

(The story of Mrs. M. B. Woodworth-Etter is inspiring and timely for our present hour. God took His handmaiden through a time of testing and sorrow while she was prepared for the great work she was to do. In few ministries has the power of the Spirit been more obviously manifested. Soon after she was called to preach, the Lord led her into a mighty healing ministry, and her meetings are still remembered by those old enough to recall the first two decades of this century. Her book, "MARVELS AND MIRACLES," enjoyed a wide circulation, but so far as we know at the present time, it is no longer published, and is not obtainable at any bookstore.)

I WAS BORN in New Lisbon, Ohio, July 1, 1844. My mother and father joined the Disciple Church one year before my father's death, which occurred in July, 1855. The death of my father was the first great sorrow of my life. He had gone to harvest in usual health. I will never forget when he was brought home, cold in death. Some neighbor children and I were out watching a terrible storm raging, when we saw two strangers approaching the house. They came to bring the sad intelligence of what had happened. It was a terrible blow to our young hearts to see our father carried into the house cold and stiff in death. Father died of sunstroke; he was sick only a few hours, and died praying for the whole family.

Conversion

At the age of thirteen I attended a meeting of the Disciple Church. When I heard the story of the Cross my heart was filled with the love of Jesus, but I did not get converted then. The next day, as they took me down to the creek to baptize me, there was a great crowd around. It scared me a little; so I asked the Lord to save me fully, trusting myself into His hands. While going through the water, a light came over me, and I was converted.

Soon after I was converted, I heard the voice of Jesus calling me to go out into the highways and hedges and gather in lost sheep. I had never heard of women working in public except as missionaries, so I could see no opening. A few years after this I married Mr. Woodworth.

Early Sorrows and Trials

A number of years passed when the angel of death came again to our home and took away our baby, Freddie, and at the same time I lay for weeks between life and death. In all this I could see the Hand of the loving Father calling me to leave all and follow Him. About this time, our little daughter, Georgie, was converted. She was about seven years old, and was a great comfort to me. Many happy times we enjoyed talking together of the beautiful home over the river, where her brother had gone. I did not think she would leave me so soon to join their ranks and raise her voice with theirs in singing salvation to our God. She was taken sick with scrofula, and lingered about eight

months. For weeks before she died, her face was all lighted up with the glory of God. She was willing to go and be with Jesus, but it seemed hard for her to leave me. She said, "Mama, I cannot die unless you promise to meet me in heaven." I said, "Georgie, by the Grace of God I will meet you in heaven." She said, "Now I am ready; I know you will come, mama; I shall always be looking for you."

Three weeks before her death, little Gertie was born. She was the picture of Georgie and seemed to have her sweet disposition. I thought as she grew older she would take her place; but the precious bud was not permitted to bloom in this world of sin. At the age of four months, the angels bore her away where the flowers never fade nor die, there to join her sister and brothers. I could say with David, they cannot come back to me, but I will go to them.

Visions of Heaven

From the time of these sad occurrences which have just been narrated, my health was very poor, and many times I was brought near the brink of the grave. Every one who saw me thought I was going to die. But the work of the Lord was calling me, and when I seemed to be hovering between life and death, I would have glorious visions.

At one time, I was praying for the salvation of sinners, and the Saviour appeared on the Cross by me, and talked with me; I laid my hand on His mangled body, and looked up in His smiling face. Another time, as I was meditating upon the love of God in giving His only Son to die for sinners, and of the beautiful home He was preparing for those that love Him, I seemed to float away, and was set down in the Beautiful City. Oh, the glorious sight that met my view, can never be expressed by mortal tongue! Heaven is located. It is a real city. Its inhabitants are real and not imaginary. If mothers could see their children as I saw them, in all their shining glory, they would never weep for them, but would leave all and follow Jesus. They would let nothing keep them from meeting their children in heaven. I can never think of children as being in the grave. Oh, no! The loved form that we laid away in the cold grave is nothing but the casket that contained the jewel which is now shining in the Saviour's Crown.

All these years God had been preparing me—for I was not willing. I felt like a worm in His sight. It seemed impossible for me to undertake the work of salvation of souls; but the time had come to promise or die. I promised God that if He would restore my health, and prepare me, and show me the work, I would try to do it; I began to get better immediately.

The Perishing of Multitudes

We moved to a Friends settlement. They had glorious meetings. God seemed to say to me, "I brought you here to go to work." Now the struggle commenced. I was timid and bound with chains in a man-fearing

SKETCHES FROM . . .

MARVELS and In The Life of Mrs. M.



Sister Woodworth-Etter

spirit. When I arose to testify I trembled like a leaf, and I began to make excuses—"O, God, send someone else." Then the Lord in a vision caused me to see the bottomless pit, open in all its horrors and woe. There was weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. It was surrounded by a great multitude of people who seemed unconscious of their danger, and without a moment's warning they would tumble into this awful place. I was above the people on a narrow plank-walk, which wound up toward heaven; and I was exhorting and pleading with the people to come upon that plank and escape that awful place. Several started. There was a beautiful bright light above me, and I was encouraging them to follow the light and they would go straight to heaven. The Lord was showing in many ways that I must go and perform the work He had for me to do.

I still delayed, although several ministers whom I had never seen before, told me at different times that God was calling me to the ministry, and that I would

MIRACLES

B. Woodworth-Etter

Told By Herself, Condensed from
"Marvels and Miracles"

have to go. Then my little Willie took sick, and in a few days he was in heaven. He died very happy, but this sad bereavement nearly took my life. When alone, I missed my darling so much that I wept as though my heart would break. Lizzie, our oldest child, aged sixteen, was all we had left of six sweet children.

In all these trials God was preparing me and opening the way for the great battle against the enemy of souls: and now the great desire of my heart was to work for Jesus. The glory of the Lord came upon me like a cloud, and I seemed to be carried away hundreds of miles and set down in a field of wheat, where the sheaves were falling all around me. I was filled with zeal and power and felt as if I could stand before the whole world and plead with dying sinners. Then Satan would come and I would think of my weakness and say, "No, of course I cannot do it." Again I would be in darkness and despair.

Baptism of the Holy Ghost

Then I asked God to give me the power He gave the Galilaean fishermen—to anoint me for service. I came like a child asking for bread. I looked for it; God did not disappoint me. The power of the Holy Ghost came down as a bright cloud. It was brighter than the sun. I was covered and wrapped up in it. My body was as light as the air. It seemed that heaven came down. I was baptized with the Holy Ghost, and fire, and power, which has never left me. It is through the Lord Jesus Christ, and by this power that I have stood before hundreds of thousands of men and women, proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Christ.

God Used Women

As I continued to read my Bible I saw that in all ages of the world, the Lord raised up of His own choosing, men, women and children—Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Anna, Phoebe, the Marys and the sisters who were coworkers with Paul in the Gospel. The more I investigated, the more I found to condemn me. By the prophet Joel we learn that one special feature of the Gospel Dispensation shall be "Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; and also upon the servants and upon the handmaidens in those days will I pour out my spirit." It seems by the Prophet Joel that the last days were to be particularly conspicuous for this kind of prophesying.

The First Meeting

The first meeting that I undertook to

hold was in a little town where we had lived some years before, right among my husband's people. It was a cross for me to talk to those people; but when I began to talk upon the subject "Set thy house in order, for thou shalt die and not live," the man-fearing spirit left me, and the words came to me faster than I could give them utterance. We continued the meeting for a few days and people were converted all through the neighborhood. The power came on me as it did when I received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Let me say for the encouragement of those who are starting in the work of the Lord, God has promised to be with us always, even to the end. It is "not by might . . . but by My Spirit, saith the Lord." God will give us the victory every time, but we must claim the victory by faith, before the walls fall. (Josh. 6:20.)

Gods' Power Manifested in Blessing and Judgment

After many invitations, we went to Hartford City about the first of January, 1885, to the Methodist Church. The church was cold and formal and I knew it would take a wonderful display of God's power to convince the people: so I prayed for God to display His power that the sinner might know that God lives. The Lord answered our prayers in a remarkable manner. People fell under the power of God. Many wept; some shouted and divers operations of the Spirit were seen. Men, women and children were struck down in their homes, in their places of business, and lay as dead. They had wonderful visions, and arose converted, giving glory to God. The fear of God fell upon the city.

One man was mocking a woman, of whose body God had taken control. She was preaching with gestures. When in the mocking attitude God struck him dumb. He became rigid and remained with his hands up, and his mouth drawn in a mocking way for five hours—a gazing-stock for all the house. The fear of God fell on all. They saw it was a fearful thing to mock God or make fun of His work. The Cincinnati Enquirer sent a reporter to write up the meetings and report daily. Every day newsboys could be heard crying out, "All about the Woodworth Revival."

Ministry of Healing

The Lord showed me while in Columbia City, Indiana, in the spring of 1885, that I had the gifts of healing and of laying on hands for the recovery of the sick. At first I could not understand that it was the Spirit of God that was leading me. For three nights when I was almost dead for rest, I lay awake. I thought that if I should preach divine healing I would neglect the salvation of souls. The Lord showed me that He would take care of the work. When I made the promise I would pray for the sick if He would send them in, I had perfect rest of mind and soul. From this time on God began to lead me to teach divine healing and pray for the sick. In the years that have intervened

since, God has healed thousands of all manner of diseases and thousands have been brought to Christ by seeing the sick healed.

The Spirit of Prophecy—San Francisco Earthquake

While holding meetings in California, the Lord showed me that a great destruction and an earthquake was coming. Soon after, the papers were ablaze with pictures of the awful earthquake and holocaust in San Francisco, and the surrounding country. I had told them God always sends mercy, and that they would be visited next with destruction and judgment. The earthquake soon followed and the fear of God came on those who remembered the prophecy. Both prophecies were fulfilled in a week, and I lived to walk over the ruins.

Vision of the Coming of Christ

On March 24, 1904, when I fell under the operation of the power of God, while praying for the healing of the last one at the altar, I saw the Saviour on the Cross, and sinners coming to Him. I saw steps leading across the pearly gates of heaven. All who plunged into the fountain were at once placed upon the steps. Each one carried a light that grew brighter as they went higher. There was not a spot or a defilement on their robes. Each one had a body-guard of angels of God escorting them on the upward journey. At the top of the steps were pearly gates, where the heavenly hosts waited to welcome the Pilgrims of earth.

I also saw the world in great darkness, and that the saints were few. "Many are called but few are chosen." Many were under conviction, but trusted to water baptism, to confirmation, to church membership; but unless they are carrying the light of God they are worse than an open sinner.

I saw preparation in heaven and earth for the Soon Coming of Christ. Heaven seemed to be in a commotion. The Lord was marshaling His hosts; getting the horses and chariots ready. The armies of heaven were moving, the gates were open. An angel came out of the gates blowing a great trumpet, the Saviour taking the lead, with all the glory of heaven, shouting to the saints in a loud voice, that awakened the dead.

The Lord showed me He was judging His saints, separating the wheat from the tares; the household of faith was getting its portion of meat in this, God's due season. The angel was sealing the last ones of the members of the Bride, with the seal of the living God. They were a little flock and the last one would soon be sealed, then the Lord would come in a cloud of glory to take His bride to the Marriage Feast, or Supper.

God help all who read this vision to take this warning and repent, for the Judgment of God is at hand.

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Notice Foreign Lands and Latin America

The Osborn-Lindsay party and possibly Rev. Wilbur Ogilvie are contemplating going this winter to Jamaica, Cuba, West Indies, Mexico and other Latin-American countries in a great missionary tour to bring the message of deliverance. We are receiving many calls both from the countries mentioned and many other foreign lands. Others interested may write GORDON LINDSAY, BOX 4097, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA. Please state building facilities available and local regulations that might be involved in proclaiming this ministry of deliverance.

Thelma Nickel at Elkhart, Indiana

The sick came for miles to be prayed for in Elkhart, some as far as 200 miles. Many were the testimonies of deliverance. One sister, after being prayed for, went down the street shouting. She testified that for three days she was walking on air. She had a limb that was shorter than the other. During the time of rejoicing, her limb lengthened to its normal length. Many others were healed and saved.

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Marvels and Miracles

(Continued from Page 5)

Her Vision of the Unity of the Church

It was marvelous in our meetings how the Lord brought the different missions together. I never permit doctrinal points or any "isms" or antagonistic points to be aired or brought up in the meetings; nothing but Christ and Him crucified, and the Resurrection. They soon understand and get their eyes off one another, and forget their ideas and differences and begin to love one another and soon feel the need of getting deeper in God.

Many received gifts and special calls. One night the conviction was so deep that scores of believers came out from the audience requesting the laying on of hands and prayer. There were too many to be prayed for individually. So the Lord showed me if they would all come and stand before the pulpit, He would bless them; I told hungry souls to gather around and give themselves to God for everything and anything; we would stand and sprinkle the Blood of the Everlasting Covenant on them, and then God would pour out His Spirit and give them blessings and gifts. I asked several of the most God-filled ministers to stand with me in faith and prayer! Oh, it was wonderful how the cloud of glory and power came down! Many staggered and fell; the power swept all over the house. This was something new; no one had ever seen anything like it. Many were saved and healed.

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