

The Magazine Used in  
America's Great Healing  
Campaigns

# THE VOICE OF HEALING

Volume 3

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA, JUNE, 1950

No. 3

## Finland

### Rewarded With Revival; Communists Oppose; Seats Rationed; Dead Child Raised To Life; State Church Accepts Divine Healing

"I have been sent from the presence of Almighty God to tell you that you are to take a gift of Divine Healing to the peoples of the world."

THIS HAD BEEN THE MESSAGE WHICH THE ANGEL BROUGHT TO BROTHER BRANHAM AT 3 O'CLOCK ON THE MORNING OF MAY 7, 1946. FOR ALMOST FOUR YEARS BROTHER BRANHAM HAD LABORED IN ONLY TWO COUNTRIES, U. S. A. AND CANADA, ALTHOUGH HIS MINISTRY WAS KNOWN BY REPORT IN ALMOST EVERY COUNTRY OF THE WORLD. IT WAS, THEREFORE, WITH A CONSCIOUSNESS OF UNFOLDING DIVINE PURPOSE, THAT BROTHER BRANHAM AND PARTY BOARDED A PLANE AT NEW YORK, APRIL 6, 1950, WHICH WOULD TAKE THEM TO ENGLAND, AND FROM THERE TO FINLAND, NORWAY, DENMARK, AND SWEDEN.

(CONTINUE READING ON PAGE 4)



Rev. William Branham of Jeffersonville, Indiana, pictured in center, was assisted by three able ministers, W. J. Ern Baxter, left, and Jack Moore and Gordon Lindsay, standing, who ministered to the war-mangled Scandinavian and Finnish peoples day and night. Also pictured is Howard Branham, brother of the evangelist, who accompanied the group.

On the opposite page are a few of the many photographic tokens which depict the glorious revival days that the Branham Party spent in Helsinki and Kuopio, Finland.

Top left: Brother Branham embraces little girl who was wonderfully healed.

Center: Braces and crutches are no longer needed, and this little girl walks normally now.

Right: Dr. Elie Manninen, pastor of the largest Pentecostal church in Finland, views pile of canes and crutches discarded during one service.

Center left: The Finns are a gentle, honest people; however, these officers of the law were on duty to handle the crowds during the Branham campaign in Kuopio.

Right: These five little Finns had never spoken or heard until the angelic commission sent the Branham Party to their country. They were healed during one of the Lindsay-Moore afternoon services.

Bottom left: Another happy deaf mute smiles at being able to hear the joyful sounds.

Right: Little girl leaves Brother Branham carrying crutches on her shoulders.

Below are shown interior and exterior views of the auditorium in Helsinki, Finland, where between eight and ten thousand persons gathered to witness the outstanding Divine Healing ministry of Evang. William Branham. Thousands stood in line for hours to gain entrance to the meetings. A large tent was erected, yet thousands were turned away and gathered behind rope fences to listen to the services through loud-speakers.



# "This Is Finland"

Rev. W. J. Ern Baxter Writes His Impressions of  
the Branham Meetings in Finland

(Continued from Page 1)

A three-day series of farewell meetings was held in New York City, Monday the 3rd through Wednesday the 5th.

A few days stop-over in England proved a thrilling and valuable experience to the whole party. Time did not permit our sight-seeing ambitions to take us out of London, but we filled every waking moment listening to the voice of this ancient city as it spoke from historic architecture and ancient landmarks. History's thrilling story may here be seen in panorama commencing with the times of the Romans as symbolized in the sunken Roman pavements to be seen in the cavernous corridors beneath the Church of All Hallows-by-the-Tower, right through to the bloody record of the last horrible war, yet to be clearly traced in the many remaining scenes of devastation and destruction created by cruel and indiscriminate bombing.

#### Language Difficulties in Sweden

Thursday, April 13, we flew to Stockholm to meet with Pastor Lewi Pethrus to finalize plans for the Swedish meetings before proceeding to Finland. There was some misunderstanding about the date of our arrival at Stockholm and Brother Pethrus was not at the airport to meet us. We must have provided an amusing spectacle as we stood around the airways bus depot trying to make ourselves understood. Finally we decided the best thing to do was secure hotel accommodation and then hunt for Pastor Pethrus. This we did with the help of a smattering of pigeon German, pigeon Swedish, and pigeon English. I fear that in all cases I was the "pigeon." Feeling more secure within the walls of a friendly hotel, we ventured again to try to locate Brother Pethrus. Eventually we were informed that he was out of town and would not return till after midnight. The next morning we met him and some of his associates who received us most kindly. That afternoon we flew to Helsinki and made ready for "The Battle of Finland."

#### Brave Little Finland

We were not the first to engage in battle in Finland. Through the years this courageous little nation had been the scene of struggle, only finally gaining its national independence in 1918. During the last war it was again caught up in the storm of international warfare, and overrun by both Russians and Germans. Although such subjection was inevitable, nevertheless, this independent people at no time lost heart. After the war, in spite of the swaggering beast to the east, the Finns continued their independent way, maintaining democratic principles. At the present time a conservative government is in power and the last election saw a decided waning of communist influence. The Finnish people, however, are not laboring under an illusion. They know that Russian strength could overpower them in a matter of hours. In the meantime, they intend to go their way and trust God for the future.

Brother Branham had felt especially called to Finland, and right from the beginning of the meetings it was evident that this brave and suffering people were ripe for harvest. Like the American slaves, their bondage and sorrow had been woven into

plaintive minor spiritual songs which had reached the throne of God. Finland's only hope was God!

#### "Such Music"

Finland's largest auditorium had been secured for the evening meetings. Its seating capacity is approximately 7,000. Every service held in this hall witnessed a capacity crowd while hundreds and in some cases thousands stood outside. A brass band and large choir provided the music—and such music. During our stay in Finland we were constantly moved to tears under the spell of their singing.

#### Pastor Manninen

Saturday and Sunday, April 15 and 16, the services were under the auspices of the Finnish Pentecostal church. This congregation of about 2,000 people is led by Pastor Manninen, an energetic and able little man who has served this particular congregation since its organization 25 years ago. A former athlete, Dr. Manninen is still a man of unusual activity, even taking a fling at national politics. He missed election by only 700 votes, which votes he claims, represent some of his wise church members who lovingly refused to help him step out of his high calling. He laughs about it now. He is greatly loved by his people and deeply respected in the city of Helsinki.

A considerable Swedish community is to be found in Helsinki, and a large and active Swedish Pentecostal church holds forth in a fine church building on one of the main streets. Many years ago the Finnish and Swedish believers met together. This made interpreters necessary in every meeting, as there is a great difference in the two languages. The wisdom of dividing into two congregations was generally agreed upon, and for 25 years they have gathered in separate congregations while maintaining the closest of spiritual fellowship.

In view of this situation, Dr. Manninen had arranged that two days should be given to the Swedish people, so Monday and Tuesday we ministered under their auspices. In all of these services the power of God was mightily manifest, with many healings and scores won to Jesus Christ.

#### Sister Isaacson Interpreter

The great handicap under which we labor in all these foreign meetings is our inability to speak the various languages. Although we have been provided with excellent Spirit-filled interpreters, our liberty of speech is greatly hindered. Lack of word equivalents, differences in sentence construction, and many other things, combine to make preaching through an interpreter an arduous and sometimes discouraging task. This is intended in no way to cast a reflection on our interpreters. They all did a grand job, especially Miss May Isaacson, who served not only as an interpreter in services, but ordered our meals, took our phone calls, did our shopping, and generally kept us informed. Canadian born of Finnish parents, and now a naturalized American citizen, Miss Isaacson speaks excellent Finnish, and proved to be indispensable in the Finnish meetings. Others who helped interpret in the Finnish meet-

ings were Brother and Sister Mattson, Brother Watonen and Sister Mumu. Brother Nyman was our Swedish interpreter.

#### "I Was Sure the Russians Had Me"

Tuesday evening Brother Lindsay and Brother Moore preceded us to Kuopio to commence the meeting there on Wednesday night. The rest of us followed on Wednesday evening. The trip to Kuopio took about ten hours. I am sure the coach in which we were riding had square wheels. We spent most of the night struggling to keep from falling out of our berths to the floor. About 5 o'clock in the morning, the Finnish conductor thrust his head through the curtain and let out a stream of Finnish. Half dazed from the night's hectic ride I was sure the Russians had me, and I wasn't sure that I cared much!

#### Memorable Kuopio Meeting

The meeting in Kuopio was outstanding. We were there only five days but much was accomplished. A tent was pitched on the property adjoining the church, and many who were unable to gain access to the church filled the tent, while hundreds more crowded the streets. Those in the tent and on the street heard the services through loudspeakers.

Many wonderful healings took place with people experiencing deliverances in every service. Hundreds testified to healing received in the services, in their homes, on the streets, and while sleeping. A spirit of expectation reigned! Many deaf were healed, and the last two nights of the meeting piles of crutches and canes were left at the altar. One little girl removed the brace which she had worn on her leg for years, and ran all over the church while the people shouted and wept for joy.

Kuopio is a much smaller city than Helsinki, having a population of about 40,000. Situated about 200 miles south of the Arctic circle, there are periods of the year when it is constantly light. The city officials were very sympathetic toward the meetings and sent a book on Finland to be presented to the party as an indication of their good will.

We left Kuopio by train after the Sunday night service. The 100-voice choir from the Kuopio church gathered on the station platform to sing us a farewell. With the harmonious strains of a beautiful Finnish hymn fading in the distance, we closed another chapter in the book of Branham campaigns, and agreed that it was one of the best chapters thus far written.

We arrived back in Helsinki Monday morning, and after getting settled in our hotel, we started to make preparation for a second "session" in the capitol city. People started gathering at the large hall early Monday morning and had to be dispersed by the police. Apparently reports of the earlier meeting had circulated throughout the city and countryside and people were going to be sure and see what it was all about. Each remaining day of the meetings as many as 7,000 gathered three and four hours before service to seek entrance to the auditorium. Thousands were turned away and gathered behind impronptu rope fences to listen to the services through loudspeakers.