

BRIEF HISTORY

IN

W. A. DRAVES' LIFE

Born of goodly parents, raised in Western Nebraska, my birthday May 12, 1912, third child of family of 8 children.

At age 10 my father, older brother and I attended a RLDS reunion at North Platte, Nebraska. After several days of hearing good preaching and feeling the Spirit and Power of God upon me, I asked for baptism. Thus six other boys near my age, including my brother, were baptized in Platte River by Brother Elder Sivvitts; Pastor of the group at North Platte, Nebraska of the Reorganized Church.

At the confirmation, seven of us seated in a row, four Elders confirming, including Elder Evangelist Ralph Burton-I being the middle lad or fourth in the row-I was confirmed by Elder Ralph Burton.

In the confirmation I was told in prophecy that I had a peculiar work to do among my Brethren, that I would behold Angels and be considered a prophet in God's Work. I wept greatly under the Spirit.

During the next few days of the reunion I was spoken to by a prophetess in the group. Repeating much the same things and adding more to same, until an adult Brother complained and objected to such continuing. But further word was given me as a sign-of all being true and of God.

I was told that I had a goodly mother-that she would be with me yet 40 years before being taken in death. This was August 3, 1922, and to the very day of 40 years my mother passed away in my rest home, that I managed at Kingston, Missouri. She was 84, I was 50 at the time-40 years, to the day. Great assurance was given me of my work. However, this was years later of many events in between the aforementioned events.

I continued to study the Scriptures and preparing for what I knew would be a Calling of God some day.

The family moved to Colorado when I was 13 and we got acquainted with the Utah Latter-Day Saints group - joined with them which Brother R. Moss baptized the family.

I never liked the idea of water used in the communion so refrained from taking part in same.

Later we learned of the return of the Angel John the Baptist, to Otto Fetting, an Apostle of the Temple Lot group, The Church Of Christ. I was 17 at this time, 1929. We learned of plans for The Temple of the Lord, being given and the basement being dug, 90 x 180 feet. Lots of excitement and new courage given to our concerns.

My father was taken in death by a train and truck wreck, in April of 1929. Mother left a widow with the family-we asked for Elders to come to us from The Church Of Christ (Temple Lot) group.

Apostle Thomas Barton came to us in Colorado. We lived on a farm east of Platteville, Colorado in Greeley County. We were baptized, mother and several of the children. In the confirmation Brother Thomas Barton prophesied to me - saying I had a peculiar work to do in the Church among the Brethren - again saying I would behold Angels - and a leader in God's Work. Many more good remarks were spoken to me. He not knowing of my experiences at age 10, my mother still with me here.

Other prophecies were given me too by other Brothers in the Church at that time.

During the summer of 1929 we were thrilled about the Temple work. I was planning to go to Independence, Missouri to help on this construction.

Next thing we heard of the 12th Message, given by the Messenger, John the Baptist to Brother Otto Fetting, and the Command for all that come to The Church Of Christ to be baptized. What? You mean folks came into the Church without baptism? This was serious.

Learning later Thomas Barton came into the group without a baptism, but on a transfer from the RLDS group. Talking to him about this - he said it made no difference. I was once in the RLDS group. How could he put me in The Church Of Christ, if he was not properly put in it himself. So I agreed against his will to investigate this 12th Message. He tells me if I do I will be put out of the Church.

I learned later that Brother Fetting and another Brother started a new - or pure-sure, baptism, under the touch of the Angel's hand, and throughout the Church baptized over 1900 members to which high council was against.

Word came to us a fall meeting was being held by the councilmen to which Brother Fetting could not - did not have any say. However, we learned that 5 men of the Council voted to put out of the group, all that were re-baptized or baptized under Fetting as per the 12th Message. So a division came.

Spring Conference or Assembly of April, 1930, Brother Fetting and followers were not allowed in the Temple Lot building, so rented the Church building on East Kansas Street, and organized or established the group of Message believers. From there moves on followers of the Angel Messages, 30 Messages in all to Brother Fetting. His death in 1933; four years later, the Angel Messenger began again his visits to the same group, since I was baptized by Brother Apostle W. P. Buckley in 1931 and later ordained an Elder by Brother Apostle George Backus.

Again prophecies given over me of my leadership to be and it was October 4, 1937. My first encounter and experience of the Messenger coming to me.

Many experiences, many testimonies and many incidents proving the Truth and Power of this Work. Much more could be said to establish the truth. The truth will make us free.

As of today the Angel has come to me since 1937. Eighty- Two more Messages, totaling 112 Messages in a book. My age now is 79.

An Angel from God has actually come and established this Work.

Let us carry it to the finish which is God. Peace be your blessing.

Sixty years have rolled by.

How could 5 men be the means of dividing God's Church? It happened and the baptism rejected-today the Lord desires that we all consider this cleansing baptism and come together, heal the breach and accomplish the work of building the Temple of the Lord.

Seven to 10 years after 1929 the basement hole was filled up, the ground leveled off. Markers placed at the respective corners, etc. -No Temple and bitterness, division and neglect is the situation today, 1992.

The Lord pleading, the breach be healed-reconciliation and obedience to this way and it will be well for all.



-W. A. Draves
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