

The Joyce and Charles Elton's Mission Story

--Irma B. Williams

Have you ever been sorting through letters and papers you had in storage, and found an old inspiring letter? That happened to me on January 6, 2017. I held in my hand a letter from Church of God World Missions, written by Office Administrator Donald D. Rowe, dated December 15, 1964. Vessie D. Hargrave was listed as general director of missions, and James L. Slay as field representative for missions.

This letter included information from Missionary Overseer G. J. Scotti of Chili about the work of a national minister named Gilberto Jorquera, and his personal testimony as follows:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow: God has wonderfully blessed us this month by saving some 30 souls. One of the greatest harvests we have had as of yet. Five people were divinely healed, some of serious illnesses, others of lesser illnesses.

We had a boy come to a service who was totally deaf in one ear. When I said in that ear, "Amen," instantly he was healed. He could hear better from the ear that had been deaf than from the ear that was normal. This miracle has done great things for the furtherance of the work in Chile.

This mission letter had been sent to Pastor Edward L. Williams and the congregation of the Crawford Avenue Church of God in Augusta, Georgia. As I sat and read this letter from 53 years ago, in mind I could see the faces of the dear people in that congregation who appreciated the annual missions services, and the privilege of giving weekly to support missions.

Among the generous givers to missions were Joyce and Charles Elton. Joyce, very petite in stature, but a giant in her prayer life and in giving, faithfully pledged a large sum to missions annually. Charles, who always honored his wife's pledge, had a spare-time hobby restoring antique automobiles. Every year, he would sell one of his valuable antique automobiles and use the proceeds to pay Joyce's missions pledge.

My heart overflowed with thanksgiving to God, and my eyes filled with tears, as I remembered Joyce and Charles, and many others, some having meager incomes, who gave consistently so people in faraway places could come to know Jesus as their Saviour and Healer.