His promise. However, the devil never gives up. When the next trial came, she did as her mother had requested and did not let her know about her illness until she was healed. Her mother's heart was broken when she learned that Minnie had been very sick and had not contacted her, but she could blame no one but herself. She wept over the thought that if Minnie had died, she could never have forgiven herself for saying that she did not want to know when Minnie was sick if

she was not going to have a doctor.

At the beginning of that sickness, God gave Minnie a vision of a long line of doctors riding horseback, as they often did in that day, for as far as she could see in both directions. God said, "If they pass like this from the time you get sick until you are well, don't allow one to be stopped." One of her sisters told her that if she was going to act like a cow, she should go out and live with them. Her oldest brother said he was getting tired of people asking him about his crazy sister. The whole community for miles around was alarmed about this "stupid religion." None of her previous friends wanted to be around her any more. But the assurance that she was pleasing her Savior, and the memory of His words, "I will be with you; just hold up the standard, and they will have to come to it," gave her grace to endure whatever came her way. She learned to lean heavily on God, as she did not know a person in the whole world whom she could ask for support in prayer. There were others in distant places to whom God was revealing this great truth, but she was unaware of this at the time. I heard her say many times that if she just could have known such saints as Brother E. E. Byrum who was trusting God as she was, it would have given her great inspiration. But she did not learn of others until she had been trusting God for several years.

In spite of the opposition and persecution, Minnie witnessed to everyone who would listen. She visited congregations in revival meetings and took advantage of every opportunity to testify of God's marvelous saving grace and healing power. Folks could see that she really had an experience that they did not have. There was a glow on her face and a ring of real joy in her words. Some had a hungering and thirsting in their hearts for such an experience, while others despised to hear of it. If she heard of someone sick in the community, she would visit them and offer prayer. There was fervency and power in her prayers, and God moved to heal many. There was no doubt that God had His hand upon her, and she began to become more accepted as a civilized citizen within the community.

Honest hearts were softened, while dishonest ones grew harder. One by one, people began to come to the standard Christ had commanded Minnie to uphold. Her dear aunt, who had said she hoped Minnie could be faithful to her vow to Christ but knew that she herself could not, was one of the first to take her stand by Minnie's side. She consecrated her life completely to God and trusted Him completely for soul and body nearly fifty years, until her life's work was finished. She became a real saint of God and a minister of the Gospel. What great encouragement this was to Minnie! She began to hold services in the homes of ones who would open their doors to her. Brought to these services were sick people who received salvation and healing by the power of God. Many began to believe on this wonderful Savior when they saw that He had power to heal as well as save. Oh, that the church would demonstrate God's power in the services today. We would be seeing hundreds bow and give their hearts to God, instead of one or two every six months. The blame falls on us, not God.

One would think that the persecution would have lessened as more people took their stand with Minnie, but this was not the case. When the devil sees souls being saved, he fights more furiously. He especially became angry when God, through His precious Holy Spirit, revealed to Minnie the beautiful Church of God. Until this point, she had never even heard of it. She had never thought of there being any wrong in joining the church of one's choice, especially if the person was saved. Remember, she and her cousin Nova had wanted to be sure they were saved before they joined the church, so they had prayed almost all day and gotten saved; then they had joined the church that night. God leads gently, one step at a time. At the age of thirteen, Minnie was saved. At the age of eighteen, she began to preach and practice divine healing, with signs following. At the age of twenty-one, God revealed His glorious church to her.

This happened while Minnie was earnestly praying for revival, just before service was to begin at Bear Creek Church. She was not the evangelist; however, she desired to see the Spirit move and souls to be saved in that service. As she and her family had arrived in the wagon a while before service time, she had carried her baby to a grove of trees behind the building to intercede with God on behalf of lost souls. While pouring out her heart to God with the baby on her lap, God spoke to her, clearly saying, "Denominations are damning more souls than any other sin." She was startled! "Lord, are they a sin?" she asked. "Souls are not depending on adultery, drinking, gambling, and other ungodly behavior to carry them to Heaven," He explained, "but they are depending on their church membership. Denominations are gathering up many people to take them to hell." Then Minnie understood. God revealed to her that He had only one church and that it was **not** a denomination. According to Acts 2:47, He had placed her in His church the moment she had been saved.

You see, the reason the Lord takes care of adding to and taking out members of His church is just that He is the only One capable of knowing the hearts of men. Just because one professes to be saved and is accepted as a church member by the pastor and the congregation and is baptized, this is not proof that he is saved. Only those who are truly born again are fit subjects to be added to God's church. There are millions of church members who have never experienced the new birth; therefore, they are not saved and are not in God's church. I thank God that we are seeing many more come to this glorious truth today than when it was first revealed to Minnie. It is so important for these man-made barriers to be torn down and

for God's people to come together in unity. Only then can the church really stand in power again.

The next time Minnie had the opportunity to attend the church that she had joined when only thirteen, she did. When given permission to speak, she stood and asked that her name be removed from their roll book and explained why. She was ridiculed by most of the ones present; one older deacon said he had never heard of anyone becoming too good to belong to the church. A few said she was their best member and did not want to lose her, but she insisted that her name be removed from their roll. Although she was no longer one of them, she was their friend and proved it. Many of those church members, in the following years, told her that she was a much better neighbor and friend to them than their fellow members. Soon there were many "come-outers" in that community who took their stand for the true church. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Corinthians 6:17).

Minnie always felt that before God could really use one in proclaiming this great truth concerning the unity of His people, that person must meet God's standard in every area. Other great ministers of the church of God have stated the same belief from the pulpit and in their writings. Brother E. E. Byrum wrote in his book *Salvation—How to Get It and How to Keep It* that before a minister is qualified to preach the Gospel of salvation, he should preach and practice trusting God for divine healing. You see, God had led Minnie into this great truth and she had been practicing it for three years before she heard of the one true Bible church. Paul said in 1 Timothy 4:12, "Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in *faith*, in purity." A minister of the Gospel must live by the Gospel, as he has a very important role in God's kingdom. He is a spiritual leader of God's people.

God has always been most selective in calling and choosing leaders for His people. He has never chosen just any ole Sam or Joe and made a leader of him. He selects the very best He has to be leaders, and even then, many fail to be completely what God desires. Think of what great pains God took in choosing a man to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses was a great man of God and did a marvelous job of teaching the people to have faith in God and to obey His voice; yet he failed in a minor way and was punished. Also, God was very careful in choosing men to be kings over His people; yet most of them failed in some way.

Never did Minnie attempt to make the doctrine of divine healing a test of fellowship, but she was grieved to find that many pastors and evangelists were so weak in this point. God's will is for His people to be strong in faith, for without it, we cannot please Him. If the leaders are not strong in faith, the followers cannot be strong in faith either. May God give us pastors and teachers who will challenge the people to a stronger faith in God for soul and body. If you are a minister of the Gospel and find it difficult to trust God, do not be discouraged or fainthearted. All you need to do is obey Romans 12:1; it will then be easy to trust God, regardless of what comes your way. When this one verse of Scripture becomes a reality in our lives, we no longer try to control what happens to our body. It no longer belongs to us but is God's property. Also, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 states: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Some will say, "I obeyed Romans 12:1 many years ago, but I did not know it included trusting God for the healing of my body." If you surrendered completely and unreservedly as you knew the will of God, that was acceptable to God. But as God reveals more light, we must walk in it, or darkness will come, and great will be that darkness. Paul said, "I die daily." So must we, if we hope to keep victory and have the approval of God.

The persecution persisted and grew intense for Minnie at times, but God had a way of protecting and preserving her, because her faith was steadfast and unmovable, anchored in God's Word. God has promised not to send more temptation than what we are able to bear but will make a way of escape with every temptation. As mentioned earlier, her husband was far from the Kingdom of God when she began to trust God, but when he saw the power of God working through Minnie's life, he became hungry for God. Of course, he had not indicated this in any way, except by a decrease in opposition to her. From the beginning of Minnie's stand for truth, Mart feared God enough that he was afraid to say too much. Conviction was growing heavy, and while feeding the animals in the barnyard one night, he knelt and poured out his heart in godly sorrow and true repentance. God spoke peace to his heart and gave him joy that he had never experienced or expected. His lengthy stay outside had caused Minnie some concern, and as she was going to investigate, she met him rejoicing and praising God. She perceived what had happened but had to wait until their joy subsided some before he could relate his experience to her.

Mart had been under the treatment of a medical doctor for quite some time, suffering with a severe heart condition and Bright's disease. His doctor had told Minnie that his condition was very serious and that he would not live long. He was weak in body and had little desire for food. That night he went to his medicine cabinet where he kept his pills and medicines prescribed by his doctor and poured them all out onto the ground. He meant business with God, and God honored his faith

by healing him. Mart became very strong in his body and spirit, serving and trusting God for almost fifty years more without taking another pill or dose of medicine. He was the father of four sons, much larger than he, but he could do more manual labor than any of them until shortly before God called him home to his reward at the age of eighty. He proved to be a wonderful companion for Minnie, standing by her and assisting her in working for God. He drove his team of horses and wagon hundreds, or perhaps thousands, of miles, carrying her to her preaching appointments or to catch a train to be gone weeks at a time. He labored diligently in constructing a Church of God chapel in their community so there could be a place to worship God in spirit and in truth. Though he never felt a call to the ministry, he worked and witnessed for Christ, who had done so much for him. He testified how God had delivered him from the alcohol and tobacco habits and took from him all desire for worldly pleasures, such as dancing and card playing. In fact, he told how he became a new creature in Christ Jesus and hated the things he once loved and loved the things he once hated.

Mart proved his steadfast faith in Christ by trusting Him completely in times of sickness. Though he enjoyed a strong, healthy body most of his life after being healed of the serious disease described previously, his faith was tried through various afflictions along the way. "The trying of your faith worketh patience" (James 1:3). God also says that His people are a tried people. No one can imagine God getting pleasure from seeing His children suffer, but He must allow these things to come to convince the world that there is reality in serving Him. God enjoys and takes pleasure in giving good things to His children, even more than earthly parents enjoy giving gifts to their children. I am the father of six wonderful and precious children, and I know the joys of giving them the things they need or desire. I also know the pain it brings to my heart when I see them suffer. I would much rather be sick or afflicted than to see one of them be so. I have often asked the Lord to allow me to take the pain upon my own body and deliver my child from suffering. We know that God has a greater capacity for loving than any human could have; therefore, it grieves Him when one of His dear children suffers.

My earthly father was a great Christian and walked closely with God. Many times God revealed to him things to come, and they happened just as He had foretold. Neither space nor time will permit my relating the many outstanding incidents in his life for God, but I feel it would be appropriate to write of one of the very serious sicknesses through which he trusted God. His main occupation was farming, but to supplement his meager income during the winter months, he would seek public work. He was an accomplished saw filer and often was employed by a large lumber and timber company that operated not far from his home. The officials of this company liked Mart and his excellent work so much that they would often offer him full-time employment with excellent wages, trying to entice him not to return to his farm each spring. They explained that their log cutters threatened to quit when he stopped filing their saws, as no other filer could make the saws cut nearly as well. During his employment with them one winter, Mart became seriously ill and was forced to take a leave of absence. His illness began with a high fever, stomach cramps, and diarrhea. He grew progressively worse until much blood was passing from his bowels. He realized that he had what was termed "bloody flux." With no appetite for food, he took in very little nourishment, while his bowels continued to pour almost nothing but blood. He was losing weight rapidly and growing weaker each day. Many people heard of his condition and felt certain he would soon be dead if he did not call a physician and take medicine. Of course, he was trusting Jesus Christ, the Great Physician.

Among the many people urging Mart to obtain medical aid was an uncle who seemed to be very fond of Mart. One day he came to visit him and brought some medicine prescribed by a doctor who had been informed of Mart's serious condition. Uncle Tom began by saying: "Mart, you are the most intelligent of all the Alexanders I know. We need men like you, and I do not want you to die. I have just brought from town some fresh medicine the doctor prescribed for you."

Mart replied: "Uncle Tom, I am very grateful to you for your interest and concern, but I am trusting God and Him alone. Whether I live or die, I shall trust Him."

Brokenhearted and disgusted, Uncle Tom left, thinking that would be the last time he would see his favorite nephew alive. A few more days passed with no signs of improvement in Mart's condition; then Jesus came and touched him, and he was made whole again. The issue of blood stopped, just as did the woman's who touched the hem of His garment. Oh! What a Savior, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8)!

Upon his return to work for the lumber and timber company, Mart was interviewed by one of the top management officials with whom he was personally and intimately acquainted. Inquiring about the kind of sickness and the seriousness of its affect upon Mart's body, he asked what kind of treatment was given for its cure. When Mart answered that nothing was done except to pray and trust in God, he exclaimed, "Oh, my God, that's mighty dangerous!" Mart chuckled at the very thought of it being dangerous to trust God. It is the safest and best thing one can do! Minnie said many times that God has our lives in His hands, and if there is anything He will let us live for, it is trusting Him. Because Mart fought a good fight, he has a crown of righteousness laid up for him, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give to him on Judgment Day.

Chapter IX

PERSECUTIONS NOW EASIER TO BEAR

Now that Minnie's husband was gloriously saved and standing with her to fight the devil, persecutions were easier to bear. The devil really rises high when parents are trusting God for the healing of a sick child. No one could be more concerned about the welfare of a child than godly parents; yet neighbors, relatives, and even strangers allow Satan to use them in pretending that they care more for the sick child than its parents. Isn't that pitiful! When one of Minnie's children became very ill and the neighborhood learned about it, someone reported to the health board that it was not being given medical attention. A few days later, the postman brought a letter from the health board stating that if the child was not given medical attention or was not well by a certain date, the authorities were coming to take the child out of Mart and Minnie's custody and carry it to a medical center for treatment. Only one who has experienced such a situation can imagine the heartache this brought to them. Minnie earnestly besought the Lord to heal the child or to miraculously intervene in some way. The day for the officers to arrive was approaching, and the child seemed to be no better, but God was working. He sent a torrential rain and flash flood that pushed the streams so high that the health officials could not cross them. Before the water receded, the baby was healed. God does not fail His trusting children!

When I was about two years old, I was affected by an epidemic of a child's disease that caused diarrhea, which developed into hemorrhaging of the bowels. Many babies died from this disease that year. My father and mother were engaged in building a new home for the family just about two hundred yards from the house where we were living. The main carpenter, who was staying in our home, was a preacher. He was closely observing what was taking place concerning the sickness. He became very upset as I grew progressively worse and nothing was being offered for my recovery except prayer. After eating dinner and checking on my condition, which was critical, he returned to his job of building the new house. He and several other men (one being my older brother, Albert, who was seventeen) were on top of the house installing the roof. The preacher began raging about my being so sick and nothing being done. He said, "I believe in praying for the sick, but if they are not healed, then the doctor ought to be called." My brother replied, "I'd be ashamed to call myself a preacher if I couldn't trust God for my healing!" I suppose that caused him to begin thinking, for never again did he say anything against trusting God, and he was a friend to that doctrine as long as he lived. Years afterward, he came to Sister Minnie to have her pray for his healing.

The brick mason was staying in our home also, building the chimney and observing the same situation, but he offered no criticism. One day he had just finished lunch and was quietly sitting on the edge of the porch where Mother was rocking me and looking to God to heal her dreadfully sick child. As he said nothing, Mother wondered what he was thinking. She spoke to him, "Mr. Hailey, I suppose you think it very strange that we are not treating the sick baby." His reply surprised her but gave her much courage. He said: "Mrs. Alexander, I do not think it strange at all. I had the most beautiful little girl who was about the same age your baby is when she became ill with the same disease that your baby has. I employed the best doctor that I could find to save my baby's life, but she died."

May God bless people who manifest such a sweet attitude toward the truth of God's Word. Hundreds could die while hospitalized, yet one with the same disease who died trusting God would make headlines, while the others would never be mentioned.

I will relate another incident of healing that affected my life when I was about three-and-a-half years old. The reason I am referring to myself in this book more than the other children of our family is that I have been sick much more than they. Mother often said that I have been sick more than all of her other children combined. I had come very near death with whooping cough when I was only six weeks old. I would cough so hard, lose my breath, and turn very dark, appearing as though I were dead. For fear that I would have a spell of this while she was asleep, Mother would sleep with my head in her hand so that I would awaken her if I began coughing. God healed me of that. Next, He healed me of the hemorrhaging of the bowels, which I have already related.

When I was about three-and-a-half years old, I developed double pneumonia and became critically ill. My temperature became so high that I went into a state of unconsciousness and remained as such most of the time for four to five days. My grandfather, who was a veterinarian and lived only a half mile away, would visit me and listen to my lungs. He said both of them were severely affected by pneumonia. Mother sat with me on her lap most of the time, praying to God for me. My father and other members of the family were also praying and would check my condition often. One afternoon, my father came into the house and knelt beside Mother and me and asked what she thought of my condition. She said, "I can see no change, but I feel better in my spirit about him." Just a little later, I came out of the coma and began trying to get down from

Mother's lap. Thinking I would be too weak to stand up, she held my back and said, "Adriel, you are too weak to stand up, Honey." My reply was, "Jesus has made me well." I walked over to the fireplace, and standing with my back to it and facing the people present, I began waving my little arms and saying: "Jesus is a good man. He has made me well." Of course, my mother and the other members of the family were rejoicing with me, while some of them ran to tell the neighbors. As others gathered in, I was asked to do that again. My only reply was: "Me preached one time. Me tan't preach any more."

There is much truth contained in those simple little words. No man can really preach, except when the power of God is anointing him. His speech might be great, his grammar perfect, his thoughts well arranged, but it will not bless the souls of his hearers unless God is blessing it.

Chapter X

A BLACK CASKET APPEARS

Minnie was kept very busy answering her many calls away from home to preach the Gospel and pray for the sick. Her load was getting heavier to bear as more children were added to her family. As mentioned earlier, she became the mother of nine children before God felt that she needed no more. Many people seem to think that they are the ones to decide how many children they want or can provide for, not considering God's will in the matter. But Minnie was just as conscientious about this as she was about trusting Him for healing or anything else in her life. She sought God's will and desired to please Him more than she wanted to please herself. Certainly, this should be the sincere desire of every child of God. Even Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father, sought not to please Himself but His Father. When one presents his body a living sacrifice to God, He takes his hands off and gives God complete control. God's good pleasure is what a consecrated Christian desires more than anything else in the whole universe. The question in the mind of the consecrated is not, "What shall I do about this?" but rather, "What would God have me to do in this situation?" It should not be how many children we want and can provide for, but how many God wants and how many He can help us care for. After all, we cannot take care of one without God's help; we cannot even take care of ourselves without Him. Without God, we can do absolutely nothing; but as Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). We live and move and have our being in Him (Acts 17:28).

I realize that we are dealing with a very touchy subject, but doesn't what has been said make sense? Not to the carnally minded person, but to one who is spiritually minded it does. As stated before, we are conveying the convictions of Minnie Alexander, confirmed by the Word of God. Her life proved that she walked closer to God than the average Christian does. She got her directions from God. In making our decisions concerning controversial matters, where one preacher will say this and another will say that, we had better listen to the one whose life proves beyond a shadow of doubt that God is with him. Minnie's life proved that God was with her. Concerning Christ, Nicodemus said, "We know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him." Neither could Minnie have done the miracles that she did without God being with her.

Minnie went to God concerning the question of birth control. She said: "Lord, how can I do what You have called me to do while I continue to bear children? If I have small children, I cannot carry them with me through the cold, bad weather; also, they cry for me when I get up to preach. I need to be home with them to take good care of them. Lord, why do You not call men to do the job you have given me to do?"

God answered: "I cannot depend upon them to be true to My Word. They will not preach My Word, but their opinions."

It is no different today than it was in Noah's day. He was the only one on earth that God could trust to build the ark and be faithful to do it exactly as God instructed. May God give us some Noahs for our day!

One night Minnie was returning home with her family who had driven several miles to pick her up in their wagon at the closing service of a revival meeting she had been conducting. She was seriously considering taking a rest from her evangelistic work until her children were older. At that time, there were five children ranging in ages from two and a half to thirteen years, and Minnie was expecting another. Most of the children were sleeping on hay in the wagon bed while she and Mart were riding on the spring seat at the front. Suddenly there appeared just ahead of the mules a black casket, which just floated along. Minnie asked her husband if he could see the casket; he looked closely but saw nothing there. Then God spoke to her and said, "If you fail to go as I have called you to do, you will be put in that box." Weeping, she replied, "Lord, I will do my best and depend on You to make a way." Shortly afterwards, she had a miscarriage, which was heartbreaking, but she felt that it was God's way of preparing a way for her to stay busy working for the promotion of His kingdom.

Chapter XI

MINNIE'S MOTHER HEALED

Earlier you read of the poor health of Minnie's mother, Nancy Bell. All of Minnie's life, her mother was constantly under a doctor's care and grew no better but worse. She knew nothing about divine healing until Minnie began trusting God for all of her needs. She had been a very good mother to Minnie and all of her other children, but she was never able to do the work of a housewife. She loved God and taught her children to love Him and their fellowman, even their enemies. You will remember also that her remarks concerning Minnie's consecration to trust God fully were very grievous to Minnie. However, her attitude changed drastically after she saw how God was blessing Minnie and marvelously answering her prayers, although it was some time before Minnie realized just how much her attitude had changed.

For her encouragement, God allowed Minnie to overhear a conversation between her mother and some of the other members of her family. One Sunday after returning from the morning service at the community church where most of the family attended, Minnie dropped by to check on her mother who, as usual, was unable to attend services that day. Still rejoicing in her heart over the way God had blessed that morning, she walked by the kitchen where the family was gathered but stopped when she heard her name. One of her sisters who had been in the service that morning said: "Minnie really showed out today. I was so embarrassed when she got up and shouted all over the house."

Her mother said: "You had better be careful what you say about Minnie. She has more salvation than all of us put together." How this blessed Minnie's heart, but it was much later before anyone except God knew what she had heard.

As Nancy's health continued to deteriorate, she began to trust God more and more for healing. Often, when the pain would seem unbearable, she would call for Minnie to come and pray. God would always give relief; then she would rejoice and praise God for giving her a child who could pray the devil out of the room. While it seemed hard for her to turn away completely from remedies and trust God as Minnie had done, she very much desired to and showed appreciation for those who did.

God is patient with honest hearts and will bless them as long as they are humble before Him and do not persecute His children. When you are against His children, you are against Him. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30). As long as we are earnestly endeavoring to improve our relationship with Christ, whether it is to have more faith, victory over a fault or habit, or whatever, He will bear with us and be merciful; but when we try to justify ourselves for being weak, we get in trouble.

Minnie had told her mother that God was going to heal her of this longstanding affliction, for God had shown Minnie that He was. Her mother would take courage in this and try to believe, but when her affliction and pain would grow worse, her faith would waver. All of the neighborhood learned about what Minnie had said, and they were waiting to see what would happen. Some were hopeful, while others were resentful. The time finally came for the showdown. Nancy Bell became grievously ill and called all the family in to tell them that she was going to die that night and wanted them all to be present. Of course, this was very sad to hear, but Minnie's faith did not waver. She knew that God could not and would not fail to keep His promise. The whole community was alerted, and all other plans for the evening were canceled. Some of the young men of the family and community had planned a coon hunt that night, but they decided not to go. By nightfall, the house and yard were crowded with family and friends. Although her mother's condition seemed to be worsening, as she was growing weaker, Minnie kept reminding her of what God had said He was going to do. Her Mother would say, "Honey, I am just too far gone now."

At about nine o'clock that evening, one of Minnie's sisters was away from the house near the large barn, perhaps weeping because she felt their mother would leave them that night. All of a sudden, she heard sweet music overhead traveling in the direction of the house. Thinking that these were the death angels coming for her mother, she went running to the house as fast as she could, only to find her mother out of bed shouting, rejoicing, and praising God for healing her! The whole place was charged with the power and presence of God! Minnie was so happy she could not stay in the room. Upon reaching the large outside hallway, she saw a scene that completely depicted the description the Bible gives of the actions of people on the great Judgment Day. A large group of children that had been playing in the yard came running with their hands above their heads, so happy that they hardly knew how to act. But many of the adults were down on their faces, groaning in agony. Minnie said that it was quite easy to distinguish between the lost and the saved. All who were saved were shouting praises to God, while the ones who were lost could only moan and cry out as if in pain.

There was a party of people who were already at church that evening before they received the news that Nancy Bell felt she was going to die that night. Upon dismissal of the service, they started toward the Bell home. When they were within a

half mile of the house, each one of them experienced the presence and power of God as they had never before felt it in their lives. They said that the ground and the atmosphere seemed to be charged with electricity. They could not imagine what was causing this until they reached the house and found Nancy gloriously healed.

When the news of the wonderful healing reached the ears of an elderly couple living nearby, who had retired for the night, the old man said, "I want to go and see this with my own eyes; and if this is true, I will believe what Minnie has been preaching." But his wife manifested a resentful spirit and would not go with him.

After the power of God lifted and the people's emotions returned to normal, all departed for their respective homes. The next morning, as Minnie was in the kitchen preparing the noon meal, her little nine-year-old son came in and said, "Mama, I have gone to pray three times this morning, and I just cannot get happy like I was last night when Grandma was healed." He had learned at an early age that to be in the very presence of God is a marvelous and glorious experience. But we cannot have this flyaway feeling all the time; we must walk by faith and not by feelings.

Chapter XII

HEART DISEASE MIRACULOUSLY HEALED

Minnie's sister, who had been one of her worst persecutors, had once gone so far as to say that if Minnie were going to act like a cow, she should just go on out into the pasture and live with them. This sister was now stricken with a very serious heart condition, and although she was given the very best medical attention, she grew progressively worse. When one doctor would give up on her case, another would take over, until finally, the fourth one had exhausted all of his skills and knowledge. Just as the woman recorded in Mark, Chapter 5, Minnie's sister had suffered many things of many physicians, and she had spent all that she had, as well as all that her husband could borrow, and was none the better but rather grew worse. Following the last doctor's advice, she and her husband decided to go to the Charity Hospital in Shreveport, about eighty miles from home. Of course, Minnie loved her sister dearly and had visited her many times during her serious illness, but she had never been asked to pray for her. Once she was present when the doctor was there, and he asked Minnie to listen to her sister's heart. He said it was the worst heart he had ever listened to and that it sounded like a frog jumping in water.

On the day Minnie's sister was scheduled to leave home to enter the hospital so far away (eighty miles was a long distance in horse and buggy days), it seemed to be more than Minnie could bear. She was at her sister's bedside as all plans were being finalized for her departure. Minnie's soul was so burdened as she looked upon her sister and felt that she would never again see her alive if she left for the hospital. She pleaded with her sister to allow her to pray for her, but she could not obtain her consent. Finally, she just fell upon her knees beside the bed and began to call upon God mightily in behalf of her sister. God came down and gloriously healed her. She gave her heart and life to God and trusted Him fully and completely without medicine until He called her home some fifty-seven years later. Oh, what a kind and merciful God our Lord is! Never again did this sister offer any persecutions to those who trusted God for their physical needs, but instead she thought it was the most wonderful thing one could do.

Chapter XIII

TYPHOID FEVER HEALED

A horse-driven buggy pulled up to Minnie's front gate, and the driver brought news that her sister-in-law, who lived a few miles away, had typhoid fever and had sent for Minnie to come and pray for her. She hurriedly got dressed, mounted the buggy, and they headed for the sick woman's house.

Upon their arrival, they learned that the doctor had just left after telling the patient to rest quietly and expect to be sick with a high temperature for several weeks until the disease ran its course. He said that there was actually nothing that could be done to stop typhoid fever. The sick woman's mother and several of her neighbors had come to offer their sympathy and assistance.

Minnie's sister-in-law was aware of how God was using Minnie in praying for the sick, and she believed that she would be healed when she was prayed for. She was anointed with oil according to the Scripture, and prayer was offered. At the close of the prayer, she began getting out of bed; but her mother, trying to hold her down said, "Honey, you know that the doctor gave strict orders for you to rest very quietly, so you must not get up."

The daughter replied, "Mother, God has healed me, and I am getting out of this bed!" And so she did, being every whit

whole! Praise God!

After a period of rejoicing and praising God for His marvelous work, one of the family members set out for town to inform the doctor of what had happened to his patient. Upon hearing this report, he replied, "I should have some of the praise for this."

Now this exposes one of the evils in looking to man for the help that God has promised and desires to give. Man wants, and in most cases receives, some of the glory that belongs to God.

A few years following this marvelous and instant healing, one of Minnie's children (I, Adriel) contracted the same disease. My father prayed much and, living very close to God, was often forewarned of events to come. I was six years old and enjoyed good health since being healed of double pneumonia three years earlier. One morning while my father was on his knees out at the barn, God revealed to him that I had typhoid fever. Upon returning to the house where he found my mother preparing breakfast, he asked if she had seen me that morning. Her reply was, "No, he and the other children are still sleeping," which was not unusual for the early morning hour. He told her of what God had shown him while praying at the barn. This concerned her very much, and rushing to my bedside, she found that I was burning with fever. Returning to the kitchen, they both went to prayer in behalf of my healing. God was not ready yet, so nothing happened. They did not disturb me but allowed me to sleep until I was ready to get up. When I came out of my bedroom, I was very ill and wanted no nourishment.

Days passed, and I seemed to be getting no better, only weaker and thinner. I was given very good attention and was offered choice foods, but I refused to eat. Of course, there was never a thought of calling a doctor or giving medication, for our faith and trust was entirely in God. Days turned into weeks, but the high fever held on. Mother would inquire of the Lord why I remained sick after much praying, when my aunt had been healed instantly of the same disease. God would say, "This sickness is for Atsie and Shelby," a young married couple living on the same farm and near our house.

Atsie was my mother's niece and a very precious Christian, while her husband Shelby was in a backslidden condition. Both of them had experienced God's healing power and knew what He could and would do for those who waited on Him.

A few years earlier, Shelby had been sorely afflicted with tuberculosis of the bone in one of his legs. He was under his parents' care at that time. They believed in prayer but did not fully trust God. They employed the services of the best medical doctor available, but the affliction grew progressively worse. They lived several miles from Minnie's home, but when things got so bad that Shelby could not bear the pain of being turned in the bed, he sent for Minnie to come and pray that the pain would become bearable. God always gave relief when all other pain killers had failed. God is able to administer a pain killer far superior to any that man has been able to develop. The doctors advised amputating his leg; but God healed it, and Shelby has been using it for more than fifty years since. It is just a little shorter than his other leg.

Getting back to my case of typhoid fever, my temperature was far above normal for six weeks. Mother had stated that she would be happier than she had ever been before when she could lay her hand on me and I would be clear of fever. One night, after all had retired except Mother, she came to my bed to check on me and found that I was sleeping soundly and was cool to her touch. She began rejoicing and ran to the bedroom where my father was sleeping. She woke him and said, "Get up, Honey, and help me praise the Lord for healing Adriel."

While they were still rejoicing, Shelby knocked on the door and said, "Atsie is sick." Atsie was expecting their first child, and the time had arrived for it to be born. Minnie got ready to go over to their house where she would be a midwife to Atsie. After a few hours, the baby was delivered but was very much deformed. On one side of its head near the back was a knot about half the size of a large hen egg. Atsie knew nothing of this until her baby was bathed and dressed and brought to her bed. Minnie had carefully wrapped the blanket over its head to hide the deformity from the mother, for she knew how heartbreaking this would be to her. Now, Minnie could understand what God had meant by telling her that Adriel's affliction was for Atsie and Shelby.

Of course, it took only a few minutes for Atsie to discover the affliction of her baby, as a mother will naturally look over her newborn child. She began weeping and said, "Oh, Aunt Minnie, pray for my baby!" Minnie replied, "I am praying for it." Ordinarily, she would have anointed the baby with oil and prayed, then and there, for the baby's healing, but she felt impressed to wait. She did not understand just why God wanted her to wait until later. We must learn to be led by the Spirit of God in all things.

Minnie was in Shelby and Atsie's home every day caring for the mother and baby and doing most of the housekeeping chores. Her heart was burdened for the baby, and she had great compassion for the parents, as all could see that the baby's head was growing worse each day. Many people heard about this affliction and came to see it for themselves. Some came out of curiosity, others to express sympathy; but some came to criticize and persecute the parents for not obtaining medical aid. The baby's grandfather, who was a veterinarian, said the baby could not possibly live, as he had never seen a baby

animal live with such a deformity.

When the baby was about one month old, Minnie was at its home doing the family's laundry when the backslidden father came to her and said: "Aunt Minnie, let me do that laundry. I want you to go into the house and pray for my baby." God said to her, "It is time to pray for the baby's healing." She obeyed, and then left immediately after prayer to join her family for a wagon ride to one of their distant fields to pick cotton.

Upon her return home later that afternoon, Minnie heard Atsie calling for her to come at once! She hurriedly changed clothes and rushed over to Atsie's house to find her smiling with joy. "Aunt Minnie," she said, "see if you can find where the knot was on the baby's head." God had miraculously healed it, and no trace of the affliction could be found.

God accomplished at least four things by having Minnie wait to pray for that healing. Many, many people were allowed to witness the seriousness of the affliction, the mother's patience was increased, the father was drawn closer to God, and therefore, God received greater glory. Today that baby is a man about fifty-six years old, living and witnessing for God, and enjoying being the owner of a thriving business. Oh, that man would praise God for His marvelous works!

Chapter XIV

TUBERCULOSIS OF THE BONE HEALED

Lou Blalock, a lifelong acquaintance and childhood friend of Minnie, married George Vail, and soon afterwards they moved to Texas to make their home there. Soon they were blessed with two beautiful little girls, whom they named Georgia and Dixie.

One day a tragic thing happened to Dixie. She fell off a high porch and broke her neck. By God's grace, the marrow was not seriously damaged; therefore no paralysis developed. But after several weeks of hospital care and medical treatment, it was discovered that the bones were not healing but deteriorating. All treatment proved unsuccessful, and soon there were open sores draining pus from the infected bones. Finally, Dixie's condition was pronounced a hopeless case of tuberculosis of the neck bones.

In the meantime, another tragic event happened. George died, leaving Lou with the full responsibility of supporting and caring for their two small daughters. Lou knew nothing to do but move back to her native community in Louisiana and make her home with family and friends, and this she did.

Poor little Dixie's condition steadily worsened. She could not hold her head up; it leaned toward her right shoulder and forward until her chin rested on her chest. Absorbent cloths were kept wrapped around her neck to catch the terrible smelling excretions from the three open sores. She was in constant pain and occasionally the pain would become so severe that she would go into convulsions. The doctors said that this was caused by pieces of vertebrae breaking away and that finally the fatal one would bring death and an end to her suffering. A few hours following each convulsion, pieces of bone were excreted through the sores on her neck. The growth and development of Dixie's body were severely retarded by this condition, and though several years had lapsed since her injury, her weight was almost the same as that of the little two-and-a-half-year-old girl she was when injured.

Although Dixie's mother and Minnie had been very close friends from childhood, Lou was distant toward Minnie now because of Minnie's "strange" religion. Though Lou had heard of the many miracles accomplished through Minnie's praying, she just did not believe in miracles. Dixie was now nine years old, and her tender heart accepted the truth of these miracles she heard about. One day she requested of her mother to be taken to Minnie's house to be prayed for. Lou refused, but because of Dixie's persistence, she finally consented for someone else to carry Dixie but would not participate herself. Dixie was so happy when a friend agreed to take her. When Minnie anointed her with oil and prayed over her according to James 5:13-14, God miraculously healed little Dixie! Oh, why do people today have such little faith in such a great God?

Dixie's terrible affliction had prevented her from ever going to school, but after being healed, she entered school, achieved outstanding grades, and graduated from high school with highest honors.

One would think that this outstanding miracle from God would turn the hardest heart to Him. It seemed that Dixie's mother would have felt that she could not do enough for God after He healed her little daughter, but this was not the case with Lou Vail. However, God did not give up on her, and perhaps this did have a softening affect upon her heart. You will later see how that through another miracle God did touch her heart and gloriously saved her.

I will now relate my personal testimony of God's healing tuberculosis of the bone in my own body. When I was seventeen years old, I was stricken with a terrible affliction just above my left knee. At first there was no visible evidence, just great pain and soreness deep beneath the surface of the flesh between my knee and hip on the front of my left leg. Walking became

very painful, and I was soon forced to bed. As long as this leg was elevated above the rest of the body, the pain was bearable; otherwise, it was almost unbearable.

After two weeks of confinement to bed, this portion of my leg became very red and feverish. It also began to swell and was hard to the touch. Eventually, this hardness gave way to unusual softness, as it was evident that much pus and corruption were forming deep inside near the bone. Our trust was completely in God, so no doctor had been contacted concerning this affliction.

An uncle, who seemed to love me very much, visited me and showed much concern about my affliction. He was a sinner and believed in securing medical help when disease or affliction came. As he was a brother of Minnie's, he had seen and heard of many miraculous healings. In fact, he had experienced at least one outstanding case of healing in his own body in answer to Minnie's prayer. (I shall take time here to relate this incident of his healing that I personally witnessed just two years prior to my affliction that we are dealing with in this chapter.)

My uncle's home was about two miles from ours. He had been working on a job about fifteen miles away. In those days, travel was slow due to bad roads and poor means of traveling; therefore, he had not been home for several days. He became very ill on the job and requested to be taken home. He passed our home first, so being deathly sick when they got to our home, he requested that the driver leave him there. He was so sick that someone had to assist him out of the car and into the house. He was placed in a large chair in front of the fireplace, as the weather was cold. We all gathered around to learn what was wrong. Gasping for breath, he could hardly talk, for he was suffering excruciating pain in his stomach. Food poisoning was apparent, and we could readily see that death was approaching if he did not get help quickly. Minnie laid hands on him and began to call on God to heal him. In a very few minutes, all of his suffering left, and all were rejoicing. He was ready to walk the two-mile distance to his home, but he was persuaded to spend the night with us, as night was fast approaching and the road was very muddy.

The next morning after breakfast, he visited a while and then walked home. He stopped at his father's house on the way and told his family of his sickness and how he was instantly healed. He added, "That is what I call divine healing." When asked why he did not call for his doctor, he said he knew he would have died before the doctor could have arrived. Isn't it marvelous to be able to have our Doctor Jesus with us at all times? He is there when we need Him!

Now let us return to my affliction. While in town one day, this uncle went by his doctor's office to talk to him about my condition. On his way home, he stopped at our house to report what the doctor had said. Unless this leg was operated on and the bone was scraped clean of the infection, tuberculosis of the bone would set in. Also, he said unless the place was lanced and the corruption allowed to drain, my system would absorb it and I would die.

One day while she was interceding with God about my affliction, God spoke to Minnie and said, "I can dry this up as I did the Red Sea." Shortly afterwards, this is exactly what He did. The place was never drained; it just disappeared, and this leg became as normal and strong as my other one. Some forty-six years have passed, and no sign of that affliction has recurred.

Oh, His name is to be greatly praised for all of His benefits and blessings!

Chapter XV

MINNIE RAISED FROM THE DEAD

In a previous chapter, when Minnie was thinking of slowing down for a while in her ministry for God, she was warned of God by the appearance of a black casket in front of the wagon in which she was riding. She *did not* slow down, but apparently to reassure her of her calling and to give her new inspiration, God allowed her to die and go to Heaven for six hours and then to come back to carry out her work on earth that He had called her to do. God also had other reasons for allowing this to happen, for it caused people to be saved who later said they would never have been saved without seeing such a miracle from God. It is still serving its purpose of inspiring Christians today who know about it, and we trust that many more hearts will be touched by it as they read this book.

Only a few months following the black casket experience, God spoke to Minnie and told her that He was going to allow her to die. He explained that her husband was no better than any other widower and that her children were no better than other motherless children. She had been in bed for a few days, but no one thought of her sickness as being of a serious nature, as it was not. God was just ready to work another miracle in her life. Minnie often said that anyone can die without being sick, and the sick need not die until God is ready to take them.

When Minnie revealed to the family what God had shown her, they were shocked and alarmed but did not doubt her

word. The friends and neighbors were informed, and many gathered in to be there when she died. She gave instructions to several family members, especially to her eldest daughter, who was only thirteen. Minnie wanted her to be better prepared for taking care of the younger children, especially the six-week-old baby she was leaving, who happened to be me. I heard her relate this story many times and tell of how much easier it would have been to go if only I could have gone first. She was so afraid I would not be properly cared for after her departure.

All of the family members who were old enough to understand were on their knees and faces crying out to God on Minnie's behalf. But at six o'clock that evening she closed her eyes in death. Her father, who was a veterinarian, checked to see if there were any signs of life left in her body. There was no pulse, no heartbeat, no muscle movement, not even the batting of an eye.

Lou Vail, the mother of Dixie (mentioned in the previous chapter), had now become Minnie's stepmother and was present to witness this. She was on one side of the bed feeling for heartbeats, while Minnie's father checked the pulse on the other side. They noticed that the body did not seem to be growing cold and refused to allow her to be laid out as dead. For six hours the warmth of her body was the only thing different from any other dead body.

At twelve o'clock (midnight), Minnie spoke and said, "I'm coming back." There was great rejoicing in our home that night as

Minnie arose from her deathbed and was completely healed of her sickness!

This miracle made a greater impression on Lou than the healing of her daughter with the broken neck, and she went back home knowing for sure that God was real. While in her vegetable garden the next morning, Lou became so convicted of her sins that she knelt on the ground and gave her heart to God. She became a great soldier for Jesus Christ, giving up longstanding filthy habits and taking her stand for divine healing, live or die. I have heard her shout the praises of God as she paced up and down the church aisles, clapping her hands, waving her little handkerchief, and relating her glorious experience of true salvation. She said that she had been a member of a denominational church for forty years but was never sure God existed until she saw Minnie dead for six hours and then speak and say, "I'm coming back."

During the six hours that Minnie was gone, God was showing her the many wonders of Heaven. While this was not nearly enough time in which to see all of Heaven, she saw enough to give her inspiration and courage to keep fighting the good fight of faith until the victory was won. Then she could return to that beautiful place to spend, not six hours, but billions and trillions of years, where there is no end! She often spoke of this glorious experience and said that of all the wondrous sights there, what gave her more joy than all the others was the record of her past life and service to God. She saw this recorded on a huge board similar to, but of course much more glamorous than, our blackboards. God had recorded every good deed she had done in His name, every sacrifice she had made to serve Him, every sickness and affliction for which she had trusted Him, even about her badly burned baby.

This baby, Nassie, was sitting alone on the floor one night while Minnie was getting the beds ready for the family to sleep. One of the older children was assisting her by carrying the kerosene lamp, which had a very thick and heavy unbreakable globe. The wick was turned high; thus, the globe was very hot. Minnie heard the baby scream and ran to it, finding the hot globe lying between its legs. As she pulled the globe away from the baby's legs, a large area of cooked flesh was stuck to the globe. She held the baby in her arms and called on her God to take the pain away and heal the wound. The baby was soon fast asleep.

It so happened that the doctor whom Mart and Minnie had used until twelve years prior to this time was there. He would often come and stay in their home just because they were nice to him and fed him plenty of sweet cream skimmed from the rich milk their Jersey cows gave. He told some of the neighbors later that he had never wanted to do something for someone as much in his entire life as he had wanted to treat that burned baby, but he knew there was no use to offer help, as Mrs. Alexander's faith and trust were in God alone. He also said he had never seen a burn heal so quickly in all of his experiences of practicing medicine, and he had treated many burns. No medication was applied to this burn, but faith in God brought swift healing.

When Minnie spent six hours in Heaven, she had been trusting God for only twelve years. Just imagine how much her record board must have grown over the next sixty years that she served and trusted Him. She was ninety and a half years old when God called her home to her eternal reward, and she had trusted God completely for over seventy-two years.

Chapter XVI

BLOOD POISONING HEALED

In about the year of nineteen hundred and forty, a young preacher's wife gave birth to a healthy baby boy. Everything seemed to be fine with the baby and the young mother for a few days; then she began to have complications. Her doctor was called, and upon examining her, he saw no reason to become alarmed. He prescribed the drugs he thought necessary to rid her womb and lower body area of infection. When a few days passed and she was still no better, the doctor was called again. This time, he became deeply concerned, thinking the case might be more serious than he had first thought. He believed blood poisoning was setting in, so he changed the prescription to a different drug. He began making daily visits to his patient, but she grew worse, finally going into a coma. He then pronounced the case hopeless, saying the blood poisoning would soon reach her heart and she would die. He asked not to be called again as there was nothing more he could do.

This unconscious young mother's family knew how God was wonderfully using Minnie Alexander in praying for the sick and seeing them healed by the power of God. One of the family members hastened to get her to come and pray for the deathly sick lady. Upon arriving at the sick bed, Minnie realized that the lady was near death, but she also knew that all things are possible with God. After she had prayed the prayer of faith and the sick lady revived, all could see that God had again worked a miracle through Minnie.

I have heard this young minister relate the story of this miraculous healing of his wife and tell about going and emptying his medicine cabinet of the various kinds of medicine he had been taking for his own afflictions. He felt that if God could raise his wife up from the very jaws of death, He was surely able to heal his trivial sicknesses, so he needed no more medicine. Not many years later, however, although he kept preaching, he returned to using doctors and taking medicine. God is greatly grieved when such things happen. May God give us leaders who are strong in faith! There are so few to be found on earth today.

Never did Minnie make trusting God for healing a test of fellowship, but she did feel that for one to be chosen as a leader of God's people, he should be strong enough to preach and practice this very important doctrine of the Bible. Many other outstanding ministers of great faith, such as Brother E. E. Byrum, have expressed the same conviction in books they wrote, as well as in messages spoken from the pulpit. As mentioned before, Brother James T. Hooten said from the pulpit that any preacher who did not preach and practice divine healing should starve to death, because his people were paying great sums of money to doctors and hospitals that should be going to the church to pay his salary.

God does not look for a man with great speaking ability, nor one gifted and talented to lead His people; He searches for one who is strong in faith and willing to obey Him. In choosing a man to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage, God chose Moses, a man with very limited speaking ability but whose faith in God was perhaps the greatest of any to be found among the millions of Israelites. Again, when choosing one to succeed Moses in this great task, God chose Joshua, a man who had proven his faith in God when returning from spying out Canaan. Only two of the twelve sent to do this job had enough faith in God to believe He was able to do as He had promised, and I believe Joshua's faith was the stronger of the two. Also, in choosing a man to become the greatest of all the Apostles, Paul was the man of the hour. He was not chosen for his eloquent speech, but he was one who knew in whom he had believed and was persuaded that He was able to keep His promise. He believed that God was able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we can think or ask. He wrote, "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

When men are looking for a pastor or an evangelist to conduct a revival meeting, too often his speaking ability is considered far more important than his faith in God. We must realize that the devil has many slick-tongued preachers who come as angels of light but are actually wolves in sheep's clothing. Men, many times, want their ears tickled with sweet-sounding words that soothe their consciences, but God wants their hearts pricked with the two-edged sword, the everlasting Gospel of His Word. If God were looking for great orators to preach His Word, He would find millions upon millions available; but to find one who will declare the whole council of God and live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God, His eyes must scan the whole earth.

Have you ever thought about the fact that when God decided to destroy the world with a flood, He found only one whom He considered worthy of life, out of the millions inhabiting the earth? It definitely was not Noah's ability to speak well that made him worthy, but his great faith in God. Had he possessed great persuasive power, no doubt he could have gotten a great following during his one hundred twenty years in the ministry. But because he simply and plainly spoke the Word of God, men were not impressed; therefore, they continued in their sinful ways until the rain began to fall. Then it was too late.

Although the Bible does not say so, there is no doubt in my mind that Satan raised up eloquent speakers and sent them out, professing to be prophets of God to counteract the truth of God that Noah was preaching. God has only a handful of

humble men and women today who will dare to tell the people that God wants to be their healer and that He is a jealous God who is opposed to their trusting the weak arm of flesh. On the other hand, the devil has his teaming millions of false prophets who very beautifully use enticing words of wisdom in persuading men that God placed the doctors here to be their healers. Because men find the latter the easier route, they try to worship both God and man. Jesus said this is impossible. May God help us to receive the love of the truth in our hearts, lest God Himself send strong delusions and we believe a lie and be damned.

Chapter XVII

MINNIE'S FATHER HEALED AFTER TURNING FROM MAN TO GOD

Jack Bell, Minnie's father, was most reluctant in accepting the truth that she was preaching and practicing. Although he ceased severely persecuting her and came to respect her for her great faith in God, he continued to put his confidence in man for his healing. Some eighteen or twenty years passed after his first exposure to this wonderful teaching before he was convinced that it was truly for him. He became ill and called for his doctor to come and treat him. The doctor made daily visits to Jack's home, giving him the very best of everything he had to offer, for they were close personal friends and he knew that Jack was both financially able and willing to pay his doctor bills. After many visits were made and the patient steadily grew worse, both the doctor and the patient became alarmed and disappointed over the situation; but God was working against them in order that He might have a chance to convince Jack that he needed to trust in Him.

Jack had a wonderful Christian wife who had been trusting God for several years, and she so much desired to see Jack place his faith and trust completely in God. Also, Minnie was most concerned about this, as she knew that God was being grieved. She visited her father often and desired to see his health restored, but she desired to see his spiritual health prosper more than his physical.

Minnie often said that even though one might make Heaven without completely trusting God for healing, God desires that each and every one trust Him. All of us will know this to be true, if we will only stop to think. The Scripture says that it is impossible to please God without faith. Doesn't it seem reasonable to believe that the more faith we have, the better pleased He is? Every mother and father wants their child to trust them and would be much grieved to know that the child trusted someone else more than he trusted them. If your child needed something and asked a neighbor for it instead of you, would you not be grieved? You know you would, especially if you were a millionaire and the neighbor, a pauper. God is much greater than a millionaire, for He owns Heaven and earth and all the universe, and He has all power, while the weak arm of flesh has no power at all. "Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD . . ." (Jeremiah 17:5 and 7). "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man" (Psalm 118:8).

When Jack's hope of being cured by his doctor and medicine vanished, he began seeking help from God. He sent for Minnie to come and told her that God had revealed to him that if he did not turn from the doctor and put his faith in Him, he was going to die and be eternally lost. Minnie was so happy and prayed the prayer of faith for her sick father. God wonderfully reached down and healed him. Our great God is very patient and longsuffering with us, but the time comes when He expects us to walk in the light that He has shed upon our path. When we refuse to do so, darkness will come, and great will be that darkness!

Chapter XVIII

APPENDICITIS HEALED

Minnie's eldest child, Albert, was only two years old when his mother consecrated her own body to God, as well as her two children, one of which was her oldest daughter, Cassie, only six weeks old. These were the only two of the nine children born to her to whom she ever gave medicine. In latter years, the wife of one of her younger sons—who had never known about divine healing until she married into the Alexander family, but soon afterwards became a strong believer in all of the Church of God teachings, including divine healing—pointed out the fact to Minnie that Albert and Cassie were the smallest of all her children. Minnie had never considered this, but it was very true. This daughter-in-law said she felt that God had allowed this to show that it is far better and more pleasing to Him for His people to trust Him than to depend upon man. How right she was!

When Albert was a young father about twenty-two years old, he was struck with appendicitis. As revealed in a previous

chapter, Albert believed strongly in the Bible doctrine of divine healing and had told the preacher/carpenter that he would be ashamed to call himself a preacher if he could not trust God for the healing of his body. Now the testing time had come for him to prove himself.

He grew worse by the day and could sleep neither day or night because of the excruciating pain in his side and abdomen, except when God would touch and relieve the suffering in answer to prayer. God has the best pain reliever available, and He has promised not to allow more than we are able to bear. God is true to His Word, and Albert held fast to His promises, depending completely on Him without taking an aspirin or anything for relief. His mother was called, and when she anointed and prayed for his healing, the pain and all the symptoms left immediately, except he was still weak. He arose from the bed and went out onto the front porch to sit in a rocker. While sitting there rejoicing over what God had done for him, a large rattlesnake was seen crawling across the front yard. Albert went out and found a hoe to kill the snake, in spite of warnings from some that he should not exert himself, for the pain might return. Skeptics said that his appendix had burst and this had given him only temporary relief. But God had appeared on the scene and performed a miracle that was permanent, enabling him to return to his farm work in just a day or two. Many times, I heard Albert testify to this, saying that anyone who had not experienced appendicitis did not really know what pain was.

Not many months after Albert's healing, his wife's sixteen-year-old brother, Lewis, was stricken with severe pain in the same area of his body that Albert had suffered. Although his family knew about Albert's healing and the other miracles that God had performed through Minnie's prayers, their faith was not strong enough to trust God for healing. The family doctor was called; he diagnosed the case as acute appendicitis and recommended an operation to remove Lewis' appendix. The best surgeon in their town was used; he found the appendix ruptured, but he was confident that all would go well. In only a few days, Lewis was dead.

Several years passed before another case of appendicitis occurred in the family. This time it was one of Albert's teenage daughters, Era. Albert's wife, Myrtis, was a wonderful mother and Christian who had been gloriously saved and was living close to God since shortly after she married into Sister Minnie's family. Upon marrying, she and Albert had moved into a house only about a hundred yards from Sister Minnie's house. Myrtis was a sweet and precious bride and a member of a denomination, but she had never been born again, for she had not been taught the truth of God's Word. After a few months of watching Sister Minnie's life and hearing her testimonies, she became convicted of her sins and came weeping to Sister Minnie's home, telling her that she wanted the kind of religion she was seeing in her life.

After this, Myrtis found God's grace helped her to be patient and kind in trying times, and she had no struggle with trusting God to heal her and her children when sicknesses occurred. God was always faithful to His Word and heard and answered prayer, giving sustaining grace for each battle. Through the years, she witnessed many miracles of healing, such as her husband being healed of appendicitis. So when her daughter, Era, was stricken with appendicitis, she was not alarmed but simply placed her in the hands of the Great Physician.

Albert had not lived as closely to God in years just prior to his daughter's affliction. In fact, he had grown cold in his experience with God and had backslidden. When Era grew worse, he found it very hard to believe God would heal her, and he succumbed to the temptation to go elsewhere for help. When Era was admitted to the hospital and surgery was performed, the appendix had ruptured. The surgeon said that her case was very serious and pronounced her condition critical. This was the same doctor who had performed surgery on Era's uncle Lewis a few years earlier and had lost the patient in death. He said Era's case was exactly the same as that of Lewis and gave no hope of her recovery.

At this point, Sister Minnie was called. She came and prayed the prayer of faith for her granddaughter, and God healed her. In just a few days, she left the hospital to recuperate from the surgery and gain her strength back at home.

About eight years prior to Era's appendicitis attack and subsequent healing, when she was around five years old, another miracle had happened in her life. Her father Albert was returning home from a day's work in the woods hauling pulpwood. His children, knowing what time to expect him, had gone up the road from the house to meet him and ride back home with him. They were riding on the back of his heavy, open-bodied truck when Era fell off and was crushed by its dual wheels. The wheel climbed onto her body in the pelvic area and continued up the left side, barely missing her heart as it left her body.

After stopping the truck and lifting Era, he saw that she was critically injured but still alive and gasping for breath. Sister Minnie, who lived some fourteen miles away, was sent for immediately. When she arrived, Era was almost to the point of death, but God, through prayer and faith in His Son Jesus Christ, touched her, and she began to mend.

Era is a mother and grandmother living in Ruston, Louisiana, today. There is nothing impossible with God! He loves to bestow good things upon His trusting and believing children! Oh, that men would praise Him for His wonderful blessings He sends upon them each and every day!

Chapter XIX

A SUPER MIRACULOUS CHILDBIRTH

Minnie's sister, Edna, who lived about ten miles from her house, was expecting her fifth child. When the time came for its arrival, the doctor was called to the home, and as usual, the parents wanted Minnie to be present. When Edna had been in hard labor for several hours, the doctor became alarmed and endeavored to take the baby but was unsuccessful. After hours of doing all he knew to do, he told the father and mother that the only thing he could do was kill the baby and take it to save the mother's life. Of course, they could not give their consent to do that. The doctor left, saying the case was hopeless. The father was walking the floor, wringing his hands with weeping and groanings. The mother, of course, was in despair, thinking that she and her baby would soon die. Sister Minnie's faith did not waver. She knew the power and promises of God and, as Abraham of old, did not stagger at them. She calmed the parents and began talking to them, telling them that they had been looking to man and not to God. She instructed them to join her in prayer to God and expect Him to give victory in this case, which they did, and within minutes the baby girl was born.

When the doctor was told of this miracle from God, he was shocked and could hardly believe his ears. The mother and the baby were in good condition, except for injuries about its face and head caused by the instruments used in trying to force delivery. It was difficult to know just how much damage was done until the baby was older. All of the injured places soon healed and disappeared, except one. This one was in the corner of one eye over against her nose. That eye remained red and swollen, and pus would excrete from the corner. This condition worsened for about two years, until one evening Sister Minnie was conducting a service in a home near the afflicted child's home and she was brought by her mother to the service. At the close of the service, the mother came forward and brought the child to be anointed and prayed for. The prayer of faith was offered, and God miraculously healed her for His glory. Today this child is a mother (Montez Cook) living with her family in Jonesboro, Louisiana. She is also a very sweet Christian, portraying Christ to a lost world.

Chapter XX

MINNIE'S DELIVERANCE OF A CHRONIC SPLEEN CONDITION

It seems strange and mysterious to the human mind that God would only partially deliver Minnie from the affliction that had caused most of her sickness from the age of three until her glorious experience of seeing the wonderful face of her Savior and vowing to trust Him completely for soul and body as long as she lived, and then make her wait twelve long years before He completely healed her. But we must remember that God's ways are above our ways, and the Scripture states that His ways are past finding out. Hence, we should never question God, just take Him at His word and know that He doeth all things well. We should always be perfectly satisfied with our being the clay and His being the potter. But many times, we feel that we know better about how things should be done. Just as God created the earth, the entire universe, and everything in it and looked upon His work and saw that it was good, so it has been always and ever shall be that what He does is perfect. He makes absolutely no mistakes; He works in ways that are best for His children and bring the most honor and glory to His precious name.

As stated previously, Minnie had a chronic spleen condition that caused a large, hard knot in her left side. The doctors said it could never be cured and that it was throwing off toxins and poisons into her bloodstream that caused chills and fever about every ninety days. When Jesus delivered her from the chills and promised that she would have no more if she would trust Him henceforth, He did not promise to heal her spleen and remove the knot from her side. But He foresaw that by performing another miracle in her body twelve years later, it would be witnessed by other people who had never seen a miraculous healing and thereby bring great glory to His name.

It was Sunday afternoon, and many neighbors, friends, and relatives were gathered at Minnie's home visiting her, as she had been seriously ill for several days with the swollen, painfully infected spleen. Suddenly, she spoke from her sickbed and said, "God has just spoken to me and said that He is going to heal this ol' side to never let it hurt me again." Her fifteen-year-old sister, who had felt the knot in Minnie's side so many times and knew exactly where it was, ran to the bed and felt under the covers to see if it was still there. She threw her hands above her head and shouted, "It's gone; it's gone!" Much rejoicing took place, and when the crowd left her room, Minnie arose and dressed, being completely healed of this long-standing affliction. "Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" (Psalm 107:8).

Chapter XXI

SEVERE AND CHRONIC HEADACHES MIRACULOUSLY HEALED

Mart and Minnie Alexander owned and operated a farm on which they usually employed tenant farmers or hired hands to help with the work. A black family had moved to their farm, and after living there for about a year, they had learned much about divine healing through Minnie's witnessing and her faithfulness to God in trusting Him for all things.

The mother of this family related to Minnie her past experience with severe headaches, from which she had been unable to obtain relief through her doctor and medication. After moving to Mart and Minnie's farm, she continued having these dreadful attacks, which would keep her in bed for several days. Finally, at the peak of one of these onsets, she called for Minnie to pray for her. God touched and healed her instantly!

The mother claimed to be a Christian; however, she had the filthy habit of dipping snuff, which is very unbecoming to a Christian. Minnie had mentioned this habit to her and had related her own personal experience with the same habit and how she had been delivered from it by the power of God. While the old lady manifested a humble spirit and did not seem to resent Minnie's admonishing her to give the habit up, she continued dipping snuff.

Several months passed after she was instantly healed of the severe headache before she was stricken again. She sent her son to ask Minnie to come and pray for her again, but Minnie sent him back home to tell his mother that she would come later. Minnie wanted some time to talk with God about this case. Retreating to her usual place of prayer, she inquired of the Lord just why He had allowed the headache to return. God said, "Tell her if she will give up her snuff, I will heal her, and the headache will not return."

Minnie disliked saying anything that might offend or make one feel badly, but she had to be true to God. As she was going out her front door on her way to pray for the sick lady, she met her stepmother coming to visit her. She invited her to come along and join her in praying for the lady. As they walked along, Minnie related to her what God had said and how she dreaded having to give the message to the woman.

Upon arriving at the home of the sick lady and going to her bedside, Minnie told her what God had said. In her groanings from the unbearable pain, she uttered, "Oh, Lord, I am willing to do anything to be healed of this terrible headache." Minnie anointed her with oil in the name of the Lord and prayed the prayer of faith, which saved the sick lady, and the Lord raised her up immediately. She was faithful for a few months to her promise to give up her snuff, but then she began dipping it again. God was merciful, though, and never allowed the headache to return while she lived on Mart and Minnie's farm, which was several years.

I also had a miraculous healing of a type of headache different from the common kind. This affliction struck me three different years, and it came each time in June, the beginning of summer. As you can assume by now, no doctor was called to diagnose the case, nor was any medication administered, only prayer and trust in God. There were very few people who had experienced such an affliction as mine. It was called sun pain, as it came only while the sun was up; but whether it shined brightly or clouds covered, it made very little difference.

Later I learned that one of my uncles had been afflicted in this way many years prior to this and was treated by a medical doctor to no avail; his doctor called it sun pain. I was eighteen years old the first time I experienced it. About one year later, it recurred, lasting about three weeks each time. The only good thing about it was that the suffering would stop each night, giving me rest from the agony of the day, that I might be able to endure another horrible day of pain. Oh, how I dreaded to see daybreak, for before the sun would rise above the horizon, the pain would begin, and it would intensify as the sun rose higher and higher. I would go to my room, pull all the shades, and hang dark sheets or blankets over every tiny opening that light could come through; however, this helped very little. From about ten in the morning until two in the afternoon, the pain was almost unbearable. I feel that it would have been fatal had it not been for God's intervening power when prayer was offered, to ask for mercy and sustaining grace. By three o'clock, the pain was bearable and gradually subsided until the sun had set. I was weak from the terrible suffering of the day, but I was so grateful that all the pain was gone and that I would be able to sleep and allow my body to recuperate. After approximately three weeks of this, all was well, and there seemed to be nothing wrong in any part of my body.

Because the sun pain had occurred two summers in succession, we feared that it would come with the following summer's arrival; but thank God, about ten years came and went before I was stricken the third and last time. What a marvelous deliverance!

Chapter XXII

GALLBLADDER INSTANTLY HEALED

As stated earlier in this book, my mother, Minnie, often said that I had been sick more than her seven other children combined. I had been bothered with occasional gallbladder attacks for several years; however, they became more frequent and severe. One night I was awakened about two o'clock in the morning by an attack that was so severe that I could hardly bear it. As there were no telephones in our community to call for prayer, I told my wife that I would drive to my mother's house, which was about four miles away. It was with great effort that I reached her home; but I was looking to Jesus, and He gave grace. Father and Mother laid hands on me and asked God to take away the suffering, which He did within a few minutes. They were not asking for complete healing of the affliction, but relief. Everything went well for a few months when another attack occurred, worse than the first one described above.

I was employed by my brother and cousin, who had formed a partnership in the construction business, and I was one of their heavy equipment operators. One morning, I was on a front-end loader loading trucks when my brother gave each of the men on the job a large Baby Ruth candy bar. Only a few minutes after eating the candy, I was suffering so intensely that I crawled from the machine and told my brother I would like for him to take me to my mother's home for prayer. We would have to drive about six miles to get there, but we met my parents and stopped them about halfway there.

My parents said that they thought I was a black man as they approached the vehicle in which we were riding. The terrible pain had caused me to turn much darker than I was normally. The pain was so great that I could hardly breathe or talk, but I managed to tell them why we were there. As I sat in the vehicle with the door glass open, my mother laid her hand on my abdomen and began to call on God for mercy. She prayed about two minutes, and the pain was completely gone. We all rejoiced together and gave God praise for His great love and power, then my brother and I returned to the job to work the rest of the day. Mother and Dad then continued on their journey to the hospital to visit the sick.

About two years later, God allowed the final and most painful attack that I ever had to come. When I reached my mother and father's home, I was almost at the point of death. They seated me in a large sofa chair and began to earnestly pray for my healing. I could not sit there, so sliding off the chair onto the floor I began to roll on the floor while Mother followed me and interceded with God on my behalf. This lasted for about five minutes before God came to my rescue. His healing power went through my body, eradicating every pain, and I was healed in an instant. I arose from the floor, healed of that affliction, which has never returned during the next twenty-six years of my life.

Oh! How I praise His dear name for coming into the world to willingly spill His blood and die for our sins and to heal us by His stripes (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He has not lost any of His power. He is coming again soon, but shall He find faith on the earth when He returns (Luke 18:8)?

SONGS

The following section contains songs that I, Adriel Alexander, have written for the glory of God. I dedicated these songs to my mother, who loved singing and whose life inspired the writing of these songs. May God bless them to each reader or singer.

WHAT MORE COULD HE DO?

1. *Jesus died on Calvary, that you might be set free,
Oh, what more, what more could He do?
He has paid that awful cost, not His will that you be lost.
Oh, what more, what more could He do?*
2. *He has paid that great price, made the perfect sacrifice.
Oh, what more, what more could He do?
He'll go with you all the way, give you blessings everyday.
Oh, what more, what more could He do?*
3. *He's preparing you a home, now He's pleading, won't you
come?
Oh, what more, what more could He do?
You've refused Him many times, still He is so true and kind.
Oh, what more, what more could He do?*

Chorus:

*Oh, what more, what more could He do?
He has done so very much for you.
He will take you by the hand,
Lead you to that promised land.
Oh, what more, what more could He do?*

THROUGH HIS NAME

1. *Through the Name of His Dear Son,
God would save us every one,
If we only would trust and obey.*

*We could be happy here below,
And to Heaven surely go.
Won't you trust the Dear Savior today?*

2. *No other name giv'n among men,
Can save us from the guilt of sin,
To trust another would mean to be lost.*

*So trust the One who gave His life,
To save you from all sin and strife,
Come and He will not turn you away.*

3. *Through His Name the lame can walk,
The blind can see, the dumb can talk.
The broken heart can have comfort and peace;*

*The poor can be rich, the weak made strong,
Within each heart a happy song,
Through His Name we can do every thing.*

Chorus:

*Through His Name we are happy and free.
Yes, He came to bring Victory.
Through His Name we are healed!
Oh, praise God it is so real!
Through His Name God's rich blessings do flow.*

*A DAY TO REJOICE IN
(Psalm 118:24)*

1. *This is a day that God has made
I will rejoice and be glad.
Let not my heart be afraid
And not one thought be bad.
I'll keep my mind on what is good
And praise His Name, as I should.
I'll praise Him for His love for me
And most of all for Calvary.*

2. *God sent His Son to set men free
That they might live eternally.
In Heaven above where He will be
He has a place for you and me.
Christ left His home up in the sky
To come to earth to bleed and die.
I'll praise Him till the day I die
Now can't you see the reason why?*

3. *If Satan comes and tempts me sore,
I will still praise the Lord.
God has something good in store,
If I stand on His Word.
I'll keep on praising His Name,
I must not put Him to shame.
Oh! He is everything to me,
I praise Him now for victory.*

ALL I ASK IS MORE OF THY SPIRIT

1. *Like Abraham, help me to be faithful;
That I might be called the friend of God.
And when tempted and tried I might prove worthy,
To walk the pathway that my Dear Savior trod.*
2. *Like Job of old, I want to be patient,
And always know that my Redeemer lives.
Tho' troubles may come help me to be thankful,
For the many good things that He gives.*
3. *To be more like Christ in loving and forgiving,
Is my desire for living every day.
That when I come to the end of life's journey
"Well done, My child," I'll hear my Savior say.*

Chorus:

*Lord, I do not ask for fame nor this world's riches.
For I care not for the things that soon decay.
All I ask of Thee, Dear Lord, is more of Thy Spirit.
And for things that will never pass away.*

BECAUSE HE'S WITH ME

1. *My Savior promised to be with me to the end.
To stand beside me if I have no other friend.
So it does not matter what others say or do
I rely on His promise because I know 'tis true.*
2. *When my load seems heavy and my burdens hard to bear.
I hear Him whisper, "My child, we'll soon be there."
Then I take new courage and press the battle on.
For I know He's with me and I'll make it safely home.*
3. *If Satan tempts me and tries to get me down,
I just resist him and say, "I'm Heaven bound."
Then Jesus tells me, "Just keep your hand in Mine."
Then Satan leaves me and again I'm feeling fine.*
4. *When storms assail me and I'm tempted to fear and doubt,
"God does not love you," I hear ole Satan shout.
But Jesus tells me, "Don't fear or be afraid.
"For I'll be with you to the end of the way."*

Chorus:

*Because He's with me, I never walk alone.
He keeps me happy and in my heart a song.
When I feel lonely, He speaks a word of cheer.
Oh! It brings such comfort just to know that He is near.*

IS GOD THAT EASY TO FORGET?

1. *You vowed to God you would be true,
And said His will you'd always do.
But now you say that you are through;
That serving God is not for you.
You say you're just not ready yet,
To settle down and pay this debt.
But I'm afraid you will regret
IS GOD THAT EASY TO FORGET?*

2. *He saved your soul and set you free,
And gave you power and liberty.
He said your friend He'd always be;
That He'd supply your every need.
He gave you love and peace of mind,
And was the best friend you could find.
You know He has not failed you yet,
IS GOD THAT EASY TO FORGET?*

3. *You say you're having so much fun,
And things just keep you on the run.
That for God you have no time,
Since everything is going fine.
But don't you know it's getting late,
And hell some day will be your fate?
If His salvation you neglect,
IS GOD THAT EASY TO FORGET?*

I'M SO HAPPY EVERY DAY

1. *I'm so happy since my Savior came;
I'm rejoicing in His precious Name.
His wonderful love I shall evermore proclaim;
His great power shall always be the same.
He's my companion each and every day,
He guides me all the way.
He's given me His Holy Spirit,
And I want the world to hear it;
I'm so happy every day.*
2. *When I have a need, He's my dearest friend.
His sweet voice brings joy and peace within.
By His grace I have power over sin;
I know He'll be with me even to the end.
He gives me light and I shall never stray;
All I need to do is pray.
For if I ask I shall receive it,
If I only can believe it.
I'm so happy every day.*
3. *I feel so secure in My Savior's love;
Now I'm living for that home above.
I find such comfort as I read His Word;
I know I can trust Him because He is my Lord.
If I keep His commandments and His words obey,
He'll never go away.
He fills my cup with joy and gladness,
And takes away my sadness.
I'm so happy every day.*
4. *Now if you're lonely and feeling very drear;
I'd like you to meet this friend of mine so dear.
He'll drive away all your doubts and fears;
You'll find that He is always very near.
He'll make your heart feel very light and gay,
He'll move right in to stay.
He'll stand by you in every sorrow,
And give you sunshine for tomorrow.
You'll be happy every day.*

YOU'LL BE SO HAPPY EVERY DAY!

THE GREATEST DAY OF ALL

1. *The Bible tells us of a day,
When our soul shall fly away,
To that home Jesus said He'd prepare.*

*There we'll walk the streets of gold,
And no one will ever grow old,
The redeemed of all ages will be there.*

2. *Oh, we'll have no burdens there,
Not a worry nor a care,
For God will wipe all tears from our eyes.*

*There is nothing to compare,
With the glory over there,
Words cannot describe that home up in the sky.*

3. *There we'll be with Christ our King,
And with Him forever to reign.
In that City where there never is a night.*

*There'll be no sun, stars, or moon,
Yet all is bright as noon,
For the great God of Heaven is the light.*

4. *Oh, let me tell you, sinner friend,
If you go on to the end,
Then you'll hear him say, "Depart I know you not."*

*Then your part you must take,
In that dark, burning lake,
Oh, such sorrow and pain will be your lot.*

Chorus:

*That will be a great day,
The greatest day of all days.
No other such a day has ever yet been born.*

*When we reach that great land,
We will join the heavenly band,
Ever to sing and rejoice around God's throne.*

*THEM THAT LOVE THE LORD
(Romans 8:28)*

1. *When you feel discouraged,
Thinking all is lost;
Just think of Jesus,
Who died upon the Cross.*

*To give you life eternal,
And make your life worthwhile;
Then you will be happy,
Just to know you are His child.*

2. *If we will be faithful,
And endure unto the end;
He will be with us,
And be our dearest friend.*

*Sorrow He'll turn to gladness,
Our fears will pass away;
With His grace He'll uphold us,
And our night will turn to day.*

3. *Tho' Satan works against you,
And brings a heavy load;
Think of the crown before you,
Keep on the narrow road.*

*Just pray and trust in Jesus,
He'll take that heavy load;
For all things work together,
For good to them that love the Lord.*

Chorus:

*All things work together
For good to them that love the Lord.
This is a promise, from God's Holy Word.
We may not understand it,
But we can really know;
That all things work together,
For good to them that love the Lord.*

THE VICTORIOUS CHURCH

1. *Jesus said that He would build,
A beautiful church that would not fail.
And all God's people would be a part.*

*The rich, the poor, the young, and old,
Would have one Shepherd—be one fold;
Just one big family, the pure in heart.*

2. *Tho' storms may come with wind and hail,
This great ship shall onward sail;
For Christ, the Captain, controls the sea.*

*Just stay on board and do what's right;
Don't walk in darkness, but in light.
And you'll be saved through eternity
God will give power and victory.*

3. *The Church of God is its name,
And it shall ever be the same.
For God's the Builder and does not change.*

*Oh! Brother, do not be ashamed,
Of this blessed Holy Name.
For there's no other that God has named;
She is our Mother and God-ordained.*

Chorus:

*The gates of hell shall not prevail
Against the church that Jesus built,
For it is settled on Solid Rock.
Tho' Satan tries in every way,
He CANNOT make it sway;
For it's not built on shifting sand,
And it's not built by the plan of man.*

THE BLESSED OF GOD

- 1. God tells us in His Bible the things we must do,
If we'd have His favor and be blessed thru and thru.
He says we must love Him and all His words obey,
If we would be happy and live with Him someday.
We must love our neighbor as we do our self,
When He is in trouble do what we can to help.
Then God will bless us as we walk this sod,
Yes, we'll be blessed, blessed, blessed of God.*
- 2. Jesus came and walked among us to teach us how to live.
He said if we would receive then surely we must give.
We must forgive others if we would be forgiven;
Love not the world but set our affections on heaven.
Eternal life we will find if we only will seek
To inherit the earth we must be very meek.
Only peacemakers will be the children of God,
And be blessed, blessed, blessed of God.*
- 3. Jesus spoke to the people in the Sermon on the Mount.
He talked about the Father and what His kingdom was
about.
He said everyone could have it if he would hunger and
thirst,
Forsaking all he had to seek this kingdom first.
He spoke about the poor in spirit and the pure in heart,
That all should count the cost before making a start.
He told them what they must do if they would see God,
Then they'd be blessed, blessed, blessed of God.*

On December 17, 1983, Adriel Alexander (my father) passed from this life to be with Jesus.

For many of his last years, he had been the target of much persecution, strife, envy, contention, and malicious gossip. He was heartbroken over the things happening to the beautiful Church of God that his mother had loved so dearly. Many false doctrines have crept into the teachings of some who claim to be the church and have rendered them weak and powerless. The full truth has to be expounded with power to bring people to a faith that will deliver and empower them to live a victorious Christian life. A watered-down Gospel will never do.

The truth of Divine Healing must be presented with authority and power for people to be able to truly believe (know) that God desires to be their physician and WILL heal them. Daddy had suffered these outward oppressions of the devil for so long that it finally affected his health. He had lost his strong will to live. He truly desired for God to raise him up for His glory, but deep down inside, I believe he was tired and weary-worn. We (the family and friends) had fasted and prayed much for him, but there were so many evil spirits desiring his life that we were too weak in spiritual warfare to overcome them.

When Daddy passed away, I continued to fast and pray for thirty days. I couldn't understand his death, and I had to get some answers in my own heart.

April 22, 1985, was the first time I felt impressed to read Daddy's manuscript for this book. It was very inspiring to my faith. There were many, many other things he could have shared. It really made me thankful and appreciative of my heritage. It is important to record God's wonderful dealings with us and tell them to our children and grandchildren. The Scripture says that the Israelites remained true to God until the last elder died who had crossed the Red Sea and was able to testify of God's mighty miracles. After the last elder died, the Israelites went whoring after other gods and forgot the one true God. God forbid that we do such a thing!

Kathy Alexander Dowden