

Louise Mayhue

Margaret (Louise) Mayhue and her husband, John Russell, have led an extraordinary life. The impact of their life and faith on their children (four sons and a daughter) is apparent through the fourteen members of their family who have served in ministry both locally and around the world. Coincidentally, these family members have served in fourteen different countries as well.

Louise recalls that the Azusa Street Revival sparked a revival in 1906 in Toronto and that Russell's mother was there. As all Pentecostal historians note, the Azusa Street Revival was in no way confined to a shack in Los Angeles, but spread across the United States, changing the face of American religion as it went. Naturally, it affected Canadian religion as well. In fact, one of the best known Pentecostal women preachers was a Canadian: Aimee Semple McPherson. The revival at this church in Toronto was so lively that once the fire department was called because of all the shouting. His mother recalled seeing miracles in that church. Her legacy is that she taught Gwen Shaw; a woman preacher put into the same category by IPHC historians as Kathryn Kohlman.

The Mayhues are French Canadian and were married in 1950. In 1946, John prophesied that they would marry when he saw her get out of a cab and this prophesy certainly came true.

Saved at the tender age of fifteen in Greenville, South Carolina, Louise began to preach that same year in a small, country church called Hodges Church. Later that year she spoke in tongues at a youth rally in Wilson, North Carolina.

Her promise as a preacher manifested itself early. In 1939, at a revival led by evangelist Viola Stanley, Louise was chosen to speak. In fact, the evangelist asked the crowd: "Who do you want to speak?" They all yelled, "Louise!" Even though Louise doesn't remember what she spoke about, she remembers how they told her afterwards: "You'll be a preacher!"

She attended Holmes Bible College in Greenville, South Carolina, and J.H. King was preaching the night she was slain the Spirit. As she rolled on the floor, she says she remembers being called to preach, but she told God, "No, I'm a woman!" She remembered that King would ask her in his British accent, "Will you preach?" every time he passed her. She would tell him, "No, I can't be a preacher because I'm a woman!" Of course, she did accept the call to preach. She was licensed to preach by the IPHC in Falcon, North Carolina on September 1, 1945.

Louise is a musician. She received about six months of guitar lessons as a child, but at Holmes Bible College, she prayed and began to play the piano without instruction. She always made eye contact with the congregation when she played; affected even the most hardened men in the congregation. Her music opened doors for them as evangelists. Both she and Russell preached.

Louise shared that God would show her words of knowledge. One of her sermons won Garnet Pike, an active member of the IPHC, to the Lord. Ironically, she said she never considered herself to be a pastor, but, in her own words: "I was part of a team."

She and Russell lived on faith. While Russell worked as a painter, they traveled and preached. They had little, but they had people in their home every weekend to eat. Many times God miraculously provided for them. "People would not do what we did. People want an income and a house."

In short, Russell and Louise Mayhue exemplify what it means to work together, man and wife, to do the work that God has called them to do.