

The Goose Creek Bulletin

May

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"Sister Sarah's Birthday Month"



JOSIAH and SARAH HOPKINS
In the Garden of the Little Country Church of Hollywood

Thirty-One Years With Josiah

By SARAH HOPKINS

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE

About June of 1935, Josiah started his 1:00 o'clock Bible lessons on KFAC, and in September he started giving out the call of Romans 10:9 from "The Dug-out." Josiah spent hours on his knees before his Bible for this broadcast, and God's blessed Spirit could be felt when he would come on with his, "Good Afternoon, neighbors!" He started, as so many of you remember I'm sure, with the Book of Genesis, and went almost to the middle of the Book of Deuteronomy in these Bible lessons. It was his dream to be able to go through the entire Bible. Although he had many commentaries on The Bible, down in the "Dugout," he believed that the Holy Spirit, after all, was the best Teacher, and he wanted to broadcast the entire Bible, verse by verse, under the direct tutelage of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, Josiah was not to be disturbed when he was preparing for this broadcast!

And, what sweet music it was to all of our ears when we would hear over the air the "knock on the door." We knew that another one had stepped out on the promise of Romans 10:9! Mrs. Davey would take each call as it came in over the phone, come around to the "Dug-out," knock, and slip the name under the door. When Josiah had to give up this broadcast the last part of 1936, because of his illness, over 900 neighbors had called in, accepting Romans 10:9!

On Sept. 29th, 1935, we had another Vesper Service in the Hollywood Bowl, with possibly an even larger crowd than we had before. It was broadcast up the coast. "Jeff Batts" (Bob Gordon) was now singing with us as top tenor, having taken "Lem Gupton's" place. The music of Jeff's beautiful voice was a blessing to many across the years.

Neighbors, I must tell you of a funny thing that happened as the result of our broadcast. Josiah had asked me to give over the air the recipe for old-fashioned Ambrosia. I did this, saying by all means to use the fresh cocoanut. Several days later a neighbor wrote in saying that on that day she attempted to make some, and had gone to a nearby market (one of the largest in the city) to get fresh cocoanut. When she asked the man for one, he said, "What in the world has come over everybody? We've been carrying fresh cocoanuts for years and always had plenty on hand. This is the first day in the history of the store we've had a run on cocoanuts! What's happened?"

The lady told him what had prompted her to buy one, and he

laughed and said, "I wish that Sarah Hopkins would let us know when she's going to give out a recipe!"

Everything was not a "bed of roses," for there were many trials that we had to face. Although we had a coast-to-coast broadcast as well as a West Coast one, we had no way of financing these, except through the gifts and the prayers of the neighbors who attended the services of the little Country Church and the KFAC broadcasts. The radio time over the Columbia and the Don-Lee Chains were given to us, but we had to take care of the expenses connected with such. Many and many a time we've been faced with tremendous overhead, but the Lord saw us through it all. He supplied each need, and we believe He will always do so, as long as we trust in Philippians 4:19!

Just about this time, Josiah and I had to face the greatest battle of our ministry. As is always the case, wherever God is blessing and many are finding Christ as their Personal Savior, Satan soon follows with his deadly darts, trying to do all in his power to stop the ongoing of Christ's Kingdom. All through Josiah's ministry the devil of jealousy had done so much damage. Although I've never seen a preacher go out of his way more than Josiah to help other preachers or anyone else as far as that is concerned, so much jealousy followed him. Now that the little Country Church was well known, we were certainly good targets.

Some men whom Josiah had personally helped in many instances, tried in every way possible to wreck the work that God had given Josiah. Certainly only Satanic power could have prompted the vicious attacks and lies. And, Josiah didn't come from the part of the country that would sit quietly by, while his name and those of his family were slandered! But, neighbors, the Lord gave us both the Grace to overcome it all, and taught us the joy of leaning upon Him more than ever before. We never knew how many wonderful friends we had, until God allowed such a testing. Josiah even had a delegation of big, two-fisted Texas cowmen come all the way from Texas, for the sole purpose of asking him if there was anything they could do to settle the situation once and for all! But, that's not God's method. He has "a way of escape," and He can cause His child to come out with flying colors.

Although the strain of such a period of testing was unbelievably heavy upon us, yet I think I never heard Josiah preach with such power and the spirit of love. One night up in the old over-flow tent, Josiah preached on the Apostle John, and his text was "Little Children, Love One Another." As I watched him portray this blessed saint, I knew that God had given Josiah an understanding and meaning of the word, "Love," that he could never have understood without deep suffering.

I'm sure that you will be glad to know that one of the men who caused us so much anguish wrote Josiah a short time before his death, and asked forgiveness. And even after that, when the Lord had called Josiah Home, this man also asked my forgiveness.

Neighbors, the Lord CAN sustain you in each trial and give you strength to bear each heartache!

(To Be Continued)

Dear Neighbor:

Years ago, when Josiah's Birthday Month of October would come up, he'd say to me, "Honey, I feel kind of embarrassed saying to the neighbors that I want them to wish me a Happy Birthday! A person doesn't usually talk much about his own Birthday!"

But, as you folks would commence to enter into the spirit of his request—to say "Happy Birthday" with your love-gifts to the little Country Church—Josiah would say, "Well, Sarah, there's just nobody like the Goose Creek neighbors! They make you glad that your Birthday can be of benefit to the little church!"

And, I know just how Josiah felt. This wonderful Spring Month of May has come upon us. As I mention again that the month of May is my Birthday Month, and ask you to enter into the celebration of it, I don't hesitate to do so, because I'm not asking you to remember me with a love-gift—but this little white Country Church and its simple ministry.

This month of May, 1950, will be a wonderful Milestone for me, if the work of the Lord upon this hillside will receive a great boost and extra push from you faithful and kind neighbors in this My Birthday Month!

In Loving Gratitude,
SARAH HOPKINS