

MARCH 2020



Pastor Edward Paul is a cherished brother in Christ and has a powerful testimony that we pray blesses you in your faith. Among full time pastoral ministry, he works on the Mission Voice Network team in India in finance and accounting. He has many passions and responsibilities that he juggles well, but as you can see in his smile, he radiates the love and joy of Jesus as his first passion and is a great encouragement to others in difficult times.

Pastor Edward Paul's testimony:

I was born to a Christian family within the Assembly of God sector. My father is a pastor, and I have an older brother but he died in the womb. Our village mocked my family because we were Christians. My mother and father prayed for another child and 2 years later I was born. I was very sick due to prematurity and was not expected to live past 15 days. My mom fasted this whole time, asked God to heal me, and if I lived she would dedicate me to ministry. God sustained me and I was mostly healed! My mother again asked God to keep me well till I was 10 and if so we would make an oath to share the gospel to the whole village. I was continually sustained, and so my parents read the open gospel for 3 days. Now, by God's grace, I am 31 and have never been back to the hospital. My father got called to be a minister in 1999 and left his job. He went 80 Kilometers to the other side of the village where he held church under a tree. Sick people came, were prayed for, healed, and started coming regularly.

One of these men ended up giving his home for services until there was no space to sit. Eventually we purchased land to build a church. I was 15 when my father got sick and suffered bad pain for 6 months. He was accused of witchcraft due to this illness. There was no pastor to take care of his church, my mom was busy taking care of him, and I wanted to lead music; so I asked other pastors for help but couldn't pay them past a few weeks. In turn, I started leading yet I didn't feel equipped to do the work my dad did. He was gifted in healing people through the power of Jesus and I didn't know how to do this. I was weeping on a Saturday night and I felt the Holy Spirit come over me to give me this power. I saw in a vision Pastor David Paul Yonggi Cho in South Korea sharing the gospel to a huge multitude and I was on the stage with him. The Lord said I wouldn't ever meet him, but I would be used to share to large crowds. When I woke up, I was very encouraged. So, I went to church and led worship and preached from Psalm 64. The church also encouraged me. From that day, my prayer life changed drastically. I continued to see many visions and many asked me to pray for them. After my father's healing vision, he was miraculously better and able to come home to continue his ministry. God has blessed us much since then. While going to school to obtain my masters, I served in Children's Ministry for 2 years but knew this was not a long term situation. After fasting for 3 days I had a vision of Moses and the burning bush but it was India surrounded by fire. I asked God, "What does this mean?" In my classroom there was one person from each state of India represented so I thought God was asking me to pray for each person, but this was not the case. God revealed to me that I would be used for church planting for the revival of India!



Like fire spreads and surrounded India, such would be my ministry; I would be used to plant churches, build them up, pass it to a pastor, and go to another village. I shared this vision with my school and they published it as an article. I would pray every Friday through the night. I met Pastor Vee at a wedding ceremony at age 26. He called me and I told him my vision. He told me of MVN and asked if I would pray and if I decided to join, I was welcome. After 3 days of prayer, I told Pastor Vee I had peace in my heart to become apart of MVN. When I went there they had just finished a 3-day fasting prayer and a man came up to me and said you are going to be apart of this ministry. He did not know me as he was a stranger. I worked in the office for the first 6 months translating field missionaries stories into English. Pastor Vee started to do a television ministry and I was called to do the media work for them. One day Pastor Vee said there was a couple too old to lead their church anymore in a village and he asked me if I would be willing to go. I said no because I was expected to take over my father's ministry.

Will be continued next month....



FAITH

Most of us are aware of Hebrews 11:1 that defines **faith**, but do we actually understand its meaning in our everyday life? It is vitally important because **faith** is what determines our eternal destination (Eph. 2:8&9). **Faith** can become quite complicated and yet Jesus tells us that a child can understand. Rom 10:17 tells us that **faith** comes by hearing, so we can assume a measure of knowledge is essential to faith.

Over the years I've asked thousands of people if they believe in Jesus, I can't remember anyone saying "No". They all believed in Him as a historical person; however, they did not all have FAITH in Him as the Son of the Living God or the Redeemer of mankind. So there seems to be a difference in "belief" and "**faith**". Satan and the demons believe and tremble. II Cor 13:5 tells us to examine ourselves (test yourself) to see if we are in the '**faith**'.

When I visit our brothers & sisters in India and hear their stories of great persecution, beatings, stoning, humiliation, imprisonment, etc., it makes me question my own faith. We may ask ourselves, "Would I remain faithful to Jesus in this type of persecution?" Although we may never be faced with this opportunity Paul explains in Gal 2:20 he is crucified and no longer lives but Christ lives in him. Do we live like dead people? The real question is, "Am I dead now?"

We should be growing in our **faith** as we mature in Christ. He is worthy of our trust. He is faithful and true. He cannot lie. He has only our best interest in mind. We must live above our circumstances in **faith**. Faith changes the course of our lives.

Paul's prayer in Romans 11:10-11 *"In my prayers at all times, asking that now at last by God's will I may succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's **faith**..."*

Tony

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