

'BUT I HAVE CHOSEN YOU'
JOHN 15:16

THIS MOVE OF THE SPIRIT

— THE REVIVAL OF —
1948 IN NORTH
BATTLEFORD



THIS MOVE OF THE SPIRIT

It is our sincere desire to set forth truths that will help the reader to better understand the great plan of the ages and the part of its fulfillment in our time. We ask that you consider these things with an open heart and mind and not to peruse these pages carelessly. Furthermore, it is our prayer that God will give you eyes to see and ears to hear what He is saying to the church. May you be given a heart to understand those things which can only come from Divine Revelation.

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Chapter 1

THE EARLY CHURCH

While we will deal specifically with the relationship of this present move of the Spirit to all other moves of the current church age, it would not be complete without a brief summary of the preparation that took place prior to the *Advent of Christ* which is also known as the birth of the Messiah.

By studying the historical account of the early church, we begin to understand the main theme of God's plan for mankind. In the Old Testament, God brings forth the Messianic nation of Israel from which the Messiah would come. In the New Testament, God continues this plan and records the coming of the Messiah and the preparation of His body to be joined with Him, to rule in the ages to come. This is clearly referenced in the last book of the Bible where it declares, "*To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne*" (Revelation 3:21).

The reign of Christ and His church will continue until all enemies have been

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placed under His feet, at which point the kingdom will be handed back to God the Father that God may be all and in all.

We can see that God has a great overall plan and purpose. This will help us to relate to God's dealing with His church in the New Testament era and the part we are called to play in it.

In the Gospels of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), there is an account of what Jesus began to do and teach; but in the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles that follow, we have an account of what Jesus continued to do by the power of the Holy Spirit and through those He had chosen. In that early beginning, God confirmed His word with mighty power, signs and wonders. The enemy attacked with great persecution to try to defeat God's purpose. It is futile to think that either demons or men could ever stand against the flow of the purpose of God. This would be like trying to stop the flow of the mighty Niagara Falls with a toothpick.

The weakness that Satan exploited has always been the weakness of humanity. However, in spite of this the early church was so dedicated that it grew and multiplied under even the most severe persecution. The church was born in persecution and thrived under persecution. The blood of the martyrs was then, and always will be, the seed of the church. The early church was under the leadership of the apostles with all the consecrated ministries fitting into their places, but because it involved humans it was not perfect. It had much perfection in its constitution and revelation of God's mind, but it would be the unfolding revelation that would allow it to go on to perfection in experience. The early church was so fruitful that by the end of the third century, the gospel of Jesus Christ had spread from Jerusalem throughout the Mediterranean Basin even reaching parts of France and Spain.

It was during the 4th century that the enemy changed tactics from one of persecution to one of favour. What persecution could not accomplish, patronage

did. Let this be a good warning for all of us in this very day. This patronage caused the church to be lulled to sleep by a false sense of security as it was embraced by the Roman Emperor Constantine (272-337 AD). He became historically known as the first Christian emperor and was a great promoter of the Christian church during his reign. Although it is known that his mother, Helena, had an influence on his opinion of Christians after she became a follower of Christ, it is not known if he was a genuine believer himself. He was not even baptized until shortly before his death.

For the next 1,000 years, the church began to fall into darkness as the world views created by mankind started to influence the church leadership and its members. Most Christians understand that the church must be in the world and not segregated from it, but its downfall begins when the world starts to seep into the church. This era became known as the Dark Ages, but in spite of the darkness, the light did not totally extinguish as God had reserved spiritual giants such as Justin Martyr (100-165 AD), Eusebius of Caesarea (260-340 AD), Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD), Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) and many others to continue to be lights in the darkness through their lives and writings.

God did not forget His promise, and in the 14th century the work of restoration began. God has continued to move through many generations and faithful Christians even until today. In England, a brilliant scholar by the name of John Wycliffe (1320-1384) began turning the tide by translating a version of the Holy Scriptures into English (known as the Wycliffe Bible) for the common people. Prior to this, the only translation was the Vulgate which was in Latin, a language not well known to the English commoner. This translation helped to transform the church in England by making the Scriptures more accessible. Wycliffe was also known for his fervent preaching. He also questioned the authority of the pope and the unscriptural practices of the church. A new wave of spiritual life began to emerge.

According to John Wycliffe, "It is certain that the truth of the Christian

faith becomes more evident the more the faith itself is known. Therefore, the doctrine should not only be in Latin but also in the common tongue, and as the faith of the Church is contained in the Scriptures, the more these are known in the true sense, the better”.

Initially, led by Wycliffe, the Lollardy was a spiritual movement of ‘poor priests’ (laymen) that he sent to visit from place to place as itinerant preachers. In spite of opposing the Peasants’ Revolt in 1381, they faced their first persecution for heresy. The royalty and nobility determined that the Lollards posed a threat to the church (Catholic) and English society as a whole. By the beginning of the 15th century, measures were taken by the church and state to drive the Lollardy underground. King Henry IV of England (1367-1413) passed the *De Heretico Comburendo* in 1401, which prohibited the translating or owning of a Bible and authorized death by burning for heretics. After much persecution over the next 150 years, the Lollardy was absorbed into Protestantism during the English Reformation. Although it is not known what the Lollardy influence was on the general population, there are similarities between English protestant groups like the Baptists, Puritans and Quakers that suggest the continuation of Lollard ideas in the Reformation.

In the 16th century a mighty move of God began, known as the Reformation. It started with the truth being revealed to Martin Luther (1483-1546), a German friar, that “*the just shall live by faith.*” This was the first truth in the restoration of truths that had been lost during the Dark Ages. The Christian church began to rise from its bondage, throw off the shackles of Rome and be set free from the ecclesiastical tyranny it had endured over the centuries. The main truths of *justification by faith and the grace of God* were emphasized, and although many false conceptions were abandoned, many traditions remained. God also used John Calvin (1509-1564), a French pastor and Protestant reformer, and a Swiss Reformation splinter group known as the Anabaptist Movement, which later became the Mennonites, the Hutterites and the Amish. God was moving across Europe.

By the 17th century, a great awakening known as the Puritans started, and this resulted in two great movements known as Congregationalists and Baptists. They emphasized the truth of a local church operating under the direct leadership of Christ. The Baptists believed in baptism by immersion. Even though the work of the Restoration had begun, it seemed to be going from bad to worse as there was too much emphasis on doctrine and not enough emphasis on eternal life.

John Wesley (1703-1791) and his brother Charles (1707-1788) came out of the cold formalism of the Episcopal church along with George Whitefield (1714-1770) whose preaching shook the Wesley brothers to their very foundations. In 1740, Whitefield traveled to the American colonies where he preached a series of revival meetings known as the 'Great Awakening.' Whitefield had widespread recognition during his ministry, and it is estimated that he preached over 18,000 times and potentially reached 10 million listeners across Great Britain and the American colonies.

This Methodist teaching was a threefold message:

1. Salvation by faith with an inner witness.
2. Heart purity and sanctity of one's walk.
3. Formal education was not required to be right with God and be commissioned by Him.

It also emphasized the truth that a building such as a cathedral was not necessary for worship. Why not preach an open air meeting as Jesus did? This was another step of recovery that had been accomplished.

It was during the 19th century that God poured out His Spirit by different methods and in many places. The Brethren movement in 1830 taught the sufficiency of the Word of God in church affairs and the daily walk of the believer. It also taught that the body of Christ is composed of all believers and that the priesthood is made up of all believers. However, again there was too much emphasis on doctrine.

Then, in 1858, there was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the United States that shook the entire eastern seaboard. After that, revivals broke out in Ulster (now part of Northern Ireland), Wales and Scotland. By 1859, a great wave of evangelistic fervour and missionary enterprise came into being under General William Booth (1829-1912) of the Salvation Army. This emphasized the social implications of the gospel for the underprivileged. It also taught the believers union with Christ in His death and resurrection.

The Keswick movement was the main expression of this move of God. It was further enhanced by the writings of Hannah Whitall Smith (1832-1911), Andrew Murray (1828-1917) and Jessie Penn-Lewis (1861-1927). The weakness of this era was that each group perceived the part they had was the whole revelation, showing once again that there was a lack of unity.

God was still restoring the church and at the turn of the 20th century, the great Welsh Revival (1904-1905) began. This move emphasized the Spirit using the whole church body rather than just one man. This revival started under the leadership of Evan Roberts (1878-1951), and God used him mightily. He remained humble and hidden so that God would receive all the glory. The four "points" of his message were:

1. Confess all known sin and thus receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ.
2. Remove anything in your life that you are in doubt or feel unsure about.
3. Be ready to obey the Holy Spirit instantly.
4. Publicly confess the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many thousands across Wales were born into the kingdom of God, and the moral aspect of the whole country was changed.

A worldwide Pentecostal movement (1906-1945) soon followed, and there were many people who took part. The fullness of the Spirit was emphasized through supernatural

gifts and the experience of Acts 2:4, *“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”* A great worldwide missionary movement soon followed. However, there seemed to be a lack of depth in the Word of God as well as a superior attitude of pride in thinking ‘we have it all.’ There was a failure to go on in the unfolding revelation that was becoming very evident.

Christendom needed a fresh awakening, and in 1948 that happened. God began to pour out His Spirit in a humble place and in a manner up until that day had never been experienced. The restoration continued as the Word of God opened to us that at this time God would restore the gifts of His Spirit to the church. A revival soon followed, and the impact of it was felt all across the world.

There was a great flow of revelation that focused on the coming together of the body of Christ. Once again God was restoring the truths to the church that had been lost during those dark ages. There was also a fresh quickening of the truths that had already been restored. Here much emphasis was placed on the kingdom of God being close at hand. Matthew 24:14 was seen in a new light. *“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, then shall the end come.”*

It is evident that we are in the final times of the consummation which is the end of the present world and its renewal as the final conclusion of the work of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:24). The time of the rule of our God is at hand, when He will fulfill His scripture, *“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne”* (Revelation 3:21).

As this move has progressed, there have been many that have fallen away. We thank God with sincere hearts that in spite of the pressures that come from all sides, this move has not fallen away from God’s original purpose nor has it been caught in the snare of sectarianism. The weakness of all time is because of humans, but strength comes when humanity is fully controlled and indwelled by Christ. May we go on to that full maturity in the kingdom of God.

Chapter 2

THE PRESENT TRUTH

In each great move of God throughout history there is a ‘present truth’ and so it is in this ‘Move of the Spirit’ that now sweeps across the earth. This ‘present truth’ is that the body of Christ will come together from every denomination, every organization, every sect and the man-made divisions that have so long hampered it and kept it separated, will be broken. Each and every one of these divisions will ultimately be dismantled and the sheep of many pastures and flocks shall come together. There will once again “*be one flock and one shepherd*” (John 10:15, NKJV).

In the fulfillment of prophecy (Ezekiel 37 & Hebrews 12:25-27), this ‘Move of the Spirit’ has shaken the foundations of every man-made denomination, every organization and every sect under Heaven. This is the ‘present truth’ that will shake **even more so in the future!** Men and women may slam their doors, but none can stand against it.

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Many have and will oppose the ‘Move of the Spirit’ but it cannot be stopped as it comes straight from God. God has decreed that the body of Christ will come together in answer to the prayer of Jesus “...*that they all might be **one**, that the world might believe*” (John 17:21). There is a remnant that have eyes to see and ears to hear and these are beginning to flow together. This remnant must go ahead and show the way, so that ultimately all of God’s dear children will finally enter into the kingdom. Some will be required to make sacrifices and lead the way for others. They are the chosen and elect of God for such an hour as this. Even as they read these words, they will have a witness deep within their hearts that they will know that they too must enter into this ‘high calling.’ (Matthew 13:16-17).

God has not left us without the ability to perform this great task. He has restored the five-fold ministry (Ephesians 4:11) and the nine gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:8-11) to the church. The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25) is becoming evident in the lives of the believers as the power of the Holy Spirit performs His transforming work. The Move of the Spirit is alive with the power and anointing of the living God. Every man-made tradition will cease, and we are learning what it means to continually walk with God in the Spirit .

Chapter 3

1948

It is our prayer that as you endeavour to read about this glorious visitation of the Spirit, how God met us in the beginning and how He has continued to move upon us through ever-increasing revelation and glory, that His anointing will be mightily upon you. This is not intended to glorify anyone other than God. We also pray that this account will convey far more than history and will acquaint you with the moving of God's Spirit in such a way that you will sense a close fellowship with Him. May God mould you into the image and likeness of Christ so that He will be glorified and manifested in you. God is moving by His Spirit, performing miracles, changing lives, and revealing and establishing the kingdom order in His church.

May a deep reverence for God spring up in your heart, may you see the sacredness of the moving of His Spirit and may you have a willingness to prayerfully seek where God is calling you.

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In 1997, A. G. Wagar writes, “It was my privilege to be attending the Sharon Bible College in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada in 1948 when this Move of the Spirit began. So glorious and wonderful was God’s moving in that day and in the days that followed that words fail me in telling the tremendous impact it has had upon my life and the lives of all who have been touched by it. In the past forty years, I have had the joy of ministering in many places across Canada, the United States and overseas. I never cease to be amazed to observe how that from a small beginning, God has caused this move to reach to every part of the globe and to see the tremendous effects it has had and is having on all who have been touched by it”.

During the winter of 1946 and 1947, a group of young men and women attended Bethel Bible School, a denominational Bible school in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and during those winters, they enjoyed a rich moving of the Spirit of God that was equal to the spiritual level they were on. Many received the baptism of the Holy Spirit as they tarried and waited upon the Lord. As the close of the semester drew near, a deep sense of hunger for the deeper things of God resonated in many hearts. God opened their hearts to the tremendous power that exists in prayer and fasting. Many students and some of the faculty decided to give themselves to prayer and fasting. As the end of the school session neared, a vivid prophecy was given.

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. Hearts were filled with anticipation because somehow there was a sense that they were on the threshold of a new and glorious day.

Two things took place during the summer of 1947 that were very significant, providing a proper setting for the Move of the Spirit to happen. A spirit of division had been working behind the scenes, and after the school session had closed, evidence of this came out in the open. A great upheaval took place in both the Bible school and the denomination. The final outcome of this was that both principal Percy Hunt and school dean George Hawtin felt they could no longer minister within the confines of their denomination. So they withdrew from both the teaching in the school and their experience in the denomination. A door miraculously opened for them later that summer with Herrick Holt who was set to open a Bible school in North Battleford, Saskatchewan that was independent of any church affiliation.

It was discovered that there were abandoned airport buildings that were part of the Royal Air Force (RAF) Service Flying Training School in North Battleford. These buildings had been used during World War II and might be available. After investigating the possibility of their use and contacting the government authorities, a satisfactory agreement to obtain them was negotiated.

By September 1947, the Sharon Bible College was founded in North Battleford, and in October approximately 70 students gathered for the first semester which was to become the greatest and most wonderful semester any Bible college could ever have. There is no doubt that God selected that student body. They came from various places and backgrounds. Some had previously attended the Bible school in Saskatoon and had heard the prophecies of the revival that was to come.

Everyone came with oneness of heart and were filled with desire for something more than just being taught about God. The cry of their hearts was to come to know God and His Son Jesus Christ in a real and living way. It was felt that everyone was anticipating a great moving of the Spirit of God. Since this new Bible school was not affiliated with any denomination, there would be no hindrance to the moving of the Spirit due to forms, rituals and doctrines.

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There were several unsuccessful attempts to have scheduled teaching classes. Before they could be accomplished, the students who met would start singing a chorus that seemed to be on every heart, 'In Thee, Oh Lord, Do I Put My Trust.' It was prayerfully sung a few times, and then the glory of the Lord would come down upon them. It was a wonderful way to begin a school semester!. By the time the semester ended that April, the whole school, along with many others were singing, 'Wonderful, Wonderful Jesus' and those who were willing to put their trust in the Lord found out how wonderful Jesus really is. Praise the Lord.

When the school commenced classes, their general beliefs were based on what had been learned from the Pentecostal movement which included justification by faith, water baptism, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. From the beginning of that semester until the Christmas break, there was a rich moving of the Holy Spirit. Many tarried before the Lord and were baptized in the Spirit and spoke with other tongues. There was a wonderful teaching given by two of the brethren on the gifts of the Spirit, and most of the students responded with hunger and sought God earnestly for spiritual gifts in prayer and fasting.

After the Christmas holiday, classes resumed and the students went through quite a difficult and dry period. Students and teachers alike gave themselves over 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. 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 arose 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 and after that we all went to our own classrooms. Every heart was aglow with joy and thanksgiving for what God had just done, and there was great anticipation for what seemed to be just before us.

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 hearts were softened, 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, which I quote with reverence and respect as the Holy Spirit enables me to do so:

"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 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 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

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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 being interpreted correctly by those with the gift of interpretation 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 and 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. 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 baptized with the Holy Spirit. 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 rested upon the brethren and upon the people in every meeting. Everyone was convinced that this was a mighty move of God's Spirit.

When the Feast of Pentecost was over we had some measure of understanding as to why God had warned us about trying to tell people or write to them about what He was doing. The things of God and His mighty works cannot be conveyed by mere words. People only receive the wondrous things of God when they take part in the anointing that God gives them. These glorious truths and the working of His Spirit were so different to what the people knew at that time that it took the touch of the Spirit of God to convince them it was not heresy.

The first Sharon Camp took place in July 1948. Approximately 1,000 people came from coast to coast to bear witness to the moving of the Spirit, and God moved in a glorious way at this camp. There were supposed to be three meetings a day, but often the morning meeting went on all day and even into the late hours of the night. Prophecy flowed like a mighty river. Many gifts of the Spirit were in operation. There was body ministry beyond what anyone had ever witnessed before. Again, God moved, calling many to receive gifts of the Spirit. As God moved by His Spirit, He touched the sick, and they were healed. Once again the teaching on this new revealed truth came forth with mighty power and authority. The first few songs in the Spirit were sung in the understanding. Souls were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. It was a camp never to be forgotten as explained by this first person account.

“In those days, students and teachers, were in the Mount of God and received the pattern which we were to follow.

Word soon trickled out that God was moving in Northern Canada, and hundreds prepared themselves to journey north to see and hear what was going on. Some journeyed to scoff, others in curiosity and still others with a prayer and a strong hope that this would be the answer to the cry of their hearts.

I do believe that we were among that latter group. Oh, that God would again visit His people! Oh, that this generation might see and touch the supernatural!

In order that we might see and understand clearly, I am going to try to put on paper a true record of those days at the first camp meeting. As we proceed with the record of this camp as we saw it, we will touch upon all of these salient points. This is our first attempt to do this and we are praying that God will quicken it for His glory.

Upon arriving in the early afternoon of the first day of camp, in July 1948, we found that the afternoon meeting was already in progress. There was little or no activity outside. Everyone had entered the meeting hall. This we hastened to do also.

The atmosphere was one of expectancy as all eyes were upon the speaker. Only one man was upon the small platform which was about 8'x12' and approximately one foot high. This rather singular thing attracted our attention. There was only one man on the platform, and he was standing behind the simple pulpit.

In the past at conventions and camp meetings, we had always been used to seeing a large platform just crowded with preachers. Here was a camp meeting from which was to flow a message and a blessing that would rock the religious world; yet what simplicity! There was no showmanship, no outstanding song leader, no orchestra or choir and only one man at a time on the platform.

The only exception to this was when someone from the audience stepped up to the platform to say something. In most cases the one already at the position of the speaker would step aside. Yet, the first speaker remained on the platform to resume his charge. This simple act from the platform was the first thing that attracted our attention, and we honestly liked it.

The next thing that impressed us was the anointed and authoritative word of prophecy. The people prophesied as ones having authority. We ourselves, a year before in a trance, received a revelation of the gifts of the Spirit, and at that time uttered our first prophecies. Therefore we were greatly interested in the prophetic utterances.

We tried to be in the Spirit and impartial in judging them, and we

found a true witness with the utterances. The prophecies of the first camp meeting were not extravagant or unscriptural. They were powerfully uttered, yet stayed well within the scriptural attributes of prophecy. 1 Corinthians 14:3 states that prophecy is for "*edification and exhortation and comfort of men.*"

The first strong conviction that I wish to state is that God was mightily present at the camp meeting. One sensed His presence everywhere. This was apparent in the meetings, in the conversations of the people and in their actions.

Walking around the grounds, between the meetings, one would meet little groups talking. Joining them, one found a consistent topic of conversation. The farmers were having a bad year, but that was not their conversation, neither was it cars, tractors, houses or money. Rather, all were consumed with one subject, "the wonder of Jesus and what Jesus is doing." Hallelujah!

Quite early one morning (6:00 a.m.) I had occasion to cross through the men's dormitory for some water. The dorm was a lot of hay on the floor of a building. Lying all over the hay were men with their Bibles out, all expounding the wonders of what Jesus was doing. The general topic of nearly all this camp was 'Jesus.'

Oh, there were one or two spying out the land for its flaws, and of course they found some and did their best to magnify them. However, I do not believe they as much as stirred a ripple upon the waters. The worst thing they accomplished was the blinding of their own eyes to the sight of Jesus moving among men.

The same atmosphere was prevalent in the dining room. People overlooked the shortcomings of the meal arrangements because

they were so occupied with Jesus. Had it not been for such a spiritual presence, very few would have eaten at all in the dining room and would have done so without complaint.

I remarked to one of the leaders one night that one evidence I noticed of the grace of God among the people was the happy way the people took to the poor arrangements for handling food. As far as I know there were no complaints, yet there was plenty of room for them. To me that was wonderful. I thought that such grace had just about departed from the church of Christ.

At the first camp meeting, the life of prayer was much in evidence. Like most revivals and movements of God, this phase of ministry was carried out by students and the visitors. We are, however, thankful to God that there were very intense times of prayer.

The life of prayer was manifest before the meetings had commenced as well as after the meetings were officially dismissed. Early in the morning, the sound of people praying could be heard coming from the tabernacle. Upon entering the tabernacle, one was impressed by the spirit of people searching after God. There was little or no talking going on, and what was being done was in whispers. In different parts of the tabernacle, people could be seen on their knees with their hands outstretched up to heaven, giving God thanks and praise. Others were on their faces even to the ground, having their hearts searched before the Almighty. There were also many waiting upon the Lord with open Bibles before them, letting the anointing open the Scriptures to them.

When those who were responsible for the conducting of the service came in, the people would rise from prayer and usually the chorus, ‘Wonderful, Wonderful Jesus’ would start and the meeting commenced.

At the close of the morning meeting, many would refrain from eating. Again they would place themselves before the Lord. These would remain so before God until again they heard the words of 'Wonderful, Wonderful Jesus.' Some felt people pushing past them to the seats in such numbers that by this they knew the meeting was to commence again.

This same process was again repeated after the afternoon service was over and continued until the evening service. One readily saw that the meeting, thus bathed in prayer and praise, would have the presence of the Lord so apparent that it was little wonder one felt God in each meeting.

After the evening service was over, there was always a general call to prayer and for those seeking the baptism of the Holy Ghost. These night meetings were night prayer meetings indeed. It was extremely rare for me to retire before 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. due to such a calling upon God and so many staying to pray and to seek for the wonderful infilling of the Spirit.

This attitude of prayer did not once let up during the whole of the camp period. Day after day, morning, afternoon and evening the prayer continued. On the last Sunday night of the camp, it was five o'clock in the morning before we left the sanctuary of prayer and had the joy of seeing the last one seeking the baptism of the Holy Ghost, wonderfully filled. Praise the Lord!"

In October of that year, a Church convention was held in Edmonton, Alberta and the brethren from North Battleford were invited. The meetings followed along the same lines of the Feast of Pentecost and the summer camp. The Spirit of prophecy prevailed and God continued to use the brethren as a presbytery, praying over and prophesying gifts to those whom He indicated. It was in these

meetings that God anointed us with the Spirit of song.

One morning, as the whole congregation worshipped God in praise, the Spirit of song came upon the people, and they all with one accord began to hymn their praises. Like a mighty pipe organ their voices blended together in music unto the Lord. Words cannot describe that beautiful singing and how it edified. People that were passing by stopped and listened, and some came in. Unsaved people made their way to the altar and accepted Christ. Not only did the heavenly choir sing for the first time in our midst, but solos were also sung. They were new songs that had never been sung before and have never been sung since. This was the beginning of that wonderful singing in the Spirit that has been so much a part of this move ever since and has been such a blessing.

“A very outstanding thing happened in one of the meetings. The Holy Spirit miraculously moved upon the whole congregation, and we all began to sing in the Spirit. The words and melody were directed by the Holy Spirit. The sound was as a heavenly choir hymning their praise in perfect harmony. Some heard it from outside the building and described it as the sound of a mighty rushing wind. Solo parts were sung and blended with the whole congregation in perfect harmony. From a little distance outside, it was described as the sound of a master choir accompanied by a matchless symphony orchestra. The pianist, a woman who was accompanying all this singing, also played as inspired by the Spirit of God. It is difficult to credit such sound as being produced by human vocal chords. There was such perfect order, timing and harmony as the beautiful sounds came forth that one was forced to concede that there was an unseen conductor at work. It was a very sovereign ministry that came forth that day. From that day, scriptural, spiritual singing became part of our spiritual worship when the body of Christ, the Church, gathered together. O dear ones, let us keep this blessed gift from God alive in our worship to God as we edify one another when we meet together. There are many places in the

scriptures that encourage us to do this.

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:18-19).

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Colossians 3:16).

We are encouraged in the Psalms and elsewhere to sing a ‘new song,’ a song that was never sung before and may never be sung again.”

In November, a convention was held in Vancouver, British Columbia. People came from near and far to hear and see what God was doing. Many preachers attended with some coming from as far as Detroit, Michigan. They were elated with what they saw and experienced and went home testifying of the glory of it. All over Canada and the United States there was a tremendous stirring.

In February, 1949, the brethren received a call to minister at a ministers’ conference in Portland, Oregon. Preachers from all parts of the United States were present. God continued to move mightily by His Spirit. The brethren were called to meetings in Los Angeles, Oakland, St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit and many places in between. The revival spread very quickly.

At the 1949 camp meeting in North Battleford in July, an American brother who was a missionary in New Zealand came. This brother had just attended a world conference in Europe of the denomination he belonged to. He told us that the main topic talked about was this outpouring of the Holy Spirit in North Battleford. Yes, the news of what God was doing spread rapidly and all parts of the earth were touched by it. This brother entered in wonderfully, and he

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went back to New Zealand and Australia. For the next three years he walked in the revelation and taught it the way he had received it. These countries also witnessed tremendous revivals.

Revelation is something that is unfolding and ever-increasing. However, many ministries never saw this truth and did not continue with the truths that were given in 1948 and 1949. They not only failed to go on but they were also the cause of others getting bogged down and drawn away. This happened all over the world. Praise God there were many who never lost the vision, and God continues to bring them together.

Chapter 4

THE SPIRIT IS MOVING

This Move of the Spirit was not very old when the realization came that God was doing a new thing upon the face of the earth. The message He was revealing was that of the gospel of the kingdom, and by His Spirit, revelation was unfolding. Gifts of the Spirit were given so that ministries would spring forth and function in the body. The glorious truth of the coming together of the body of Christ was revealed. God also showed the order of its government and the truth concerning the restoration of apostles and prophets. They are the foundation that the Church is built upon with Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone. The order of the local church that is governed by elders was also restored. This will be the government that God will have for the world when He establishes His kingdom on the earth.

God revealed how He desires his people to walk on with Him, to partake of Christ who is life and to share in His life. We must always prayerfully seek after this because even in the days of Jesus, the people began to fall away. *“From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him”* (John 6:66).

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At the very beginning, God told us never to put a name on what He was doing. This is why it is only referred to as the 'Move of the Spirit.' However, by 1949 people across the country were referring to the Move of the Spirit as the Latter Rain.

God never named it that, nor did He stop there. He continued to unfold His plan and purpose as He unfolded His order. Many of our former beliefs were our own ideas and products of the carnal mind, and they had to go.

We know the multitudes wanted the loaves and fishes, but when it came right down to it, they didn't want the Giver. Christ didn't come just to make us emotionally happy. He also came to share His life and heritage with us and to unfold to us His plan, purpose and His wonderful order.

With His unfolding, many dropped away from the truth that God was revealing. Whenever God's plan interferes with a man-made plan, either the plan has to go or the person has to go. So, as it was when Christ, the Head, was here on the earth, so it is as God continues to prepare a body for Christ.

The Scriptures say, "*Many are called but few are chosen*" (Matthew 20:16). Jesus said, "*That ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you*" (John 15:16). "*They that are with the Lamb are the called, chosen, and faithful*" (Revelation 17:14) and "*it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful*" (1 Corinthians 4:2). Don't try to make a big name for yourself with anything God has given you. Just seek Him so that you will be found faithful.

God is building a people upon a solid foundation. Throughout the world there are many local churches governed by local elders and visited by the traveling ministries (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers). They all believe alike which has contributed to peace and unity in the church. When you really know Him, your desire is that you might hear His voice and feel His presence as you walk the straight and narrow way.

While there have been some very prominent brethren who God used mightily in the beginning of the move, some have missed the way and departed from it. Nevertheless, God moves on, building His temple and preparing that body for Christ.

God is not building on men. Paul realized that what was important to God was not Paul himself but the ministry that came down from heaven that was abiding within him and that he must yield to that ministry. That is why he said, *"I therefore so run, not as uncertainly, so fight I, not as one that beateth the air, but I keep my body under and bring it into subjection lest that by any means when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway"* (1 Corinthians 9:26-27).

We stand by the grace of God and not by any merit of our own. This is what God has called us into, a move of God's Spirit, preparing us for the kingdom of God. God is moving by His Holy Spirit, leading us ever onwards.

Chapter 5

THE REVIVAL OF NOW

In the February 1971 edition of the Sharon Star, Bro. Herrick Holt reflects on the events of 1948 and the order that God has established in the church.

In the year of the great outpouring of the Spirit here in North Battleford after months of seeking God with fasting and prayer, He said, *“At this time I will restore the nine gifts of the Spirit, and they will be received by prophecy and the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.”* This very thing happened to us as God said. That was the year 1948. Since that day, when hands are laid on people to receive spiritual gifts, the Spirit of God imparts the gift then and there. He, the Holy Ghost, never pours out contempt on the seekers, nor does He lay bare their sins. He comforts the hungry, covers their failures and gives them gifts that will allow them to minister as members of the body of Christ. I don't know how you can minister in the body of Christ when you don't know where you belong. If you long to know, I would advise that you ask God, for He will not give you a stone if you ask for bread.

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Miracles are born out of revivals, or the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Revivals are not miracles. They are the answer to prayer and seeking God to move by His Spirit and the complete doing away of all human programs. The Holy Spirit moves naturally through His people in a supernatural way.

God is never short. He is never without. He is never empty-handed. He will stand by whatever He has ordered, and keep whatever He has called, and none can stop Him. Shipwreck is usually made when plans are man-made. Spiritual things are eternal to a thousand generations. To have immutable guidance assures one of a safe passage.

The outpouring of 1948 continues to grow and doors are gradually opening, especially in the foreign fields. There are countless thousands on the earth today who have never known what it is to know where they belong in God. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is wonderful, speaking in tongues is wonderful, spiritual gifts are wonderful too. They are the life-giving media used by the Holy Spirit to work the works of God in the living body of Christ.

This is the thrilling thing, *"God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers ..."* (1 Corinthians 12:28). God has set the order for His own building.

God has set in the church, some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers. Here is the purpose for this ministry. *"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying the body of Christ, till we come in unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"* (Ephesians 4:12-13). No human machine can ever produce this, but thousands of those who have experienced new birth and the infilling of His Spirit, will.

With just the above, this great order could never be implemented without the following. "At this time I will restore the nine gifts of the Spirit and they will be received by prophecy and the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."

When you are ready to be prayed over for spiritual gifts, God indicates. When this happens, your gifts are made known, and by the power of a spiritual gift they are told. If the Holy Spirit indicates that you will have the gift of prophecy, you will be able to prophesy immediately. These gifts are for now.

Paul said, "*Concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.*" He said to them, "*You know, you were carried away by dumb idols and got your direction by them...*" We can say the same thing again today. You know this thing that man has cut out of wood and stone demands your life, but the life that Paul speaks of must be in every member of the body of Christ. "*The manifestation is given to every man to profit withal. One may have the word of wisdom, to another knowledge, to another faith, to another healing, to another miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different languages, to another interpretation of languages, but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will*" (1 Corinthians 12:1-11).

Now we see that all believers have a part, and the lesser vessel must also be given abundant honour. When will all this come about? All that I have already told you is now coming to pass. Hundreds have been prayed over and know where they belong, and what are their ministries. The ministries of all believers are the outgrowth of their gifts. It is a man's gift that will make room for him. It is a man's gift that God tells him to stir up. It is a man's gift that he must wait on. The ministry of the man will appear. This ministry becomes his life. A

man's spiritual gifts become as much a part of him as do his eyes. Some of these gifts will work when a local church meeting is called, some are for private, and others to all in general.

There is no sickness or trouble greater than the gifts and ministries of the church. The church has its own God-designed financial order. It has no need to beg, and where it is in force there is plenty to care for all needs. God saves men of every walk of life to fulfill His purpose. The church does not need the world's help, but the world needs the church's help.

Those in charge of the local church are local elders. There could be local prophets and teachers in the local church, but they are under the headship of the local elders. The elders are set in office for life just as a father is over his home. It would be an unsettling situation if, when he came home one day, his family announced he had to move on because they had another father and husband. He's in for life. Death alone breaks his authority over his home.

There is the elder over the home, the father. There are fathers over every local church, the elders. There are fathers over the universal church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, evangelists and pastors. God has set this order and this is the way it will be. Nothing can change it, for nothing else will work. This is set by the double oath, giving two immutable things, or two things that are changeless; God cannot lie and He swore an oath to do it.

You may ask about the thing you are in, and where does it fit. This I can't tell, for I don't know, but this one thing I do know; everything that can be shaken will be shaken and only that which can't be shaken will remain (Hebrews 12:27). There were lots of rafts and small boats at the time of the flood, but judgment was on. What the water didn't

drown, hunger and thirst did. There was no escape.

The church is that ark of God and the gates of hell can't prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). If you are in your own boat, find His ark of safety. None need wonder about God's ark for His Spirit will make alive now, in you, the power of spiritual gifts and ministries. His Spirit will become such a Guide that you will ever wonder why you walked so far away being directed by creeds and dogmas and do's and don'ts of men. He will bring life and immortality to light.

May God richly bless you as you diligently seek His face and as you live a life in the service of others.

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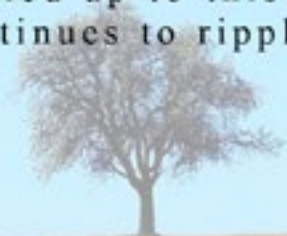
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THIS MOVE OF THE SPIRIT

In the early spring of 1948, a bible school in a small city in Western Canada, received a heavy anointing that fell on the students who were burdened with prayer and fasting. What followed was a refreshing experience of the moving of the Holy Spirit that revealed truths to the church as part of God's unfolding plan for mankind.

This book recalls the events that led up to this revival, and how God's touch continues to ripple throughout the world.



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