

Greatest Religious Meetings in History of South Africa Inspired by Wm. Branham

Reported by Julius Stadslev

THE greatest religious meetings ever held in South Africa were conducted by William Branham and his party during the months of October, November and December, 1951. This was the unanimous conviction of every person I spoke to pertaining to these meetings. Upon speaking to ministers, missionaries, public officials and others who were interested in the spiritual, social and moral welfare of the people, we were assured that the effects of these meetings would be felt for years to come.

Hundreds of thousands gathered together out in the open, in halls, showgrounds, an airplane hangar and even at a race-course in search of God. Tens of thousands have thanked God for their healing. Some were instantly healed, others received healing gradually. Some, having felt the touch of God, could testify as to the time and place. It is impossible to list the various ways people received their healings. There were the cases of those who got up to go home and found their ailments gone. For others their healing was completed on the streets, in cars, buses and taxis. And then there were those who went home believing, and realized as they were checked by a doctor, that their faith had not been in vain.

500,000 PEOPLE HEAR BRANHAM

Those who accompanied William Branham to South Africa were W. J. Ern Baxter, manager of the party, F. F. Bosworth, a dean in the Divine Healing ministry, Billy Paul, son of Brother Branham, and myself. During the ten weeks stay, meetings were conducted in eleven of the leading cities with a total of over one hundred and twenty services and a combined attendance of 500,000 people. There is no way of knowing how many tens of thousands stood and signed decision cards for personal salvation nor how many thousands there are who today are enjoying good health because of this campaign.

75 POLICEMEN HANDLE CROWD

A lengthy report could be written about the meetings in any one of the cities but I would like to relate to you some of the highlights of one of the meetings in Durban on Sunday, November 25th. This date should be printed in red print, because it was a red letter day for thousands of people in and around Durban as well as all the members of the Branham party.

The activities of that day began at 6 A.M., when the ushers reported for duty at the Grayville Race-course. People had been gathering at the entrance since four o'clock in the morning and when the ushers arrived they found so many people it was difficult to direct the crowd. During the day there were over seventy-five police officers on duty and they asked for help to direct the crowds by calling for the Active Civilian Force.

Brother F. F. Bosworth conducted the morning service. When he arrived he saw the largest crowd that he had ever seen gathered together for a religious service in the forty odd years of his ministry. He brought to the people a divinely inspired message on the truths of Divine Healing and explained the gift which God has given to William Branham. A great degree of the success of the meetings was the result of the foundation laid by the able ministering of Brother Bosworth in the hearts and minds of the people pertaining to Bible truths of Divine Healing and the unusual gift which was operating through Brother Branham.

30,000 DECISIONS IN ONE DAY

Before Brother Branham came to the afternoon meeting, Brother Ern Baxter delivered a message, in his eloquent style, explaining God's wonderful plan of personal salvation, after which he asked those who wanted to become Christians to stand. They stood by the thousands. Everywhere people rose to their feet. Those in sections for the Europeans and non-Europeans alike showed a great desire to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. Brother Baxter turned to us who were sitting on the platform as if to say, "They must have misunderstood me. There couldn't be all these thousands who want to become Christians." After explaining the importance of their step he again asked those who wanted to become Christians to wave their hands. Such a sight we had never seen before. During the three services of that day it was estimated by the local pastors that over thirty thousand stood to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Before the afternoon service started, re-

ports were coming in of those who had received their healing in the morning service. It would be impossible to relate the many cases of definite healings which took place in Durban that day. As Brother Branham saw visions of healings he pointed out the people and told them that they were healed. There were those who stepped out of their wheel chairs and walked, some for the first time in many years. There were the deaf and dumb who smiled and made vocal sounds as they were able to hear for the first time in their life. There were the little children who could not understand it all but who were now able to walk as they had never been able to do before.

Truly this was a great day of spiritual awakening in the city of Durban. According to the police force fifty-five to sixty thousand people had come to hear the Gospel in addition to twenty to twenty-five thousand who had been turned away from the gates for lack of room in the largest and finest race-course in South Africa. God had spoken to the hearts of thousands and had caused them to come out to hear the Gospel and receive healing for both soul and body.

OUTSTANDING MIRACLES

When I came home a friend called me up and asked me to tell him about the most outstanding miracle. I told him that it was difficult to do this because there had been so many. However, I related to him the most impressive healing that took place the first night Brother Branham was there as well as the outstanding one from the last evening. The miracle from this first service which I would like to report to you is pertaining to a young man sixteen years of age. The newspaper carried an article which told the story. Rather than re-tell the story in my words I am enclosing a photographic copy of the newspaper article.

The healing from the last service which I shall always remember was that of a blind lady. Brother Branham had seen a vision

The following was clipped from South African Newspaper

'MIRACLE' SETS BOY WALKING NORMALLY

(Sunday Tribune Reporter)

A FAITH cure, described by his mother as a "miracle," has enabled 16-year-old Ernest Blom, of Eastview Road, Red Hill, Durban, formerly a cripple, to walk normally for the first time in his life.

Last Sunday evening, Ernest astounded a packed congregation of more than 500 people at the Full Gospel Church in Beatrice Street, Durban, by rising from his seat and walking without the slightest difficulty to the pulpit to testify that "a miracle happened and I am now completely cured."

Excited groups of people gathered outside the church later to watch Ernest walking and to congratulate him on his recovery.

His mother, Mrs. Mary S. Blom, said: "Ernest is the youngest of my family of 10. When he started to walk, I noticed that his left leg was shorter than his right. He could only walk on the tips of his toes, and had to drag his left foot."

WENT TO HEALER

"From the age of four until a month ago, he was under the care of a specialist. For two years he wore a leg iron without any noticeable improvement. The specialist latterly suggested an operation, but said he could not guarantee that it would be a success, so I gave up the idea."

"I heard of Pastor William Branham's remarkable faith-healing successes in the States. When my daughter and a friend heard he was to visit Johannesburg they motored from Durban three weeks ago and took Ernest along. They attended his opening meeting in the Maranatha Park Hall, at which 15,000 people were present."

Ernest himself here took up his story. He said: "I was right at the back of the hall. Pastor Branham asked all the people wanting to be cured to lay hands on each other. I laid my hands on those of a man sitting beside me. Pastor Branham said, 'I will pray for you.'"

"WEIRD SENSATION"

"I experienced a weird sensation. It was just like cold water running through my body. I began to cry. My sister said, 'Are you healed, Ernest?' I replied, 'Yes, I am sure I am healed.'"

"Because of the huge crowd I could not move, but as I was being helped from the back of the hall I kept repeating, 'I am sure I am healed.'"

"Pastor Branham said: 'All you people who are healed, will you come forward.' I was assisted to the sick bay by others. He told me to walk up and down the platform on which he was standing."

"URGED ON"

"I broke into a sweat but something urged me on, and I managed to walk normally across the platform and back."

"When I got back to Durban and my school friends at Hunt Road School saw me walking into the classroom, they were flabbergasted."

"My left leg is getting stronger every day. I can now play cricket and other games."

