that I'm very thankful. Scott never held me back from going to church he just wasn't going to participate. There again God had a plan. Scott didn't attend church with me on a regular basis. He would visit on regular meeting and occasionally other times. I was going to church, loving having the Holy Ghost meanwhile Scott was at home and had become an alcoholic. He and I were going down two separate roads and seemed further and further apart. We had some really rough times during this period. I would pray and pray and try to talk to Scott then I wouldn't talk to Scott because he was a very miserable soul. There was someone greater that was in control and he already knew all about it. Even though it was very rough and stressful, there were good things too. I want to always be thankful. I had remembered some testimonies from other sisters with lost husbands many years ago; that if you work for the Lord, he would bring in your spouse. I did that. It didn't seem to phase my husband but I kept hoping. We would have revivals and have good word of God preached and I would be so heartbroken because my husband wasn't there to hear it. I began asking prayer for my husband at church about every time we had prayer request because I was at a place that I couldn't pray for him anymore. I did continue to ask prayer for him and others prayed for him too. Almost every time Scott would come to church someone would tell me there was a good feeling with him and the Lord looked at him many of the times as well. I would get so discouraged but I never lost hope. I could feel Scott knew deep down this was real. I'd pray for the Lord to bring down condemnation on him and knew it could get worse before it got better. I was willing for whatever it took. I had always told Scott when he was sincere in his heart/mind to stop drinking the Lord would help him. One day I was about to throw my hands up with my husband if he quit drinking or if he didn't if he came to the Lord or if he didn't things were not getting to him and he wasn't going to change. I still had hope deep down and needed the Lord's help. I went to church one night and the Lord led Bro. Patrick and he was talking about how we might not be able to see that the Lord is working with someone or what they might be thinking or if

anything gets to them. The analogy was to imagine yourself standing in the middle of a dark room (it was the alter at church when he was saying this) and as a Child of God your light shines brightly like a light bulb. When you look out in the dark you can't see anything but someone looking at you all they see is a bright shining light. I may not have that word for word but that was the understanding I got from it. The Lord had sent my help. I threw my concerns to the Lord as I had many other times. Shortly thereafter I could tell the Lord was working with Scott. I could see slight changes and I could feel it. I kept asking prayer for him. Other children of God love Scott and I so much that if I didn't feel like asking prayer for him, they would encourage me to. I'd ask Scott to go to church with me and he would say he would think about it or I might which meant no. Scott had been drinking for 34 years and he knew the potential complications if he just abruptly stopped. Unbeknownst to me, he had been asking the Lord to help him not to have withdrawals or complications because he was ready to stop drinking. Scott stopped drinking cold turkey and never had any type of complications which is a miracle! It was nearing the end of the year 2019 and one Sunday, I just asked him if he wanted to go to church that night as a year end thank you Lord. He said yes. I was so happy but didn't want to make a big deal about it. I had no idea what was about to happen. I had always hoped and dreamed but had no idea all this time I was thinking about what Scott needed to hear, see, feel and that he was so far away from thinking about turning his life over to God. But God again, had a plan. There was a good feeling toward Scott that night but I still wasn't thinking anything. I was just thankful he was there. The Lord led Bro. Patrick to read about Paul and how God forgave him. That was all Scott needed to hear. If God forgave Paul, he would forgive him. I was sitting beside Scott and when they gave alter call Scott went to the alter. I was so shocked and speechless as I followed him to the alter. He knelt, he repented, gave witness back to the Father and received the Holy Ghost! I was in amazement. I was so humbled by what the Lord had just done for us. I think all I could say was "Glory". Come to find out Scott had been praying and he



had been listening to all that had been said. About 16 years after I received the Holy Ghost, the Lord gave my husband, Bro. Scott Glisson, the real deal too! I am so thankful for the peace in our home. We are now on the same road to Gloryland. I can now go to church and worship the Lord with my husband. His family that was leery of this religion, are now so happy for him and can see the great joy he has. I guess that light really does shine! There are so many more details and testimonies of the magnitude of what the Lord has done and did for us during this time. I could fill a book. I had a great Mom, Sis. Mary Jackson, who received the Genuine Holy Ghost, raised me up in Holiness and Scott and I both now have the Holy Ghost, is my greatest testimony.

## Bro. Tinsley Gray:

Bro. Tinsley lived at Pleasant Grove and worked in Huntsville at the cotton mill. He carpooled with a man who lived in Paint Rock Valley (Williams Cove area). Whoever wasn't driving would leave his vehicle where that road intersected Hwy 72. On a particular day after work Bro Tinsley's ride dropped him off at his car. The car wouldn't start and upon checking under the hood, he discovered someone had taken his battery. They didn't make it easy for him.....they cut his cables as well! Getting quite wet in rain, he walked to Paint Rock to get what he needed to repair the damage. By the time he got the car running and made the trip on home, it was rather late. He battled with the whole deal but when he was going around the curve at Pleasant Grove where Herbert James lived, it came to him to return good for evil. He said, "Lord, I don't know who to return good to.....I don't know who stole my 'battry'. BUT Lord, I hope it's the best 'battry' they've ever had!"

One day Bro Tinsley was driving either to or from work. Feeling very tired, he felt like the Lord knew he needed a nap. While he was stopped at a traffic light at Five Points in Huntsville, he dozed off and slept through a red light, a green light, and another red light. Nobody behind him raced their engine or blew their

horn. To beat it all, there was a man in the car with him and he didn't bother him, either. When Bro Tinsley woke up and proceeded on, he told the man, "I must have dozed off". The man said, "I just figured you were looking off".

If a human being ever loved mayonnaise, Bro Tinsley did! He loved it so many ways and made sure he sopped the jar when it was empty. What good was a sandwich without it? It was like icing on a cake to him! At a point he had to do without it because it started hurting him to eat it. His wife had to leave it off the sandwiches she made him for lunch. He really prayed about it. One day he was at work (perhaps trying to eat his dry sandwich) and the Holy Ghost spoke to him and said, "Tell Nellie to put that mayonnaise back on there." He did and was able to enjoy it again in abundance from then on!

## Sis. Becky Harkins:

The Coke Bottle....

One time, my good friend, Sister Marquetta Cantrell, was going through a hard trial. Her nerves had gotten really bad, and I was cleaning a house that was close to her house. We were talking on the phone, and I asked her to come to the house I was cleaning, thinking it would help her nerves. I knew that I needed to help her in some way. I am not someone that asks the Lord for signs very often but before I knew it, I asked the Lord if everything was going to be alright to let her bring a coke with her. After I did that, I thought "Oh me. I've asked the Lord for a sign." I wondered what I would do if she didn't bring one. How would I help her? When she got to the house, I opened the door and noticed she had her hands behind her back. She brought her hands from behind her, and she had a two liter coke in them! She said before she left home, the Lord told her, "Becky has asked for a sign."

Take that Coke to her." I was able to tell her that everything was going to be alright. She kept that Coke bottle for the rest of her life.

# The Grocery Bill....

One day, I needed to buy groceries for my family. I only had \$40.00 to spend and that's not much for a family of six. I have always asked my parents or grandparents for the money, and they would have given it to me but I wanted to trust the Lord. I called Sister Marquetta Cantrell and asked her to pray that the \$40.00 would be enough. She loved me so much that she asked me to let her bring me some money. I told her that wasn't what I was calling her about. I just wanted her to pray that the \$40.00 would be enough. I prayed before I went to the store and I'm sure she was praying too. At first, when I went into the store, I tried to keep a total in my head of what I was spending. Then I felt the Lord and stopped doing that. It felt like there was no one in the store but me and the Lord. I just started picking up everything we needed and wasn't keeping track of the money anymore. When I got over to the milk aisle, I was going to have to buy two gallons of milk because my husband drank one kind, and my kids drank another. I saw a little old man bent over the milk and wondered what he was doing. He was marking the milk down to 99 cents. I started to ask him, "Do you think...", but the little old man looked up at me and said, "No, this milk won't spoil." I got both gallons and put them in my buggy. When I got up to the cash register and started putting all the groceries out, my faith started to fail me and my face started getting hot. I just knew I would have to put some of them back. I held my head down as the cashier kept ringing up groceries. When she was finished, she said, "Ma'am, that will \$38.26." When I got home, I didn't even shut my car door. I ran in the house, called Sister Marquetta and as soon as

she answered, said "\$38.26!" I will never forget that total as long as I live.

#### Two Dollars...

We were having such a hard time with money that I always made my kids' lunches for school instead of buying them. James, my oldest, told my daddy that I wouldn't ever let them buy lunch at school. My daddy started giving me money for them to be able to buy their lunch every day. I was cleaning houses and sometimes had to use part of the money he gave us for gas. When I had to use part of the money, I would have to make their lunches again. This particular time, I had to use the money for gas and didn't have enough food in the house to make their lunches. On a Wednesday night at church, I was trying to figure out what I was going to do about their lunches. When I finished figuring everything up, I told the Lord, "I only need two dollars." I really didn't want to ask my daddy for the two dollars because then he would start giving me money for gas too. After church, I started to walk around the wall to ask him for the two dollars. Sister Judy Walls stopped me with her hand folded and reached toward me. She said, "Sister Becky, I sure am embarrassed to give you this much money. I wanted to give you more but the Lord told me NO. You only give her two dollars." That two dollars meant more to me than if she had given me one hundred!

# Sis. Sherry Henshaw:

When the Lord Calls...

The Methodist Church at Gurley was having a Bible Study on the entire Bible, and we were to do most of the reading at home. We would discuss the Bible in our group afterward. The Lord started working with my mind. Even thou, off and on, all my life, I would

think and pray, "Lord, please make a way for me to receive the Holy Ghost someday," we were now living where I could go back to a Holiness church, and I was doing nothing about it. Sister Ruby Buckner, from Pleasant Grove, would call me and invite me to go to church and singings with her. I would feel fear inside, and have an excuse. I had a happy home, and enjoyed all my family going to church together, and I knew how unhappy it would make my husband, and my grown children, and I felt in-laws would not understand. But the Lord was kindly working with me as I studied His Word, and he was placing in my mind what I needed to do. I thought of the beauty of Holiness, the wonder of receiving the good Holy Ghost with power and speaking in tongues, which I had not seen in many years. I was active in the Methodist church most of those years. I was head of the Sunday School Administration, off and on taught Sunday School, and sang in the Choir, so I felt I must go to the preacher/pastor to tell him I was leaving the church. Jeff was a good man; he was with me when my mother passed away, and he talked at my mother's funeral. I went into his office, and said, "Jeff, I'm leaving the Methodist church. I remember a joy, and I must go to find out about it." In just two months, which seemed like a long, long time of seeking, the Lord gave me that great joy. Seventeen years later, He's let me feel that joy many times, even in times of difficulty where joy should not be found.

Johnnie Mae Rodgers Boswell McGill's Testimony (as told to her daughter Sherry Henshaw)

Mother said she and her mother, Mattie Bell Rodgers, had tried several different religions before free Holiness, and never felt satisfied. She said she prayed to the Lord to please show her the right way. One day, she was walking home and she passed Beirne Avenue Holiness Church, and she heard the congregation singing. She walked inside the church. The Lord showed her she had found the way of which she had been searching. She received the Holy Ghost on December 15, 1934 at Big Cove Holiness Church, Big Cove, Alabama. Her head was in Sis. Rosie Stilwell's lap when she

believed and received the Holy Ghost. I believe, because of the first step of faith, her mother, Mattie Bell Rodgers, received the Holy Ghost in 1935 at Big Cove, Alabama. Her dad, Brown Rodgers, received the Holy Ghost in 1938 in Williams Cove, Alabama. Her brother, Harvey Rodgers, in 1944 at Pin Hook Creek, Huntsville, Alabama, and later her sister, Lucille Rodgers Payton, on August 12, 1976 at Bro. Billy Parker's Holiness Church near Chattanooga, Tennessee. Because of my mother's great faith, the life she lived, along with taking me to church, and most of all the Lord's precious mercy, I, her oldest daughter, received the good Holy Ghost March 9, 2005, at the age of 62 at Huntsville Holiness Church. Mother did not live to see it, but I've always hoped maybe God allowed her to view it all from heaven.

#### Sis. Kim Hudson:

I was going thru a time in my life where it seemed like I was really being tried in many different ways. One of those trials, in particular, was so so hard. It was a situation that I had absolutely no control over & it was really hurting my heart & it was very hard to deal with. One day I was talking to a dear friend & sister about some of the things that were going on in my life & she told me "just throw it up to the Lord"!!! I had always been told to turn everything over to the Lord & cast your cares on him; but, for some reason those words just sunk in. When I would get down to pray, I was literally trying to "throw" everything up to the Lord. I meant it sincerely. I kept praying and the Lord 100% took care of that situation!! It wasn't in any way that I would've ever imagined; but HE took care of it for me.

### **Bro. David Jones:**

I came to Huntsville from New Market when I was 18 years old looking for a job. I had been working for my cousin on a dairy farm and not making any money. I saw Bro. Erskine Williams, whom I

had gone to school with at Paint Rock Valley, at Butler Shoe Store. I told him I needed a job. Bro. Erskine told me to go home and clean up and he would put me to work the next day. I didn't have many clothes but did the best I could. I went to work the next day selling shoes. I didn't have a way to get back and forth to work except thumbing. After 2 weeks, I asked Bro. Erskine if he knew of any place I could stay through the week. Bro. Erskine said "I'll ask my mother if you can stay with us". She said yes and I stayed for two years. I liked the way they lived and saw the Lord heal in their home. One day, I was sitting in the living room reading the Bible when Bro. Horace Williams, Erskine's dad, came in. I asked Bro. Horace "does everyone have to speak in tongues?" Bro. Horace passed by me and turned around and said "everyone that receives the real Holy Ghost does". I just closed the Bible. After that I began to come to Beirne Avenue Holiness Church, where Sis. Norma and I began to like each other. One night a girl received the Holy Ghost. It began to work with me. When I got to the Williams' and started up the stairs, I met Sis. Betty Ruth, one of Bro. Erskine's sisters. She said "David, what's wrong?" I was crying. I said "pray for me". She said come on. She got Bro. Horace and Sis. Vicie out of bed. They called Bro. Oakley and Sis. Edna to come down to their home. I bowed on my knees and said "Lord I have resisted as long as I can". I began to seek the Lord that night. Norma and I were married on October 1, 1954. I received the Holy Ghost on November 28, 1954.

# Bro. Dustin Kelly:

I've always heard that a "testimony" is something that the Lord has done for you, and I certainly have many, many testimonies because the Lord has been so good to me! Better than I deserve! The greatest testimony I have is the day the Good Lord had mercy on me and just gave me the Holy Ghost. As a 13-year-old boy, the Lord knocked at my heart, invited me to come unto Him, and offered me the greatest gift a person could ever have possession of! Although the Good Lord was there to go home with me that night,

so was another feller and he knew what was about to happen and he was adamant not to let that happen. After an hour or two of praying, trying to believe the Lord was there to give me the Holy Ghost and trying to fight the adversary all at the same time, I got up and went back to my seat still lost and without, just as I was when I decided to walk down the aisle. Little did I know that night, that it would be so easy to listen to that ole devil trying to detour my mind and heart from the Lord until 25 years later. Now 38 years old, married to a wonderful woman and a Child of God for 18 of those years, two beautiful children, and still going to the altar just to listen to that feller tell me I was never going to make it. The Children of God would try to encourage me and tell me their experiences coming to the Lord, Ministers would preach and preach and preach until no doubt they literally felt blue in the face, but I still just couldn't realize or see what they were talking about. Even though I tried and tried, strived and strived, trying to believe the Lord was going to give me the Holy Ghost, I just couldn't get passed that great mountain of unbelief I stood before time after time. The Men of God would tell me to "repent" and I would receive the Holy Ghost and I honestly tried to repent many times only to find myself wallowing in the great pits of disappointment and discouragement. That ole sorry devil had me convinced that "repenting" was some big something, a mountain, that I was never going to conquer or be able to achieve. I was convinced that I was never gonna make it and be one of those people that went to the altar all of their lives and die lost. After all this time going to the altar, I actually started to believe it to be so.

Now several months before our revival in June of 2017, I developed some serious health issues to where I was so sick and couldn't keep much food down whenever I ate. I started losing weight without trying, missing a lot of work and church. My family was worried about my condition, and they wanted me to see a doctor to find out what was going on. After several tests and procedures, the doctors were not able to figure out what was going on. They didn't know anything about or couldn't see the work of the Lord, condemnation don't show up on x-rays or machines. Leading up to

the revival, I was so discouraged and broken within that I had reached the end of my road. I was so tired. I was tired of going to the altar, feeling the Power of God and going back to my seat without the Holy Ghost. I was so tired of living. Living without the Holy Ghost. Waking up every day lost and believing I was never going to make it. So, I made up my mind that this revival was going to be the last revival I was ever going to attend. My plan was to go through the revival and then walk out the door and never come back. I had been thinking about this for a while before now, and the only thing keeping me in the altar and in church was my dad. He was already in bad health with arthritis, and I knew it would kill him if I were to quit praying and church, so I kept coming. Now I knew I had a wife with the Holy Ghost and kids that I wanted to have the Holy Ghost one day, and I would see that they stayed in church, I just wouldn't go with them. It was not until after I received the Holy Ghost when I looked back and really realized what a dangerous position, I put my wife's soul in, that it scared me so much I literally trembled with fear inside and out of my entire body. I talked about me being sick before, that was a sick that I've never experienced before and hope I never experience it again. I was so sorry and fearful before the Lord, but He had already forgiven me and had forgotten about it. So, the weekend had come for our revival to start. Brother Totchie McLain and Brother Michael Clark were running the revival that year and although I loved them, I didn't like either one of them at that time, or so that's what I tried to convince myself of. They were going to be there day and night, all week long. In years past, I would take off work so I could go to church day and night and try to keep my mind on the Lord, but that week I didn't ask off. Over the weekend we got word that a dear friend of the family that lived in Kentucky had passed away and his graveside service was to be held on the following Tuesday. So, my sister, her husband, my other brotherin-law, and myself drove up there to attend the memorial service and then drove back afterwards. We got back to Huntsville and to the church around 7:30/8:00pm, and I dropped them off at the church and I went home. I didn't even go in. Wednesday night,

June 14, 2017, we were running late and got to church to a rather large crowd for a mid-week service, and Melissa and I found a place to sit on the very back row, in the middle of the pew. I was mad and did not want to be there. All during the service I set bowed over with my head down trying to come up with an excuse to leave without having to go to that altar again, but I just sat there. If there was ever a time the Lord got a hold of two men or two men got a hold of the Lord, it was that night. Brother Michael got up and told about taking his dads brand new four-wheeler out on a ride and got into some mud holes and got it stuck. He explained how the people he was riding with "hooked up to him" and began to pull him out. He related that experience to the ones that had been praying and going to the altar for a while and encouraged the Children of God to "hook up to them" and help pull them out of the unbelief and condition they were in. That made so much sense to me. I could just see myself on that four-wheeler and in that condition and me trying with all I had within me, the help of the Lord and the Children of God, to get out of the mud hole. Then Brother Totchie got up and encouraged the Children of God to change their attitudes towards the altar goers and for the ones that had prayed for a long time, to change their attitude as well. While Brother Totchie was up, Brother Michael came and stood at the end of the pew where I was sitting and hollered, "Hey Dustin, this is the night you've been longing for"! I never looked up nor acknowledged him, but I heard everything he said. I thought to myself, man if you only knew what was in my heart and mind, you wouldn't even worry with me. But God did! When they gave altar call, I stood up and contemplated going to pray. Again, I thought to myself, well I've went to the altar for 25 years, what's one more time going to hurt. Little did I know what was about to happen! I knelt down that night the exact same way I had done so many times before, but that night when I knelt down, I pictured in my mind kneeling down at the foot of the cross where Jesus was hanging and I told him from the depths of my heart that I was tired, broken, and didn't want to live another day without the Holy Ghost. I could see as I laid ole Dustin down at His feet and I told



Him that nothing mattered to me anymore and it didn't matter how, when, where, or why as long as I received the Holy Ghost! I didn't want to live another second without Him. All those times the devil told me I could never repent, I finally repented. After about an hour or so of praying, Brother Totchie told me to stand up and testify and thank the Lord for getting me out of the mud hole. I did as he asked, and I put my foot down on that ole devil and told the church I meant I was never going back to where I was in that mud hole of unbelief. The Children of God began to pray for me again as I was standing up praying. Brother Totchie laid hands on me and I began to speak in tongues! It happened so fast that it caught me off guard. And in my mind, I was so disappointed because I knew and felt it when it happened. I told the Lord if you'll let it happen again, I'll acknowledge it and come up out of here! Brother Totchie laid hands on me again and y'all know what happened! The good Lord let me speak in tongues again and I come up out of there and acknowledged that He gave me the good Holy Ghost!! It was the BEST night of my life! It's a happy like I've never known before, and I've been happy ever since!

## Bro. Jack & Sis. Suzie Kelly:

Sis. Suzie - When Marty was about ten years old, she fell and broke her leg while roller skating. Jack had gone to Scottsboro to church so I loaded her up to take her to the hospital. I would never allow my children to talk back to me but she told me she was not going to the hospital. I tried reasoning with her but she told me to take her to the church. After telling her that it wasn't church night, and no one was at the church, she then told me to take her to her Granddaddy. I did and we took her home later but she couldn't even stand a sheet over her leg. The next morning Jack called the "Insurance Boys" that worked for Bro David. They came and prayed but she was moaning louder than they were praying. Uncle Virgil spoke up and said we have to get God's attention. They prayed again and God came on the scene. I kept her home from school for a few days but she wanted to go back. I got her

some crutches to help her but I found out the other kids were walking on the crutches so I just let her walk on her own. She asked me occasionally which leg it was because she can't tell which one was broke.

We were living in Mayfield, Kentucky. One day I walked out to the driveway on my way to work, my heart was so heavy and burdened that I was in tears. Jack was standing on the drive and I just fell apart talking to him, not knowing which way to turn or go. I turned to go to work and thought I would look in the mailbox before I left. There in the box was a very small card addressed to me. On the inside were the words, God knows. That's all it said but that one little verse lifted my burden and my mind. I went to work with a totally different mind. That little card was from Sis. Sharon McAllister from Pleasant Grove. She had never mailed me a card before and has never mailed me a card since but she did that day. In remembering this testimony, I remembered how great God really is.. His timing is perfect, His care is tender, and His love is overwhelming! He knew exactly what day to have Sis. Sharon mail that card to end the turmoil in my heart and mind. (It was major on that day, but today I don't have a clue what the trouble was!)

When we lived in Kentucky, Dustin and Justin turned 16. Justin has always been slower to learn than Dustin, but as a twin mom, I tried everything I could to keep them on equal grounds. I had to hold Justin back in the first grade because he just wasn't ready and them not graduating together nearly killed me so I tried so hard to make everything equal. Jack took the boys to take their driver's license test. Dustin passed but Justin didn't. Justin took the test two more times but failed each time. The instructor told Jack that Justin would have the right answers but change them before turning his test in. That is the way he did in school. Tests just made him so nervous that he would be sick. In Kentucky, the law said that you could only take the test 3 times, then you had to wait six months before trying again. I had prayed and prayed but Justin failed the test again. I cried and cried thinking about him having to wait six months when Dustin already had his license. A

little thought said call and ask if he can take the test again but when I did the instructor said no. She said I could call the head of the department (a state trooper) in Paducah, Kentucky. I called him and talked to him but he said he couldn't break the Kentucky law. I was so upset. Just as I was about to hang up, a little sweet voice said tell him that Justin is a twin. I thought this man could care less that Justin is a twin, he is a state trooper that probably really did not want another 16 year old on the road, but I said sir, the reason that I'm asking is that my son is a twin and I have always tried so hard to keep them equal in life and I just was hoping that you would agree to let him be tested one more time. There was complete silence on the line and I thought he had hung up on me then he replied in a teary voice, Mrs. Kelly, if you will have him there in the morning, I will have him tested again. He said he fully understood what I was doing because he was a twin too!! Jack took Justin the next day and Justin got his driver's license! One of Justin's first testimonies when he received the Holy Ghost was that he failed at almost every test that he ever took, but when he was given the Big Test, he passed!

Bro. Jack – Jack has had probably 40 kidney stones thru the years. He has suffered excruciating pain with them. One Sunday night, Bro Frank Duvall came to visit our church in Huntsville. During first prayer, Bro Frank got the oil and anointed Jack. Jack wondered why since he wasn't sick or having any problems. When we got home from church, Jack passed six kidney stones, that he didn't know he had, with no pains. That's been many years ago and he's never had another bad attack. We serve an awesome God and He's always on time.

When my health began to fail me, the company I worked for, Adtran, did everything they could to accommodate me with my handicap. They moved me to a bigger, first floor office, they made my office handicap accessible, they put automatic door openers on the bathroom for me, they did everything possible to make my workday better. As my health declined and I wasn't able to sleep at night, I began to come to work later and later. Instead of 8:00, I

was coming in at 9, then 10 and a lot of time 11. I rolled right by my boss's office every day and he never said one word to me. I began to try to figure out how I was going to repay all the time that I was missing because I was a salary employee and was still being paid a 40 hour salary. One day my boss came into my office and I asked him what I could do. His reply worried me. He told me he would go to Human Resources and ask them. I knew they did not know me personally and that they strictly went by the book, so I was expecting them to send me home or at least cut my pay. The HR man called and wanted me to come to his office the next day. I sure didn't sleep that night. I worried all night. When I got to the HR office, the man began to ask me if they had done all they could do to make me comfortable. I replied yes but that was not what was worrying me. I told him that I was only working about 25 hours a week and being paid for 40. I offered to give them all the vacation time that I had accumulated and pay whatever I needed to repay. He just shook his head and said no. He said you have given to this company all these years and now its time for us to give back to you. He told me to come in at whatever time that I could and not worry any more. I worked like that for over 2 years and they paid me 40 hour salary every week. We always had reviews in January, when my review time came, I got a raise just like everyone else! Only God could do that for a Child of God. Adtran is a very big company and these companies are looking for ways to decrease costs not give more.

Jack had been struggling for days. He had not slept any for three days. The pain was bad but the exhaustion was worse. We had prayed for God's help and felt we weren't being heard. Finally, on the fourth day Sis. Alyssa Kirkpatrick came over on her lunch hour and told us she needed to lay hands on him. She did and he went to sleep. He laid in his wheelchair and slept until 7:00 that night. God has never let us down!!

Jack was still able to attend church regularly but was having trouble getting his words out. He would struggle just leading church service. He decided it was time to stop doing revivals, weddings and funerals but he had already obligated himself to do Bro. Blake and Sis. Jessica Green's wedding. The day of the wedding he was crying and was so worried that he would mess up the wedding. We had prayed all week for help. A few hours before the wedding, Bro. Tommy Smith came in and walked in the bedroom and laid hands on him. We knew then that God had heard our prayers. Jack did the wedding and didn't miss one word in the ceremony.

## Sis. Alyssa Kirkpatrick:

I received the Holy Ghost when I was 13 years old. In high school, I was the only one there with the Holy Ghost. There were so many temptations around. I felt like I was on an island by myself most days. Everyone would be your friend inside the classroom but once the bell rang, they would act like they never knew you. There was one day in particular my mind was being so tormented. I was walking in the hallway by myself, seeing everyone around me that had a friend. I felt so alone. I remember just trying to pray in my mind and just a few seconds later I heard a still small voice say "you are not alone". I felt the Lord wrap his arms around me that day. That was 13 years ago and I can still remember the feeling of his arms around me. I have gone back to that day MANY times throughout the years.

# Sis. Bonnie Kirkpatrick:

When I was a small child, we lived at Hytop. My dad, Bro. Curtis Wade, had to work away from home. He worked in south Alabama building barracks for WWII soldiers to live in while training. My litter sister, Dean Brown, got sick and could not walk. When Dad got home that weekend, my Mother told him that she, the neighbors and the nurse thought Dean had Polio. She explained to him that they had been praying all week. Dad told Mother "let me go pray". Dad had a special place in the woods to pray. Mother told

me that the Lord let her know that when Dad returned that Dean would walk. When Dad came in the door Dean walked in through another door. At that time, Dean was about 3 years old and she never had any other trouble walking. God is so good!

### Bro. Cayleb Kirkpatrick:

During one of our summer revivals, some of us young brothers had thought about going to the mountain and praying for our revival. We were having good services and they had extended it past the usual Friday night. Brother Michael Clark was going to stay with us for Saturday night. We had planned that we would go Saturday afternoon. During this particular revival, my mind was low and I wasn't feeling like I wanted to in the meetings. When Saturday morning rolled around one of the brothers sent a reminder message as to what time and where we were going to meet. There were several on the message and I just ignored the message. Satan was feeding my mind that there was no use in going, that I wouldn't feel the Lord, and that I wouldn't get anywhere praying. One by one the others responded with "won't be able to make it" and only three brothers had plans of going that afternoon. Alyssa and I had just moved out to New Market the winter before our revival and the mountain on which we were going to meet on was around 10 minute drive from our house. As I lay on my couch and pondered going or not my thoughts were I hated that only three brothers were going and I felt bad that they got this together and there wasn't much support. I was also having those same thoughts that Satan was feeding. I finally decided 10 minutes before the time to meet that I would just go ahead and go. I still had to get ready and meet them up there, and I knew I would be late. When I got up there and met the brothers, we drove a piece down a path to the spot we were going to pray. We knew why we had met, but we also thought of people that we needed to pray for in our church and so on. Once we did that, we began to pray. The prayer, for me, was just how I expected it to be, dry and I couldn't get ahold of the Lord and did not feel anything. When the other brothers had

concluded their prayer, they sorta felt like I did. My thoughts sorta changed in a split second and I suggested that we try again and try to get ahold of the Lord. The other brothers were like-minded in that we knew we could get further. That time when I bowed my head, it seemed like the windows of Heaven opened up. I felt like I was talking directly with the Lord. I could feel him and the more I pressed my mind in prayer the better I felt. In a little bit, the Lord began to bless all of us in our prayers. It was such a wonderful feeling. The brothers were laying hands on me and I on them and in a moment, I found myself flat on my back and the Lord freed my soul and allowed me to speak in tongues freely. I felt so light and had a renewed mind. My faith, love, and joy were so full at that moment. It was just as if the Lord had allowed me to get back to June 10, 2008, when he gave me the Holy Ghost. When I was driving home, from the prayer I called Brother Preston who was not able to make it that day and was telling him how good the prayer was and how the Lord had blessed us. Brother Preston and Sister Sarah had me on speakerphone in their car and they began to feel the goodness of the Lord through the phone and made their way over to my house. Sister Sarah was also on the phone with Sister Lenita, Sarah's mother, and she felt the Lord while she was on the phone. Sister Lenita got in her car and started to drive over to my house as well. She decided she might not need to come, but came on anyways. When they all had got to my house the Lord met us there, the goodness of the Lord covered us up, and everyone got help. I remember getting ready for church that night and was sitting on my couch waiting to leave and just saying Glory to God and the Lord would allow me to speak in tongues just sitting on my couch. I was so free. My prayer is that one day the Lord will allow me to get back there and as I travel on this way living for Lord that I can remember that he is so good to us all and loves us. I want to live in a way that every once in a while, along the way I can get back to that place. It was such a big help to me at that time and helped me to know that even when I feel so low and like there is no use, he can change all of that in a moment.

### Bro. Doug Kirkpatrick:

When I started going to the Holiness church, I wanted to know for sure that everything said was true and from God. One night I was lying in bed praying and asking God if Holiness was right to let me feel his power. God sent so much power on me that the bed I was lying on shook. I did not doubt anymore. God gave me the Holy Ghost a few days later, and I have been happy every day since. Thank God for letting me know the right way.

God gave me the Holy Ghost in 1967 and Bro. Oakley and the church members told me that God would heal sickness. My wife Bonnie was sick with a migraine headache. After we went to bed, I prayed for God to heal her. While praying, I had my right hand up, ready to lay hands on her, but I found out that God doesn't need any help because he used my left to lay hands on her.

## Sis. Melissa Kelly:

I was 14 years old when the Lord called me. It was June 1994 and revivals were about to start up and my brother, who had received the Holy Ghost the year before, had gone to stay with some family at Griffin for the start of their revival. It was a Saturday night and Bro Wesley McClain was preaching to the back and the whole time I was sitting there telling myself that the Lord wasn't calling me. I couldn't tell you anything that he said that night, but once they gave alter call, Bro Wesley came back there and just held out his hand for me. I was always taught to respect my elders, so in my mind I was just going out of respect. I prayed good that night, but I had no intentions of going back the next day. My mom called my brother and the rest of the family at Griffin to tell them that I had went to the alter and I heard her say that they were going to miss the start of their revival to come see me receive the Holy Ghost that morning. During all of this even though I had no intentions of going back, I was packing up my pants and shorts, and I was like well they are all coming to see me, so I guess I have to go back now. Although, I knew deep down that all I ever wanted was the

Holy Ghost. I didn't make it that Sunday morning, but I continued going to the alter and going to revivals all summer. It was 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in July, the start of Oak Grove's revival. I would pray for the Lord to condemn me, but it just didn't seem to be working and I was just going to the alter. Tuesday morning after church I begged my mom to let me go to Sis Kristy Bridges house with her and her sister. My parents wanted me to go home, but we were just kids and pleaded our case that we would pray and not be goofing off. And we did pray, I remember falling asleep on the couch praying in mind. We went back to church that night and I remember Bro James Arthur McClain preaching about the end of time. It scared me to death, and he always had a way of preaching it so that it put a fear in you. I didn't really pray any good and got up and went back to my seat. As I was sitting there, one of my friends received the Holy Ghost. I jumped up and went up there and as soon as I got to the inner circle, condemnation fell on me. They asked me to pray again, and this time was different. I was on my back in the floor and Bro James Arthur would repeat the verse "And when Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues." I started believing that! He wouldn't stop me from praying, he would just lean in my ear and repeat that verse to me. He repeated it 7 times and on the 7<sup>th</sup> time, I came up with the Holy Ghost. That was July 19th, 1994, and the Lord has blessed my life and given me a wonderful family and church to attend and I'm so thankful!

# Sis. Deven Mahathey:

be a second

I was blessed to be raised to know and learn the good way of Holiness. I always knew there were two places to go to and I knew exactly which place I wanted to go. At the age of 11, the Lord started calling me. I didn't receive it the first trip to the alter, and I don't even know how many times I did go, but on December 10, 1989, the Lord came by and saw a young child that wanted to live for him more than anything and trusted me with the Best Gift I have ever received. I haven't done everything right, by no means,

but through his Mercy and Grace he has kept my soul through my mistakes and failures. He walked with me through 6.5 years of school with no other Holiness kids in school with me, but God walked the halls with me and taught me to pray and trust in him.

At the age of 17 he gave me a wonderful loving husband, four years later we were blessed with a healthy little boy, and almost 6 years after that we were blessed with a healthy little girl. We struggled with three miscarriages between those 6 years, which was probably the hardest trial I had gone through up to that point. Although it was an emotional roller coaster at times, and not understanding why I was going through that, looking back now I can see how the Lord used that time to make me stronger to help me through the trials I would be facing later on in life.

At the end of October 2005, Jason had gotten laid off work and we were expecting our daughter Ellie to be born in December. I was cleaning houses a couple days a week and was about to be out of work in a few days myself. Evan was 5 and it was Christmas time. We had to trust the Lord's plan through this time because we weren't sure how it all would work out, or what we'd have to do. We knew hospital bills were facing us soon and it didn't look like we'd have any insurance to help out since he was laid off. Jason would go help me work because I was to a point, I needed to quit but we needed that income to get us through. After a few weeks of praying and searching for jobs the Lord provided one. He wasn't going to be making what he did before he got laid off, but he was hired on at a business with full benefits starting day one. That just doesn't happen very often. We had no doubt it was the Lord that gave him that job, because not only did his benefits start day one, but the insurance was the best we ever had. It covered almost 100% of our hospital bills. It was so amazing how that worked out for us. He took a job with a pay cut, but in the end, we never missed a payment and he provided just what we needed. That job became available to him just long enough for our daughter to be born and give us what we needed during that time. Not long after that Jason got a call from his old boss wanting to hire him back

and they grandfathered him in like he had never left. He still works for that company today and has truly been blessed at that job.

The Lord has never let us down and I am so thankful for everything he has done for us. I'm thankful for my life and the church God put me in. Without a doubt I know he put me where I needed to be. I'm thankful for the foundation that I started with. I didn't do anything to deserve such a good life, He just graciously gave it to me and I'm forever grateful. I hope I can serve and please him above everything, because I want to go to Heaven more than anything!

## Bro. Jason Mahathey:

Ever since I was kid, I wanted the Holy Ghost. At the age of 13, the Lord let me know I was lost. The first time I felt the power of the Lord I was sitting in the back of the church on a Wednesday night by myself and Sis. Janice Ellett laid hands on me and I felt the Lord. I knew then I was lost. The Lord has blessed my life and gave me a life better than I could have imagined. He gave me a wonderful loving wife. I couldn't have hand picked a better one. He gave me two wonderful children with the Holy Ghost. I'm so proud of my family.

Where I currently work, I previously worked there 6 ½ years. I left there and went to work at Redstone Arsenal. I worked there 1 ½ years and got laid off. Deven was expecting Ellie at that time. I lost all benefits on October 31. We didn't know what to do, I was trying to find a job and was helping Deven clean houses because we needed the money. On 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in November, I was downstairs fixing my plate at dinner and someone handed me a check and said the Lord said to give this to you. I didn't open the check or look at the amount. I told the sister thank you. That night at church a couple gave me a check and told me the Lord had told them to give it to me. I didn't open the check or look at amount. I got home and one check was for \$100 and the other check was for \$200. I put the checks away knowing the Lord had given it to us

and it was his money. I got a job making considerably less money than before around the first of December. Ellie was born December 12. The place I went to work gave me benefits starting day 1. My benefits paid 100% of health insurance and all but one of Ellie's hospital bills. I worked there two weeks and I got a call from the owner of where I worked before going to Redstone Arsenal. He asked if I wanted my job back and grandfathered me in like I had never left. We got one bill after Ellie's birth for \$300. I'm still working at the same company today and the Lord has blessed me and I truly thank him.

One night I dreamed the whole church was in the woods and there was a box in the ground. A brother was in the box trying to get out. People had their own ideas of how to get the brother out. Some said grab a rope, some said give him a hand, some said give him a ladder. They were all good ideas. Bro. Patrick Price said I need the safety instructions on how to get him out and someone handed him the Bible. He didn't open the Bible, he just held it in his hand and said everyone do your own job. Sis Annette Treece's job was just to smile. My job was to jump in the box to be with the brother. When everyone did their own job, the brother got out of the box. The next morning at work sitting at my desk drinking coffee, the Lord spoke to me. I stood up and looked around because the voice was out loud. He said read 12th chapter 1 Corinthians. I knew it was the Lord but I was alone and it was so loud I stood up and looked around. He said again in the same voice read the 12th chapter of 1 Corinthians. I opened the Bible at my desk and I had never read this before. The verse talks about the body has many members and all members are one body. The foot cannot do the hands job the ear cannot do the eyes job. They have to do their own job for the body to work. The Lord told me that was my dream and we all have to do our own job for the body of Christ to work.

Since I was kid Bro. Jack Kelly has played a vital role in my life. They use to live behind my grandparents. I was so close to Justin & Dustin. One day when we were young, we were playing

basketball. Bro. Jack came home from work. He was walking down the driveway and asked for the basketball. He never missed a stride and did a hook shot. I don't remember if it went in or not but I was leaned up against their station wagon. He walked into that little room where he had piece of carpet in there to pray. I looked in it many times and there were two bald spots where his knees had worn out the carpet praying. He started praying and he had got in touch with the Lord. He got loud and called every one of his children's names and when he got done with his kids, he called my name next. Thank Lord for Bro Jack.

When I was 16, I received the Holy Ghost. I went to Kentucky to spend several weeks like I always did when Bro. Jack and Sis. Suzie lived there. I went with Justin and Dustin to a friend's house. We were playing basketball in the street. Sis. Suzie sent us to the barber shop so I drove us in their station wagon. I realized on the way I had lost my class ring. I was praying and asked the Lord if you're going to let me find my class ring, when I get back in the car let a certain song be on the radio and not only let the song be on but let it be on the chorus. The whole time in the barber shop I was praying. We all got in the car and the chorus of that song came on. I knew I was going to find my class ring. We looked in the driveway where we were playing and it wasn't there. I remember seeing something in the middle of the street and there laid my class ring. It was as flat as a pancake. But I had asked the Lord to let me find it and that's what he did. I found it. It wasn't like it was but I found it. I learned that day you can ask the Lord for anything and he hears our prayers.

#### Sis. Grace Mason:

The Lord has provided for my family financially many times. One of the most memorable to me is when Maverick was needing some church shirts. We had a little extra cash so I went shopping and bought a couple shirts for him. I was so excited to show Maverick and for him to wear them. When I got home, I found out we had an unexpected bill come up. Maverick asked me to take the shirts back. I knew Maverick needed the shirts and I had been so excited about them, so I started praying the Lord would make a way for us to keep the shirts and pay the bill. I was working part-time at a clinic in Big Cove at the time and got paid by check rather than direct deposit like the full-time employees. The next day at work, my boss came to me and gave me a check. She said she was going over the books and found where they missed paying me a few weeks prior. I didn't remember missing a paycheck. But when I looked at the check, it was almost exactly what we needed for the bill. We got to keep the shirts, and I knew the Lord had provided for us once again.

#### Bro. Maverick Mason:

Not long after Grace and I got married, I was needing some new pants. We couldn't really afford it at the time. I asked the Lord to make a way for me to get some. One night, we went to eat for my birthday. We went to Cavender's right before closing and we were just looking around. A lady that worked there said they had some pants that went on sale while we were there for \$10. I was able to get 3 pair. About a week later, my parents went back and the lady remembered them. She told them there was a "computer glitch" that night and those \$10 blue jeans were only supposed to be 10% off. We were the only ones to get that deal.

#### Sis. Heather Middlebrooks:

I'm so thankful I was born into a loving family with parents full of the Holy Ghost. It still amazes me to think how the Lord made a way for Tim to know about Holiness, gave him the Holy Ghost and chose him for me. He then allowed us to have our son, Clay. The Lord has truly blessed my life.

My greatest testimony is when the Lord gave me the Holy Ghost. July 1989 Lawanda (Duvall) talked me into going up north for

revival at South Haven. On Saturday night we all went to Black Oak. Bro. James Arthur preached to me that night and told me I was not going to heaven with my dad if I didn't receive the Holy Ghost. I didn't go to the alter that night but those words stayed with me all night and the next day. I started to the alter the next night and on August 9 on a Wednesday morning at Big Cove the Lord gave me the Holy Ghost. It was truly the best of day of my life! I didn't know until a few days ago that the few little words Bro. David Jones said to me that day to help me believe were the very same words told to my Granddaddy to help him receive the Holy Ghost. We went to see my Granddaddy & Goody (Bro. Paul & Sis. Catherine Simmons) after church. They were standing in their kitchen when I went in and told them I had received the Holy Ghost. When I hugged Granddaddy, the Lord let me speak in tongues again. Granddaddy told Goody she might as well put the food up she was fixing for lunch because he wasn't hungry anymore.

When I was around 13, I needed to have a procedure where I was going to be put under general anesthesia. I had to have some tests before the surgery and I was told I had a mitral valve prolapse and a heart murmur. At that time, I didn't have issues with either but as I got older, I could feel the irregular heart rhythm and it began causing problems. The Lord had given me the Holy Ghost when I was 15 and by the time, I was 18 I was having to see a cardiologist. One night several from Huntsville went off to visit another church and I went with them. A brother that I didn't know and he didn't know me was led by the Lord to anoint me. I knew right then the Lord had healed me. I had a cardiologist appointment scheduled a few days later and I went just so they could see what the Lord had done. When they repeated all the tests the doctor told me I no longer had the heart murmur or the mitral valve prolapse. He released me that day. Several years later a coworker was telling me about their son having mitral valve prolapse. I told them that I use to have that. They said what do you mean you use to have that. The doctors told them there was

no surgery for that and it isn't something you grow out of. I was able to tell them how the Lord healed me.

Right after Clay began walking, a large knot came up on his ankle. At first it didn't bother him but eventually we began to see him drag that leg. My mom (Sis. Libby) was keeping Clay one day and he woke up from his nap and wouldn't walk. We had been praying for him at home but she didn't think that was enough. She called me crying and told me to either have him prayed for at church or take him to the doctor. The next church service we had him prayed for and the Lord healed him.

In 2004 my mom was diagnosed with cancer. She was in a lot of pain the last days of her life. Just a few days before she went into a coma, I was sitting beside her bed and she looked over at me and her eyes got so wide. She asked "do you hear that?" I told her I didn't and asked what she heard. She said she could hear the angels singing. There was so much peace and it was such a comfort for me.

Sis. Holly Simmons: In May 1990 Holly decided to go to Black Oak for the weekend when Bro David was going to be up there for revival. Sunday night at church Brooke Dalton (Mason) had started to the alter and Bro. David sent for Holly to come up there and watch Brooke pray. When Holly got up there, Bro David began talking to her about the love of God. She decided to pray. After a little bit she asked where her dad, Bro. Harold, received the Holy Ghost. He had received it at Black Oak in the basement. They moved her over in the alter where it would be if she were in the basement. She began praying and the Lord gave her the Holy Ghost. When Holly called her mother, Sis Libby, to tell her she had received the Holy Ghost Sis Libby didn't believe her. Bro David had to get on the phone with her. He said "Lib she really got it!" The next day Sis Libby was making up Holly's bed and thought now I'm going to ask Holly everything she has done or lied about and the Lord spoke to her and said I have forgiven her and just be glad she has the Holy Ghost. When Holly got home and went to see her granddaddy (Bro. Paul) he said "kid you've made me happy!"

Holly & Tanner were living in Woodville and after her mom passed away, they wanted to live closer to Tim, Heather & Clay. Holly bought a house in Huntsville and put the Woodville house up for sale. It was very difficult making two house payments on her one salary. Months passed by and the Woodville house didn't sell. The contract she had with the realtor had expired and she was down to the last month she could make two house payments. She knew her house in Huntsville would easily sell so she had decided to move back to Woodville. She was so discouraged and did not want to have to move away from family. Right before she was going to list her house, she got a call asking if she owned a house on Church Street in Woodville. She replied yes. They said they had been searching to find the owner. They wanted to buy her house in Woodville. There was not even a for sale sign in the yard.

March 2009- One Wednesday night Holly got home from work thinking it was too late to get her and Tanner ready for church. She came in and Tanner told her he had already done his homework, was ready and he thought they should go to church. Holly had been down in her mind and really didn't want to go but because Tanner suggested it, she decided to go on. That night the Lord met her there and blessed her beyond what she could have ever imagined. Even as a child Tanner knew his mom was getting the help she needed that night and was so proud that he snuck a picture of her shouting on her phone. It is a precious picture that we will always cherish.

#### Bro. Tim Middlebrooks:

How the Lord showed me the way of Holiness: I was born in Pensacola, Florida and I lived there until I was 18. When I was 5 years old my mother let me and my sister stay with my aunt and uncle to be able to attend a school by their house. We were supposed to stay with them a few days a week and go home some days. One day she just didn't come back to get us. My aunt and uncle just let us live with them. My aunt and uncle raised us

as their own. My sister is older so she remembers more than I do but she said I didn't transition well. As a child I didn't understand why our mother had left us but now I know the Lord had way better plans for me. Things got more comfortable and when I was 8 some new kids moved to our neighborhood. I had no idea their mother was Sis. Marie Hill. Sis. Marie's youngest son, Bro. Jerry Hill and I became best friends. We went all the way through school together and we stayed friends even after we graduated. We worked at the same grocery store after we graduated. Bro. Jerry's dad was retiring from the Navy and they were moving to Huntsville. Bro. Jerry and I were planning on staying in Pensacola and getting a place to live and do our own thing. Thankfully the Lord had better plans. We both somewhat unexpectedly quit our jobs and Bro. Jerry asked if I wanted to move with them. I thought it would be a good opportunity to get a new start. I said sure. I didn't know but Bro. Jerry hadn't even asked his parents if they minded me moving with them. Thank the Lord they said I could. Bro. David Jones always said I packed up everything I had in a paste board box and moved. It was really a suitcase but it was all I had in one suitcase. When we got to Huntsville, Sis. Marie wanted to go to church. I was raised to go to church 3 times a week. My aunt and uncle were very active in their church. I had no problem going to church. I had been raised another denomination so Bro. Jerry tried to explain Holiness to me. It was very different from what I was used to. We came to church pretty frequently. We were mostly chasing girls. I spent a few months wondering if this was real. If someone could really feel the real power of God. One night Bro. Patrick and Sis. Jennifer's baby, Riley, was very sick. She was crying and they brought her out to be prayed for. By the time everyone was finished praying she was asleep. I knew the Lord had truly touched her. From that moment I started to make my way to the Lord. I had a job that required me to run a very loud machine. I prayed all day long. Sis. Marie always told us to get our praying done at home and it would be easy to get in touch with the Lord when we went to the alter. By this time Bro. Jerry had received the Holy Ghost. Huntsville's revival came and the Lord called me on