

THIS MOVE OF THE SPIRIT

A NEW BEGINNING

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A beginning. Everything has its own beginning. Our birth. The dawning of a new day. All of creation itself started with “*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth*” (Genesis 1:1 ESV).

New beginnings are also true of the spiritual revivals that have descended from heaven to move mankind closer towards God’s ultimate goal of Genesis 1:26.

“*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth”*” (Genesis 1:26 ESV).

The beginning of what is often referred to as “The Move of the Spirit” is more commonly recorded as February 11, 1948, at the Sharon Bible School in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, some 70 years ago.

About 70 students gathered at the school for their Bible

classes, spiritually prepared for by days and weeks of prayer and fasting. There was a great spiritual hunger residing within the hearts of the faculty and students in that hour. There was a spirit of anticipation and expectation of what the Lord was preparing for them.

“God spoke to the students and faculty about the ‘Jordan River’ that He had brought them to the edge of. The waters were about to divide and He would lead those across who desired to follow Him. However, some would refuse to cross and stay behind. It was the prayer of many hearts that they would find grace in the eyes of the Lord and to be in that number that would cross over. Many prophecies were given speaking of the sound of abundance of rain (spiritual rain). Hearts were filled with anticipation because somehow there was a sense that they were on the threshold of a new and glorious day” (This Move of the Spirit, 2018, p. 12).”

“After the Christmas holiday, classes resumed and

the students went through quite a difficult and dry period. Students and teachers alike gave themselves to prayer and fasting. For many this was done in as much secrecy as possible, but the small dining hall attendance at mealtime indicated that several were fasting.

When God lays a fast upon your heart, let God give you wisdom in it. It should be done unto the Lord and not to be noticed by your peers. It was at this time that God spoke to them in prophecy, and from time to time He stated that He had placed before them an open door and asked them to enter in. No one knew what this door was and so they were unable to do so.

On the morning of February 11, 1948, God spoke to the students again. The entire student body and faculty were together for morning devotions. Through prophecy God said, **'Behold I have placed before you an open door. Enter ye in and if you fail to do so now, this door will be closed to you forever.'**

At the conclusion of the prophecy, the principal of the school rose to his feet and prayed a simple prayer. The simplicity of this prayer spoke to many in how to speak to God - **'Lord, you have spoken to us many times about this open door and we long with all our hearts to enter in, but Lord we do not know what this door is, and therefore, we cannot enter into it, but Father if you will reveal it to us by your Spirit, then by your grace we will enter in.'**

As he closed his prayer a prophecy was given: **'This door is the doorway into your gifts, callings and ministries. Long has it been closed by doubts, fears, and unbelief, but now through fasting and prayer this door has been opened unto you.'** A great time of rejoicing and praising God followed. A great victory had been won. Darkness had given way to light. God had revealed the next step in their experience, and they were confident that by His grace they would enter into it.

The dry spell had been broken, and God was beginning to pour a little rain upon our souls. The time of praise and worship continued until the mid-morning recess. After that they all went to their own classrooms. Every heart was aglow with joy and thanksgiving for what God had just done and with that there was great anticipation for what seemed to be just before them.

Shortly after the second year class had started, singing could be heard coming from across the hall in the the first-year room. The words of that song and

the anointing of the Spirit settled down upon the second-year class as the first-year class sang, 'Where He Leads Me I Will Follow'. The hardest of heart was softened and broken and made pliable by the tenderness and sweetness of the Spirit that prevailed. The whole class was touched, and they got down on their knees in prayer. After a short time the teacher suggested they return to the first-year classroom, which was in the general assembly room. As they entered they found that everyone was on their knees in prayer. The third-year class soon joined along with the other teachers. Little did anyone realize that God was setting the stage for another great and momentous hour in the history of the church.

Like a mighty wind the Holy Spirit swept over that student body. Their voices blended together in a great voice of praise unto God. Heaven was touching the earth, and all things were being shaken. Then like the touch of a great choirmaster, the Holy Spirit moved in a different direction. The gushing wind seemed to cease and a great calm came over the classroom. The noise of praise gently faded away and quietness crept in. A holy hush came over the people, and a hallowed presence filled the room.

Everyone testified later of the reality of that Divine presence. The air seemed to be saturated with His glory and power, and everyone seemed to breathe gently. Lives were dedicated afresh, and new dedications were made in the stillness of that moment.

The silence was broken when the Spirit of prophecy came upon one of the teachers. He stood up and gave this prophecy:

'Take the shoes from off thy feet, for the ground on which thou standest is Holy ground. For behold I am about to do a new thing in thy midst. Thou shalt not write letters or tell thy friends and relatives, and if thou dost, then thy days shall be numbered. I will at this time restore to the church the nine gifts of the Spirit, and they shall be received by prophecy and the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. I will indicate from time to time by My Spirit they that are prepared and should be called.'

The Spirit of God was so real that many of the students slipped off their natural shoes as a holy reverence gripped every heart.

Following this prophecy, six people were indicated by the prophetic gift. God indicated that the brethren who were in charge of the school were to be the first presbytery. On this day there were prophecies over those first brethren who were called, and gifts

and ministries were generally indicated, but not specifically stated.

The following day, February 12, three more were called but some of the brethren of the presbytery that God had indicated were absent. However, the teacher with the prophetic ministry went ahead and prayed and prophesied over them alone. During the remainder of that day and the following day, February 13, there was very little moving of the Spirit, and no one was indicated to be prayed over.

On the morning of February 14, this brother confessed to the class that God had shown him that he had made a mistake in praying over the three people alone when God had indicated a 'presbytery' which is a group of elders. After asking for forgiveness, he called the previous three people and the presbytery that God had indicated, and God moved mightily as they prayed and prophesied over these people.

Gifts, ministries, and callings were prophesied. Gifts of the Spirit began to operate that day. Faith was exercised, prophecy flowed mightily and sick were healed by the gifts of healing. God taught them that day that He is meticulous, a God of order. He had revealed that He would restore the gifts by prophecy and the laying on of the hands of the presbytery, and He would not honour it being done any other way.

It is a serious matter to give personal prophecy. God has not entrusted that responsibility to one individual, neither has He entrusted the earthly headship to one, but instead, to a plurality of ministries, apostles and prophets. Some of the brethren that God used in the beginning of the Move of the Spirit, and who were present when He taught these tremendous truths by this object lesson, missed the way because they failed to see this order set by God.

In the days that followed many were called, and gifts of the Spirit were prophesied to them. Shy people prophesied, and the gifts of revelation, of power and utterance were all manifested. Languages were spoken and understood by people recognizing their native tongue and were interpreted correctly by those with the gift of interpretation of tongues in operation. By the laying on of hands people received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The 'Feast of Pentecost,' which is a term that was given to the closing exercises of the school, as well as special services, took place in the first part of April for the close of the school year. People came from all parts of the country even though there was much snow and stormy weather. Many had heard of a great revival that began in North Battleford. Many

people, including ministers, came to see what God was doing. They knew God was moving though they didn't know in just what manner, but because they were hungry for God, they came to see.

It was a wonderful Feast, and many of those who came were indicated by the Holy Spirit to receive gifts by prophecy and the laying on of hands of the presbytery. Several received healing for their bodies and many were filled with the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands. Sinners and backsliders came to Christ in repentance. The teaching on the gifts of the Spirit and the coming together of the body of Christ was made alive as it was taught with a new spiritual authority. The anointing of the Spirit of God that rested on the brethren and that came upon the people in every meeting convinced everyone this was a mighty move of God's Spirit." (This Move of the Spirit, 2018, p. 14-18)."

Through the years, I have enjoyed visiting with many of the students (all now very senior citizens, or have since passed away) of that day and hour (1948). As the different ones would begin to tell their eye witness accounts of those early days noted above, usually it would be given with much tears and emotion. The passing years had done little to dampen the tremendous emotions remembered by those early-day students that experienced first-hand the ushering in of a new hour, a new beginning.

Prayer and fasting opened that door some 70 years ago. This is a familiar pattern found in the Scriptures. Before the great revival under Nehemiah (445 B.C.) Nehemiah spent much time in fasting and in prayers (Nehemiah 1:4-11). Daniel, the prophet, received many absolutely astounding, detailed prophecies from God that recorded in almost unbelievable detail things that would happen centuries later. In almost all cases, Daniel's revelations came after a period of prayer and fasting.

As the 70th anniversary of this present Move of the Spirit approaches us in February 2018, let us be mindful of the doors that were opened for the church through the faithful prayers and fasting of that early hour. I am sure that there will be saints that will wish to fast and pray once again as we near February 11 through 14, 2018.

Let us fervently petition the Lord, for a great "moving forward" of His Spirit in His church in 2018. Let us confess the sins that so easily beset us (Hebrews 12:1). Let the church move ahead in great boldness and confidence in His leading. Let the intercessors in the church call on the name of God to "finish the work that He began" (Philippians 1:6). Let us all pray in 2018, "Let thy Kingdom come. Let thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10 KJV).

Philippians 1:6 gives us this assurance, "being confident of

this very thing, that he which began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ” (ESV).

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV). †

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HOW YOU CAN HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

Do you have confidence that you have eternal life? Do you have the assurance that your sins are forever forgiven because of the work of the Cross of Jesus Christ?

If you would like to receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, have your sins forgiven, and have your name written into the Lamb’s Book of Life (Revelation 20:11-15), you may do so right now.

The Bible says that Jesus, the Son of God, loves you! *“For God so loved the world (that means you!) that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16, NKJV).*

The Bible says that Jesus is the way to eternal life: *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6, NKJV).*

The Bible says that we are saved by grace through faith: *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8, NKJV).*

The Bible says that you may accept Jesus into your heart and be saved through faith: *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him (have fellowship with him), and he with Me” (Revelations 3:20, NKJV).*

“...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9-10, NKJV).

If you wish to receive salvation, and have your sins forgiven by accepting Jesus Christ as your personal saviour into your life, You may consider praying a prayer similar to this:

Dear Jesus, I acknowledge that I am a sinner, and I ask you to forgive my sins and save me. I repent of my sins (turn from my sinful ways), and accept your saving grace. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I ask you to come into my heart right now. Thank you. Amen.

SHARON STAR

The Sharon Star is a monthly publication and mailed as a free-will offering plan. The articles within are intended for inspiration and information to those who are interested in the unfolding revelation of the Word of God.

Published by:
Global Missions Inc. in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada.

The Sharon Star is found online at:
www.globalmissionsinc.org/sharon-star

Publications Mail Agreement 40012206

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