

The Staff and The Sword Ministry

Walking with Jesus

WALKING WITH JESUS

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Part 2 THE THREE DAY & THREE NIGHT WALK THROUGH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS (September 9, 1976 to September 11, 1976)

PROLOGUE

In 1976, Jesus asked me (Chuck-JOHNEL) and another brother in Christ (Cliff Collins) to cut A STAFF from a local woods and then to walk three days and three nights through Chicago, Illinois on foot.

We were to begin this walk at the door of Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Plaines, Illinois (just north of Chicago) and continue on to walk through the city of Chicago. We were to end this walk where we began it: at Trinity Lutheran Church.

*Here follows a portion of our notes about the Three Day and Three Night Walk that was originally published in Chapter 7 ("Three Days and Three Nights", pgs. 115–143) of the now out-of-print book, **The Staff and The Sword** (The Staff and The Sword Ministry, 1979). The text has been condensed [some portions that appeared in the book are not included here] and corrected only to clarify context. Some headings that did not appear in the book have been included for clarification.*

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THREE DAYS & THREE NIGHTS

[QUOTE]

“We are fools for Christ’s sake . . .” (I Corinthians 4:10 NAS).

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” (II Corinthians 12:9 NAS).

THE FIRST DAY

September 9, 1976 (Thursday, 7:55 a.m.)

After we had finished a generous breakfast, [on Jesus’ direction] we [Cliff and I] emptied our wallets and pockets of money and started out the doors of Trinity Lutheran Church. The ground was wet as it was the first rainfall in some three weeks. The day looked dreary as we picked up our knapsacks full of tracts, water, olive oil, and our Bibles and walked to the front of the Church.

We prayed at the door of Trinity and the Lord gave us Matthew Chapter 10 as our first Scripture. We noticed it also confirmed the Lord’s instructions, except He told us to take the Staff along. We planned to stop at intervals to rest and to read Scriptures as the Holy Spirit directed.

We knew that Jesus was sending us walking to “SEE” something and to “EXPERIENCE” something. We were of the opinion that this was our graduation exercise as prophets of the Lord. We did not suspect that this was just “basic training”. We obeyed Him to the letter and carried no food, no money, and no extra clothing.

Filled with fantastic joy, gladness, and light of the Lord we strolled along, Staff in hand knowing the kind of freedom that comes with obedience to God. We rejoiced in Jesus’ wonderful love. Cliff’s dad had laid down a requirement that he call home every night to let his mother know that he was well, so Cliff was looking for a dime as we walked along.

The Lord reminded us of His instructions—to ask no one for our needs, but to ask Him alone. He put it on our hearts to submit lovingly to the authority of whatever home we were welcomed into. As we walked past block after block of well-kept homes, there was a stillness about them, no movement within could be seen and there were no people outside. They seemed locked up with fear; so many houses containing dead people—they were like tombs.

On our next break the Lord gave us Isaiah 24 to read.

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It seemed odd, it was raining and the message was drought. The Lord showed us that sight was deceiving and that we must go by faith.

We arrived at St. Anselm's Episcopal Church in Park Ridge, Illinois where Rev. John offered us some hot coffee and then insisted that we take his rain gear (which was an army parka)—we happily accepted it. Rev. John gave us his blessings and we went on. We were thankful for the parka when it began to rain harder, though our shoes were soaking wet. We enjoyed a fellowship with the Lord that is hard to describe. Though we did not mention this to each other until the third day, we both clearly saw Jesus, just in front of us. Even when we did not see Him, we knew He was always there.

In Evanston, we stopped in a small park to rest and drink some water, when Jesus told us to go to the church and pray. We argued, that *"It won't be open now"*, but Jesus gently repeated His command so we walked to the Church across the street, go to the doors and find that they are locked tight. We tried all the doors, but none were open.

The Lord gave us Titus 3:1–8.

A girl's high school was letting out and we had a chance to give away a good number of tracks. Jesus led us to go into another Church and pray, but it was also locked up tight. Later we came to a very grand Church. The Lord told us to go in and pray, but those doors were also locked.

The Lord gave us II Kings 14.

In contrast, we had walked by the house of a trance medium whose door was wide open with flashing red lights. The Devil was open for business, while the Church was closed, cold and dead.

By this time, my feet were blistered from the wet shoes and the walking, and Cliff's legs were sore and stiff. We were both worn out and had at least another hour's walk before we would arrive at the Jesus People USA House. More and more, we were leaning on the staff, which is also representative of the Lord Jesus.

We were in what might be called a "bad neighborhood" walking slowly and painfully, when a teenage gang of ethnics turned the corner and moved in a body, shoulder-to-shoulder, straight towards us. They numbered about 15 young men, and covered the whole sidewalk and the grass on the curb. They feigned preoccupation, by talking to each other, but were aware of us. I figured that they would probably jostle us, at the least—but we could not move out of their way for our feet and legs were weary. When

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they were about ten paces away from us, an Angel of the Lord suddenly appeared between us and them, with a flaming sword in his hand. The moment the Angel appeared, every young man in that gang stopped talking, looked up with fearful eyes and parted to either side of the Angel.

Although Cliff had not seen the Angel, he noticed the sudden change in manner and expression. We both walked right behind the Angel, through the crowd with plenty of shoulder room. Once past them the Angel vanished. The gang moved together again, and did not dare look back.

We had missed lunch, but were not hungry when we arrived at the Jesus People House about 4:30 p.m. As we came up the walk, a brother in the Lord stuck his head out of the window and called, “Praise the Lord brothers, you’re just in time for supper!”

Cliff did not find a dime during the day, nor did we see a telephone at the Jesus People House. We bunked down in the men’s dorm a bit early, for we were still hurting from blisters and sore muscles. Before going to sleep, Cliff remembered that he hadn’t called his mother, and asked Jesus: *‘Take care of mother so she doesn’t worry—thank you Lord.’*

THE SECOND DAY

September 10, 1976 (Friday, 7:40 a. m.)

We had hoped that the Lord would heal our feet and legs by morning and though they were indeed much better, they were still sore. We ate breakfast at the Jesus People House, and remembered to “put our peace on the house”. At 7:40 a.m. we set off, limping as we went. The day was cool and clear, with no threatening clouds, and was warming up fast.

The Lord gave us John 3:1–22.

Again, we both saw Jesus walking before us—slowing down as we slowed down. We did not tell each other until the third day because we thought the other would feel badly not having seen Jesus. The Lord would look back at us with a glance, a beaming smile—Oh, what a joy He is!

To walk was painful but not impossible. Cliff’s legs were stiff and very sore, my feet were blistered—it was like walking on air bubbles of tingling pain. . . .

We continued our trek southwest on Archer Ave. in Chicago.

It was warm by now—very warm. Our water was running low, our physical strength was ebbing and

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the discomfort and soreness was taking a steady toll. We realized this was a small parallel to what the next three years would be like for us and the Body of Christ, the Church.

We reached the junction at Archer Ave. and the Dan Ryan overpass at 12:45 p.m., when Cliff just plain collapsed. His legs gave out and he lay on the concrete median under the expressway overpass. I was in no shape to carry him, we had no money, and I couldn't leave him as we were in the middle of nowhere. Cliff told me he couldn't move and that he was finished. We prayed and the Holy Spirit reminded me of Isaiah: 40:31: *"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength: they shall mount up with wings as eagles: they shall run and not be weary: they shall walk and not faint."*

Cliff was likewise given a similar scriptural understanding, but to us at the moment, it seemed fanciful in a grim situation. The Lord told me to anoint Cliff's legs with oil and to pray for a healing—I did. Cliff was led to do the same to my legs. I began thinking to myself that I had better see if I could thumb a ride. With my staff in hand, I moved to cross the street . . .

[Here, in the next several paragraphs, Cliff is speaking]: I [Cliff] was lying flat on my back looking at the sky, praising God and crying tears. I knew the Lord had sent us, yet I could not take another step. I tried, but my legs would not work—they were numb with pain. The Lord told Chuck to anoint my legs with oil and pray, and for me to do the same for Chuck. As I rested, I saw the Lord Jesus Christ standing there. He turned His back toward me and walked across the street. At the same time, Chuck got up and started to follow behind the Lord. I was lying there saying: "Lord Jesus, don't leave me here". Miraculously, I found the strength to stand and follow the Lord.

Chuck and I kept going and we were still following the Lord thirty blocks later, but by this time under the power of the Holy Spirit and not under our own physical strength. The pain, the soreness, the discomfort did not disappear, but we were filled with such a joy by the Holy Spirit that the physical misery faded away. Satan had taunted us before this, telling us we would injure ourselves—permanently—now we laughed at him out of the knowing joy of the Lord that blessed us so mightily. At this moment, we could understand how Paul could be whipped, bloodied, tossed into a cell and still sing hymns of praise to the Lord, counting it joy to suffer for Him. We were living that experience and tasting His wonderful joy.

The Lord gave us Isaiah 58:3–11.

[Now Chuck-JOHNEL is speaking again:] We now walked along a stretch of Archer Ave. that was as desolate as you could imagine. An endless row of abandoned buildings lined the sidewalk. Broken

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glass and windblown papers covered the walkway. There were no people on the street and no traffic in sight. The sun was hot. We asked the Lord for some water—our canteen was almost empty.

Five minutes later, I noticed a trickle of water running down the gutter. Crunching over the broken glass we noticed the fire hydrant just ahead. The cap was off and water was running out of it like a babbling brook. We filled our canteen, refreshed ourselves, and went on—not realizing what the Lord had done. In all the 70 miles we covered in those three days, that was the only fire hydrant that had the cap off and had water running out of it. . . .

The Lord gave us Luke 4:1–15.

Cliff returned [from talking with his parents on the phone] and we continued walking south on Western Ave. towards Blue Island. Cliff told me about his talk with his mother. His parents arrived home from work only minutes before his phone call and were about to leave for a weekend in Wisconsin. Cliff's mother asked: "*What time did you get home last night?*" Cliff told her that we had arrived at the Jesus People House at about 4:30 p.m. yesterday. Again, she asked the same question and Cliff responded the same. Round and round it went until Cliff asked, "*What do you mean?*" His mother then explained that she had looked into his room that morning to see how he was and had seen him sleeping soundly. She had shut the door so as not to disturb him. It appears the Lord sent one of His Angels to "sleep in" for him so his mother wouldn't worry. Praise the Lord!

As we distributed more and more tracts our shyness faded. Even more wonderful, we began to experience Jesus' love for people and were blessed by this. Over and over, it became apparent that it was not us reaching out to them, but Jesus within us. His love is so perfect and pure that one is filled with sparkling delight.

The Lord gave us Romans 13:14.

Jesus spoke to me and said: "**STAY AT THE MONASTERY TONIGHT.**" I couldn't imagine what the Lord meant, for there was no monastery in Blue Island to my knowledge.

The Lord gave us Romans 8:31–39.

At about 5:35 p.m., we reached 119th and South Western Ave. with about 11 city blocks to walk before we arrived at our destination, the Upper Room in Blue Island, Illinois. We continued to rejoice in His unlimited joy and peace. His love overcomes all pain, all trials and tribulations. My heart was

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screaming joyful praises to our King, Jesus Christ. His presence was with us, was going before us, and had not ceased since we began.

The Lord gave us Revelation 11:1–14.

We stopped for a rest at 126th and south Western Ave., about 6:10 p.m. The way was hard but full of joy—every other step was becoming more difficult, but possible with Jesus. We realized that we must give to the limit of our endurance for Him, and to trust Jesus to empower us when our strength fails. Also, going out in twos was a blessing for every now and then when one would become discouraged, grumble or think it impossible, the other would be of courage and joy, and know all things were possible with God. Thus, we kept going, one helping the other through his low moments.

We now recognized clearly a distinct parallel between the number of days we were walking and the number of years ahead of us. There is a price to be paid if one will walk with Jesus.

We arrived at the Upper Room meeting place in Blue Island, Illinois early and were met by Brother John. Brother John took us out to a nearby restaurant and bought us supper—his fellowship had met and decided to pay for our meal. John looked at us and said: “I talked it over with the priests today and rather than let you sleep on the floor at the meeting place, we would like you to come and stay with us at St. Rita’s Monastery [in Chicago]. I responded, “Even before you asked, Jesus told me to say yes.”

Brother John drove us to St. Rita’s Monastery. We had private rooms with showers and were utterly delighted. For me, it was far more than a place to sleep, it was a sweet gift of God. St. Rita’s was my home Church. It was there that I was baptized as a baby, received my first Holy Communion, and spent eight years of grammar school. Since a number of my family was displeased that I’d become a Lutheran, this was both an honor and a blessing from the Lord for obeying Him.

We gave a tithe of \$1.00 to St. Rita’s Monastery from the gifts given at the Upper Room.

In night prayers, the Lord began to deal with me, bringing to mind all we had seen. The wrath of God was indeed coming. My trying to ignore the facts would not change the facts. Jesus showed me that His Grace abounds, that Mercy awaits and that there is Hope—if we are bold in His Name, if we drive the enemy before us in Jesus’ Name.

The Lord gave us Philippians 4:4.

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THE THIRD DAY

September 11, 1976 (Saturday, 7:00 a.m.)

We rose and limped downstairs to join the priests for breakfast, a sumptuous fare. Brother John tried to talk us into riding with him to our destination in La Grange, Illinois. However, while we dearly appreciated his concern, we had our marching orders from Jesus. He did drive us from St. Rita's back to the Upper Room Meeting Place in Blue Island at 130th and south Western Ave. From there, we set off from there at 8:15 a.m.

We were refreshed by sleep and food, but the blisters were painfully worse and our legs not much better, as we resumed our now customary "painful trek". As we walked, we were led to pray for the salvation of the lost in this city, this nation and this world.

We stopped at 119th Street near a cemetery. While looking over the many headstones, the Lord impressed on us not to judge by appearances. I remembered a verse about whitewashed tombs and Cliff found Matthew 23:27. Afterwards, the Lord gave us the whole chapter of Matthew 23. We understood that our nation appears well, looks good on the outside—much like the tombs—but God sees within, and all is full of deadmen's bones, foulness, and corruption.

We were near Merrionette Park suburb, moving west on a highway, when traffic made it necessary for us to move to the gravel shoulder, causing considerable pain due to the blisters. The more we went, the more we needed to lean on and depend on the staff—which represents Jesus our Lord. We stopped at 111th and Kedzie at 10:00 a.m.

The Lord gave us Jeremiah 14.

Carolyn, from Trinity, shouted a goodly "Praise the Lord" and gave us a big hug. She shared that Jesus had told her this morning to come join us—and after an hour ride, she found us to be on schedule. We rejoiced, for the Lord had clearly answered our call long before we prayed.

"And it shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." (Isaiah 65:24 KJV).

We stopped at a Cal's for lunch. As we walked in the door, I heard a voice and turned to see my mother walking towards us. Carolyn, full of the Holy Spirit, smiled and said: *"It's so nice to see a mother's face!"* Mom, at that, turned visibly pale—then greeted us and joined us for lunch.

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Mom wanted to give us some money, but couldn't find her wallet. Later, when she got into the car, she found the wallet on the car seat. She concluded we were not to be given any money. My parents have and have not approved of my serving God in this manner—that Mother showed up at all, surprised and delighted me. It would take the passing of a month for me to discover why Mom “turned white”.

Neither of my parents understood what I meant by: “Jesus said”, or “the Lord told me”. A few times they became visibly irritated, which was not my intent. On Saturday, September 11, 1976, Jesus spoke to my mother telling her to go see us. Mother later told Dad that “she knew it was Jesus, the voice came from within; and although she knew she didn't have to obey, she wanted to obey”. She remarked how “clear and distinct” His voice was. When Mother got ready to go, she left a note for Dad saying: “*I've gone to show my face.*” When Carolyn said: “*It's so nice to see a mother's face*”, it stunned Mom.

Our God is something else—what a joy to serve Him!

We returned to our walk. This time it was the three of us : Cliff, Caroline, and me. . . .

If we had not known that Jesus sent us, we would not have gone. Save for the Holy Spirit's empowerment, we would not have been able to continue. Now in the last five miles, we know that of ourselves, we could not have made it. Because of the loving support of the Church, our families, we won't stop: we will arrive. . . .

We arrived at Solomon's Porch House in La Grange, Illinois at 8:44 p.m. There was a gathering to hear about some of what we had seen and experienced. The first elder (Ray) would later in the evening wash our feet as the Lord instructed him. We would eat, and then after prayer, settle down for the night. Jesus told us to count all the remaining money. It came to exactly \$7.77.

It was very cold that night in the Solomon's Porch House. We had no covers and shivered most of the night. We would learn the significance of that “cold night” as relative to our prayer group's response to our ministry.

THE DAY AFTER

September 12, 1976 (Sunday)

We rose early and enjoyed a breakfast with the men who live at the Solomon's Porch House. One brother in the Lord (Bill) arrived and we rode with him to Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Plaines, Illinois. We arrived about 10:30 a.m. and waited outside for the first service to end. While waiting, several people came up to us who didn't belong to Trinity's Congregation, but who had heard about the

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walk. We chatted with a number of them.

The Lord gave us Psalm 36.

The sky was cloudless, clear and bright blue, just like the day I'd seen in the 1973 earthquake vision. . . . The service ended and the Church ushers opened the outside doors. We stood just outside and could see straight to the altar. The two pastors were walking down the aisle and noticed us. With the Staff, we attended the 11 a.m. service. We talked with the Prayer Elders for awhile, but were not at all comfortable standing on our weary legs. . . .

At trip's end we had exactly 62-cents remaining of the gifts received on the walk—which we divided equally. We placed no significance on this at the time, but noted it, since the Lord had spoken of it.

REVIEWING THE ROUTE

September 13, 1976 (Monday)

On Monday, September 13, both of us were still on vacation. We drove again over the route we had followed and made some notes. We noted that out of the 70 miles we covered, we were given rides for 8 miles and walked 62 miles!

During the next several days the Lord gave us these additional Scriptures: Psalm 105, Isaiah 4, Isaiah 1, and Zephaniah 2.

“Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee.” (Deuteronomy 8:2 KJV).

Notes:

- SOLOMON'S PORCH was a Charismatic Prayer Group located in La Grange, Illinois that I was a member of.
- TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, located in Des Plaines, Illinois, is the church JESUS had me become a member of.
- ST. ANSELM'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Park Ridge, Illinois is a church where I taught Sunday school for a period of time and became friends with the rector, Rev. John.

CONCLUSIONS

“Gather together and pray, you shameless nation, while there still is time—before judgment begins and your opportunity is blown away like chaff; before the fierce anger of the Lord falls and the terrible day of His wrath begins. Beg Him to save you, all who are humble, all who have tried to obey.” (Zephaniah 2:1-3 LB).

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“Moab . . . will be destroyed like Sodom and Gomorrah, and become a place of stinging nettles and salt pits and eternal destruction.” (Zephaniah 2:9 LB).

“He will destroy . . . Nineveh a desolate wasteland like a wilderness.” (Zephaniah 2:13 LB).

On the Lord’s direction, Cliff and I quickly had copies made of all the Scriptures given to us by Him, while on the three day walk. We included those that came just before and those that followed after, ending with Zephaniah 2, and then determined to pray and study them and conclude apart from each other what the Lord had shown us; then come together and compare notes.

Even before we completed this work, the Lord Jesus spoke to me on this matter, September 16, 1976, saying: **“SUBMIT EVERY CONCLUSION TO THE ELDERS—SUBMIT EVERYTHING I’VE SHOWN YOU TO THE ELDERS. WAIT UNTIL THEY FIND MY WILL IN THIS, FOR FROM ME WILL DIRECTION COME TO YOU, THROUGH THEM. SEAL UP THESE THINGS AND SAY NO MORE UNTIL YOU AND CLIFFORD AND THE ELDERS ARE IN ONE ACCORD. PROCEED IN LOVE, TRUTH AND FAITH IN ME.”**

We decided to go first to the two elders of Solomon’s Porch, though the Lord had put on our hearts to include also Edward, Alice, Carolyn and Christine of Trinity and Rev. John of St. Anselm’s. . . .

[We] reviewed each others notes and found them to be identical in content, so on September 23rd, 1976, we met with the two elders of Solomon’s Porch (Ray and Pierre), to share with them the “Conclusions” from the three day and three night walk.

I [Chuck-JOHNEL] sensed something wrong and lost the courage to come right out and say that judgment would fall in three years, so Cliff spoke up and said it. It was a strange evening, and a devastating evening for me. Each time Cliff would say something, the first elder would come at me, as if I’d said it. The first elder told us that we could cause this disaster by believing in it. His comments began with, *“Though I may be wrong, I’m going to start out by looking for the devil in your report.”* The first elder believed that I had gone on this three day walk looking for evidence of disaster to support my 1973 earthquake vision. I was reminded that I had been in the occult and was later told that my repenting of the occult (required to do and did three times) was not sincere or real. Then the elder said that Jesus reminded him of JULY 5, and he also commented that I had been led by a wrong spirit and was wrong in what I said would happen. They both pointed out that the number “62” which we had noticed out of the three day and night walk, was “numerology” and that Satan had given me the number.

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In September 1976, while working on the report, I decided to measure the Staff. It was one inch in diameter at the bottom and 3/4 inch at the top. Its height was 61 and 7/8 inches, but the length by measuring over the bow (it is somewhat bowed near the top) was exactly 62 inches.

By this time, I was pretty shook up. The meeting turned out to be a surprise kangaroo court for me [Chuck-JOHNEL]. They left Cliff out of it, suggesting that Cliff didn't know any better.

They badgered me for hours painting me blacker and blacker each hour. Then I asked: *“Didn't Jesus say He was sending us out at the September 1st meeting?”* It caught the elders by surprise and for a moment they lost their momentum, then they slipped right back into their pattern of verbal-assault. As I tried to defend myself and explain, I discovered that the first elder seemed to be glassy-eyed. He would not or could not hear what I said and quickly returned to his questions and false charges.

I offered my understanding of what the Lord was doing and they said: *“That's too complicated—tell God to make it simple!”* When I reflected on what had been said before, drawing on my notes, the elder told me that it was occultish to keep records of predictions.

I suppose all my blood must have run into my legs. I was confused, bewildered, and deeply hurt by countless false charges and in severe spiritual turmoil within myself. Basically, they said that Satan was behind all of this.

If someone you don't know or don't care for, gives you a hard time, you give them a hard time back or ignore them—a normal human response. When someone you love and respect, someone you're submitted to, and support in prayer, effort and money—when that someone gives you a hard time, you are wide open to a deep hurt.

I left that place shaken and deeply hurt and confused. As I drove home, I asked Jesus why He sent us to present the Conclusions Report to them if they would respond like that?

Bitterness and anger welled up in me. Using the elders' logic and applying it within their rationale, I readily reached the conclusion that since the number 62 was arrived at due to Satan—then the angel that laid out the route, was by that rational Satan's angel, those that gave the money were led by Satan and everyone and everything connected with it, was satanic. I thought long and hard and realized that no one in the Church, in the prayer group, in anything, was free of Satan's power and influence. God did not speak, but Satan did. God was powerless to answer prayer, but Satan was all powerful. God was nowhere, but Satan was everywhere. Even the elders were used by Satan. Everything was Satan.

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I gradually decided that I was through with the Christian Church, for I surely didn't have this kind of problem with non-Christians, who love and let live—usually. I knew I'd been born again, and I knew Jesus Christ and I loved Him. I was just finished with Christians on earth, and decided to take my family and find another place to live, get a good job, work to build up our personal lives and stay far, far away from Christians. It was not just a fit of temper—it was a resolution and a determination.

The next day I also told the Lord that there was no sense talking to me about it and I didn't want to hear from Him anymore because it brought me nothing but trouble and heartache. I began making plans to pull out of the Churches, to destroy all my records and forget it all and vanish into the nation's sea of humanity.

On September 24, 1976, Jesus spoke to me while I was on my coffee break. (I was drawing up plans at that time to pull out of the Church.) He said: **“READ EZEKIEL 2.”** That was the chapter I was about to read on the third day of the three day walk, when the wind caught the page and turned it over to Ezekiel 4—I had meant to read it, but forgot.

I opened my Bible to Ezekiel 2. It was entitled “The Prophets Call”. I was shocked at what I was reading: *“Stand on your feet . . . [I'd been knocked flat by the elders] Son of man, I am sending you to the sons of Israel, to a rebellious people, who have rebelled against Me . . . and I am sending you to them who are stubborn and obstinate children; and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God.’ As for them, whether they listen or not, for they are a rebellious house, they will know that a prophet has been among them . . . neither fear their words, though thistles and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions; neither fear their words nor be dismayed at their presence . . . you shall speak my words to them whether they listen or not, for they are rebellious. Now you son of man, listen to what I am speaking to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I am giving you. Then I looked, behold a hand was extended to me and lo a scroll was in it. When He spread it out before me, it was written on the front and back; and written on it were lamentations, mourning and woe.” (Ezekiel 2 NAS).*

It would be almost two years later before I would realize that Jesus allowed this, and used it like fire to temper me, prepare me, for the work ahead. Cliff would have his “furnace” experience four months later.

Now Jesus told me to **“STAY HOME”** concerning Solomon's Porch, but to maintain giving a portion of my tithes there, continue in prayer support and be of help with the building. There was a work of prayer at Trinity to occupy me in the meantime.

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THE “CONCLUSIONS REPORT”

Cliff and I combined our conclusions in one report, which we typed up on October 4, 1976 and called it THE CONCLUSIONS REPORT.

The CONCLUSIONS REPORT stated:

1. Christians are disobedient and rebellious.
2. The Lord our God is calling His children to a total commitment, to take up the cross and follow Him. No matter how impossible, or difficult, or undesirable His call may seem to us, we as God’s children will never be happy until we are in His perfect will.
3. “Hear Me” is the Lord’s constant cry to His people. Warnings are coming constantly to turn from sin to repent and come to Him, Jesus Christ.
4. Obedience to the Lord will always equal Love, Peace, and Joy.

The Christian’s Walk Over the Next Years:

5. We need to deny ourselves, walk in love, look to the needs of others and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus at all times.
6. The walk with Jesus will be more difficult.
7. Persecution is coming. God will refine and purify His Church. Only those who fully trust in the Lord will be left standing in the end.
8. Those who walk in the flesh (look to themselves) will find it impossible to continue in the Church of Christ.
9. The walk with Jesus will be painful, uncomfortable and trialsome. We cannot make it as loners, nor as a twosome. We need the Holy Spirit. We need the Body of Christ.
10. We need prayer support in everything we do for Christ.

The Lord is Calling Christians to:

11. Open locked Churches for prayer.
12. Pray for laborers. There is a vast harvest in the world and we need to go and do the job. Begin with prayer then go and do the job.
13. Become Obedient—to beg and humble ourselves before God and pray in a body for the sins of the land, for repentance, for revival.
14. Be wise servants and feed His children on the Word of God.
15. Repent of our own misdeeds.

Jesus Warns Christians:

16. To beware of false prophets that come with glad tidings and messages of endless blessings. I

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have not sent them, sayeth the Lord.

17. To beware of those so-called Christian brethren who are not Christians at all, and who will turn on you suddenly when trials and troubles come.

Jesus Consoles Christians:

18. He watches over us, walks with us and He will keep us safe—we will suffer no mischance. It does not mean that we will not suffer. It does mean that as we serve and obey Him, He will bless us and our work will be fruitful. We need know that victory in Christ is certain no matter what.
19. The United States of America will not be blotted out altogether (if we do not turn back to Him)—the remnant will indeed be few and feeble, but God will build a wall around us and will bless us.
20. God will call His children out from among the wicked. He will not suffer with the unrighteous.

The Warnings to the Nation:

21. THE PARTY IS OVER!
22. Judgment is coming on America.
23. God's righteous wrath is coming. God's plan for us is for good, not for evil. Sin is rampant and God will not tolerate it much longer. Some of these sins are Idol worship, murder (abortion), Satan worship, rebellion (equal to witchcraft), disobedience (God calls, we refuse), rejection of Jesus Christ—therefore guilty of the blood of Jesus. God sees this nation as Sodom and Gomorrah.
24. God knows, sees and judges our thoughts (that which we deliberately entertain) as well as our actions.
25. If one does not have sorrow for sin, works are unacceptable to God.
26. Our prayers are not heard if our hands are covered with the innocent's blood.
27. Pious expression and an evil heart is an abomination.
28. Pray—God wants to be merciful. Pray for the nation for the lost souls, for the Body of Christ. There will come a time when it will be too late to pray. Now is the time to pray.
29. Beware of those who preach easy Christianity.

What God Will Do If The Nation Does Not Repent:

30. Drought and other severe weather conditions will continue to increase. Crops will be destroyed by drought or too much rain, hail and frost, severe winds, blight and disease and insect infestation, and other destroying plagues will sweep the land and famine will reign. This is the start of judgment.

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31. Famine will become so bad that Americans will die of starvation: the dead will lie unattended in the streets and a wave of cannibalism will prevail. God said: “You will eat your sons and daughters.”
32. Plague. Disease will kill countless others—God will curse us with horrible plagues of disease.
33. Earthquake and flood. A great earthquake will strike Chicago and the whole midwest. 62, 837, 456 will be killed. A month later, Russia will launch a full thermonuclear attack on our nation.
34. Chicago is counted in God’s eyes as Sodom and Gomorrah.
35. This nation is called of God, but few heed the call. We are a nation rich in words of commitment to God but poor in “real” commitment to Jesus Christ.

The End Times Notation:

36. Jesus has shown us that we are living in a time, when not only the spirit of anti-Christ is at large, but also a time when the beast of the anti-Christ is on the earth. We have no revelation as to timing, except to be on the alert and to be watchful.
37. Jesus encourages us to withstand Satan, to keep our eyes on Jesus and to drive the enemy out. Do not stand still for Satan’s attacks or presence—Jesus gave us authority over him so we are to drive Satan out, attack, take authority over him, and know the victory in Christ.

The Mystery of Numbers:

38. The appearance of the number 62—seen, observed, but not clearly understood.

End of The Conclusions Report.

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

We wrote up Jesus’ September 16, 1976 Word to us in a letter to all the elders, made copies of the full “Conclusions Report” for everyone, and presented all copies to the elders of prayer: Edward, Alice, Carolyn, and Christine (of Trinity Lutheran Church) on October 8, 1976. Copies were also mailed to the two elders of Solomon’s Porch. Cliff and I determined to obey the Lord fully, so we sealed up or avoided talking about what the Lord showed us, and waited until the elders had prayed and come to one accord about the report.

In the meantime, while busy with the Net of Prayer at Trinity, another crisis loomed in front of me. After prayer the Lord showed me I must stay in Des Plaines and finish the work. Therefore, I turned down the offer of a transfer to the new office of Du Pont in Wilmington, Delaware. When I thought of looking for a job, the Lord sent an angel to remind me: “. . . seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33 KJV).

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Now, on September 30, 1976, Du Pont gave me a 30-day notice my employment would end on October 29, 1976. My wife was wondering if I would look for a job. I told her and my family that the Lord would take care of it. On October 8, 1976 a company named Bagcraft called me and on October 11, I went in for an interview. What was strange, was that Bagcraft had bought the old Du Pont offices and warehouse that I had worked in five years before on the southwest side of Chicago.

On October 13 I was offered a position with a new nation-wide corporate amalgamation out of Kansas City—the position was corporate purchasing agent. It meant big money and business success, but required that I move to Kansas City, MO. I prayed and fasted on October 14, 1976, and knew that while the Lord would bless me if I went, He wanted me to stay in Des Plaines.

I turned down the Kansas City position October 15, 1976.

That very day, October 15, Bagcraft called me and offered me a job, starting November 1, 1976 at the same pay I was getting at Du Pont. I was about to turn down the job when Jesus spoke to me, saying” **“ACCEPT THE POSITION.”** So, I did. (If getting a job in the same buildings I had worked in five years ago seemed strange, the Lord topped that by moving us from Des Plaines at the end of January, to the very same apartment Jolanta and her family had lived in when I was dating her. The round trip distance from my apartment in Des Plaines to our new apartment in Chicago was **62 miles.**)

On October 29, 1976, Cliff came over to share about David Wilkerson’s new book called: *Racing Towards Judgment* [Revell, 1976—now out-of-print].

The flyer [about Wilkerson’s new book] going out in the mail started with: “This nation must prepare for droughts and series of earthquakes . . . and other unbelievable disasters are roaring down upon us . . . **THE PARTY IS OVER** . . . A call to prayer. . . our last chance. . . Tell them everything that I will do to them, but don’t expect them to listen . . . this is the nation that refuses to obey the Lord its God.” (Jeremiah 7:27).

We now knew why Jesus told us to “seal it up”—for He had commissioned David Wilkerson to get the warning out in print. We had the very same revelation, but with details in some areas, such as war, that David does not mention. We got copies of the Wilkerson flyer out to all the elders—the similarities were so strong that one of the Trinity elders commented: “The author is the same: the Lord God.”

When Wilkerson’s book came out (November 1976). We bought and read it from cover to cover with awe. His first chapter was entitled **“The Party’s Over”** and in our conclusions report the warnings to the nation began with **“The Party is Over”**.

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In checking, we found that of some 300 scriptures that brother Wilkerson used in his book, *Racing Towards Judgment*, 31 were portions of the 75 scriptures that the Lord gave us just before, during and after the three day and night walk—that represents 41% of all the scriptures Jesus gave us. If you looked at it from a point of view of scriptural content, rather than the exact chapter and verse, the scriptures the Lord gave us were comparable to 20% of the scripture brother Wilkerson used. What's unusual is that every one of our "Jesus-given scriptures" were comparable to the scriptures Jesus led brother Wilkerson to use (300)—then the highest possible would be 25.3%—and we had 20%!

Although we were going ahead with the work the Lord had given us, the September 23 encounter with the elders had disheartened us to the point that our enthusiasm wavered and condemnation dogged us into endless retrospection. This "Wilkerson flyer" and his book, *Racing Towards Judgment*, were a powerful shot in the arm—it confirmed and re-affirmed our previous convictions about that which Jesus was showing us. The Lord had also anticipated the September 23 encounter, and set up this little surprise to enliven and encourage us to go on.

We could now review the criticisms of the elders of Solomon's Porch with a measure of objectivity and learn from them. One point made by the elders of Solomon's Porch was that there were not 62 million people in the states that are to be struck down by the earthquake. I found by checking the population figures, that there were some 70 million in those states in the earthquake disaster area. I did agree that the loss of some 88% of the affected states population was unlikely—yet I knew that the figure was from the Lord by the Holy Spirit.

It would take a period of time before we would learn that this figure counted the dead from the earthquake, flooding and nuclear attack initially.

In the November 9, 1976 issue of the "Net of Prayer", the first dire call went out to Trinity. A dire call for prayer. It read: "Trinity is ordained and established for this work (of prayer) by God. . . . if we do not take up 'the Staff' and 'follow Christ Jesus' and 'hear Him' and 'obey Him' then this work will go undone. Jesus calls you to Pray, Intercede, and pray, pray, pray with Faith, and Hope for the nation. The need is desperate—the consequence of ignoring the call will be terrible—the consequences of obeying, and trusting God will be filled with blessed wonders. "Remember this fact—that the Lord saved a whole nation of people out of the land of Egypt and then killed every one of them that did not trust and obey him." (Jude 1:5). . . .For after the three months of intercession for Trinity are completed the Lord has already told us to begin praying about and for the sins of the whole nation. The Lord God wants Trinity to be a Church of prayer. . . . pleading with God Our Father for America."

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If that was not clear enough, the Lord led us to write in the Net of Prayer report of January 3, 1977: “The need of prayer is so urgent, I cannot tell you how dire, how close we are to the righteous judgment of God. . . . Pray, beg, plead with God that our country turn back to God, to repent of all its evil ways, to forsake Satan and all his works and return once again to God who loves us with such a blessed, mighty, full love. We have diminishing hopes: first our prayers for the nation for true repentance and revival by the Holy Spirit; Secondly, prayers . . . to save lost souls; Thirdly . . . prayer for the saints of God that they hear the call and be spared out of the destruction that comes, as was Lot from out of Sodom.”

Rev. John suggested that all the elders come together and pray together about the “Conclusions”. The elders of Trinity were willing, but the elders of Solomon’s Porch declined after a month’s delay in answering. It was in this period of time that the Lord began to reveal to us concerning the 30-day journey to Washington, D.C.

Just before Christmas 1976, I attended one of Solomon’s Porch’s prayer meetings. Afterwards, the first elder privately asked me if I would consider becoming an elder in this body. He further surprised me by saying that he felt I was qualified for he knew I loved the Word of God (the Bible). I promised him an answer the following week. . . . The next week I privately shared with him that I would be willing to assume the post of third elder—to which he replied that they already had two elders and didn’t need a third and that I was not well enough known to be an elder. Something was certainly odd here. It was unreasonable and bewildering.

On January 2, 1977 Jesus told us: **“THE TIME IS ALMOST PAST.”** We knew by this that the time within which the elders could deliberate on the “Conclusions Report” was almost up.

Previously, on December 27th, at a Solomon’s Porch prayer meeting, I asked the first elder why he wouldn’t pray about the “Conclusions” or meet with the other elders, even after they offered to travel to La Grange to pray with him. Well, the fireworks began! I had warned about that demon’s presence before, to my discredit—so I tried to ignore the overshadowing presence of a number of them now. Jesus told me clearly to **“STAY HOME”** and later to resign from Solomon’s Porch.

At this time, Jesus gave a word to deliver to the first elder, Jesus said: **“UPON THEM THAT REBELLED AGAINST ME HAS COME MY DISAPPROVAL UPON THE “SEAL”—SO WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THEIR ABUNDANT BLESSING IS NOW A HARD BURDEN—FOR THEY ARE NOW “SEALED” IN DISOBEDIENCE AND OF THEM, I DISAPPROVE. I WILL HARKEN UNTO THEIR PRAYERS, I WILL NOT UTTERLY CAST THEM OUT FROM MY PRESENCE—BUT EVERY BLESSING THEY RECEIVE FROM ME WILL COME MIXED**

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WITH GALL. I WOULD THAT THIS WERE NOT SO—AND NOW YOU HAVE BEEN SEALED OFF FROM THE FULLNESS OF MY PROMISES TO YOU.”

The date of this Word and my resignation was January 4, 1977. The elders of Trinity and St. Anselm’s determined to meet on January 17, 1977 and to give us their views of the “Conclusions Report” and what direction we should take, as the Lord revealed. Unknown to us, Bill (a close friend) had become an inside man for the elders of Solomon’s Porch and reported to them on what we were doing and saying. Consequently, they tried to undermine the January 17, 1977 meeting by traveling to visit with Rev. John of St. Anselm’s. They also invited Cliff over for a “chat” on January 16, 1977, where Cliff found himself being grilled, charged, condemned, tried, and brow beat for more than five hours by both elders and Bill. Cliff went home like I went home on September 23rd—hurt, bewildered, angry, and determined to “get out of this whole mess.”

On January 17, 1977 we (the elders of Trinity and St. Anselm’s) all met at St. Anselm’s at 7:00 p.m. The temperature that night fell to minus 25 degrees F. The nation was swept by subzero weather that froze Florida, and destroyed southern vegetable and citrus crops. The net result would be a vegetable and citrus shortage during the balance of the winter and into late spring. This was just as Jesus had told me on July 10, 1976, when He said: **“IN SIX MONTHS—FIRST FOOD SHORTAGES HERE.”**

The elders of Trinity and St. Anselm’s [*Note: These were Edward, Alyce, Carolyn, Christine, and Father John.*] talked about the “Conclusions Report”. They all agreed after three months of praying and fasting, that it was of God and we had to go out and proclaim it—to warn the nation. Edward anointed us and sent us out that very night, in the Name of Jesus Christ. The revelations were confirmed, our commission was confirmed, now we were sent to warn the nation. The urgency and sureness that the elders of Trinity and St. Anselm’s expressed about our conclusions, revived Cliff’s faith and enthusiasm and reaffirmed his previous convictions.

In a little under two hours, the elders of Trinity and St. Anselm’s, with their love and warmth, undid the fear and condemnation heaped upon him during his five hour ordeal at Solomon’s Porch.

God’s will cannot be undermined.

[UNQUOTE]