

Behold, the Bridegroom .....

*Cometh*

..... go ye out to meet Him!

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**FRED FRANCIS**

**BOSWORTH**

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## BROTHER F. F. BOSWORTH



Brother Bosworth (left) and Brother Branham  
Germany, August 1955.

**Fred Francis Bosworth** (1877 - 1958) was a pastor, evangelist, author and early Gospel radio personality. He firmly believed that healing was embodied in the Atonement and his Ministry spanned from the outpouring of the Holy Ghost at Azusa Street to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century healing revival. He became a close friend to William Branham.

F.F. Bosworth was born one of five children to a devout Methodist family on a farm in Utica, Nebraska. He made his decision for Christ around 1893-4 and two years later, his early childhood lung problems worsened to become tuberculosis and his doctors expected him to die. He was healed when prayed for by a Miss Mattie Perry, an itinerant Methodist "Bible woman" who preached the Gospel.



## Fred Francis Bosworth

After marrying in 1900, he held a number of secular positions in Fitzgerald, Georgia before settling in Alexander Dowie's community at Zion, Illinois where his accomplished cornet playing led to his becoming leader of the church band.

While still in Zion, he embraced Pentecostalism through his contact with Charles Parham who came to Zion to minister at a number of meetings held in the Bosworth home and elsewhere. He was filled with the Holy Ghost in 1906 and with this experience, came an intense desire to preach the Gospel. He and his wife arrived in Dallas, Texas in 1909 and started the First Assembly of God church there the following year.

In 1911 he was invited to preach in segregated Hearne, Texas. The brush arbor meetings were so arranged that he was able to speak to separate black and white congregations at the same time. After one such meeting, he was confronted and beaten with 2 x 4's by vigilantes because he had preached to audiences that crossed the racial barriers. He offered no resistance and after the vicious beating, he had to find his own way to the next town on foot, bleeding, bruised and nursing a broken wrist. Nevertheless, he rejoiced that he was considered worthy to suffer for the Gospel's sake and forgave those that had dealt to him so cruelly. He wrote a letter to his mother about this unfortunate experience (refer to the Heritage Letter Vol. 6, No 2, 1986).

In 1914 he became one of the founders of the Assemblies of God but later disagreed with them when in 1916, they formalized their doctrine that the initial evidence of the Baptism with the Holy Ghost was speaking in tongues. He published a tract, "Do All speak With Tongues?" challenging this belief but did not gain a following amongst the other ministers. Being a man of deep conviction and integrity, he graciously parted with the Assemblies of God to start a new church in Dallas in 1918. Because of this tract, the General Council of the Assemblies of God adopted a resolution the same year making any contrary teaching, a matter of "serious disagreement."

In the 1920's he became known across the United States for his "big tent revivals" and his belief in 'faith healing'. As an evangelist, he travelled widely and at one of his larger meetings (Ottawa, Canada) some 12,000 conversions were noted. Many were filled with the Spirit and healed (particularly of deafness) during his meetings.

Today he is best known for his classic book *Christ the Healer* first published in 1924, of which seven editions were produced in his lifetime and over 500,000 copies are now in print.

## Association with William Branham

Bosworth was in touch with many of the Pentecostal and holiness ministers of his time and first met William Branham in 1948 near the beginning of the new Divine healing revival. He had just retired but they soon joined together and he worked as Brother Branham's manager through his various domestic and African campaigns until the revival began to wane. He died in January 1958.

He wrote a chapter of the book "A Prophet Visits South Africa" by Julius Stadskev in which he states;

*During the past few years, I have often wept for joy over God's recent gift to the Church, of our beloved brother, William Branham, with his marvelous "Gift of Healing." This is a case of God doing "exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think." (Eph.3:20), for I have never seen or read of anything to equal the healing ministry of William Branham..... And best of all, sinners are thus brought*

## Fred Francis Bosworth

*under conviction for sin and want to be saved. ...I have seen as many as thirty thousand sinners in a single day stand to their feet in tears to give their hearts to God.*

The following testimonies are excerpts from that chapter:

### **Crippled Child Healed**

During a Fort Wayne meeting a lady came into the healing line carrying a child which was born with a club foot which with its leg was in a plaster cast. The moment Brother Branham saw them, without stopping to pray for the child's healing, he said to the lady, "O, yes, will you do what I tell you to do?" The lady answered "I will." Then he said to her, "Go home and get that cast off, and when you come back tomorrow night, bring the child, and she will have a perfect foot."

The microphone carried these words to all in the great audience. It took them more than an hour that night to get the cast off. When the lady brought the child the next night, the child had a perfect foot and was wearing a new pair of little white shoes and was walking. The doctor X-rayed the foot and found it perfect. (A Prophet Visits South Africa, pg. 41/42).

### **Crossed eyes Healed**

A young lady who was born with her eyes crossed and who was attending Bible School in Fort Wayne during the meeting there said to Mrs. Bosworth who was back at the book stand, "I can't see how I can ever get into that healing line, there are so many." Mrs. Bosworth said to her, "You won't need to, You just sit back here and ask God to lift your faith to the healing level, and you will pull from the gift the healing virtue."

She did this, and during the service Brother Branham stopped and pointed in her direction and said, "A young lady way back there was just now healed of crossed eyes." Her eyes have been straight ever since. (A Prophet Visits South Africa, pg. 43)

### **Prophetic Healing**

While praying for those in the healing line in a Flint meeting, he stopped and pointed up toward the second gallery to his right, said, "I have just now had a vision of a lady dressed in a blue suit wearing a striped waist. She has just been healed of a cancer." The woman sprang to her feet and with great joy said, "I am that lady."

### **Blind Man**

After praying for one totally blind man, Brother Branham said to him, "Walk to the pulpit and put your finger on that preacher's nose." He walked straight to the minister and pulled his nose, causing the audience to laugh.

### **Prophecy**

I heard him say recently to a mother bringing her little girl, "Lady, your child was born deaf and dumb; and as soon as you discovered she could not hear, you took her to the doctor." And then Brother Branham told the mother exactly what the doctor said. The mother said, "That is exactly right"

*..... But Brother Branham is a channel for more than the mere gift of healing; he is also a Seer as were the Old Testament Prophets. He sees events before they take place. I asked him, "What do you mean? How do you see them?" He replied, "Just as I see you; only that I know it is a vision." At these times he can say with absolute certainty, "Thus Saith The Lord," and he is never wrong. He told me that he simply acts out what he has already seen himself doing in the vision. The success of this phase of his ministry is exactly 100%.*

## His passing.

Brother Branham made these remarks about the passing of Brother Bosworth;

I remember Brother Bosworth when he was dying; ..... I said, "Brother Bosworth, I want to ask you," I said, "are you sick?"

Said, "No."

I said, "Well, what's the matter?"

He said, "I'm just going home." Yes. You know his sense of humor.

And I--I said, "Well, Brother Bosworth," I said, "I'd like to ask you something. When was your best time?"

He said, "Right now."

And I said, "Yet you know you're dying?"

He said, "I can't die." Said, "I died about seventy years ago," he said. He said, "I--I'm a new creature in Christ." And he said, "Brother Branham, all that I have lived for, for the past sixty years, has been the Lord Jesus. And any minute I'm looking for Him to walk in the door and go with Him for eternity."

As his physical life ebbed away, those at the bedside observed Brother Bosworth rouse and begin to greet long departed members of his family and earlier converts to Christ as he slipped across the divide to take possession of the mansions prepared for the redeemed. In the words of his son, Brother Bob Bosworth;

My father, F. F. Bosworth, had prayed, asking God to help him glorify God in his death as he had in his life—to die without sickness. About three weeks after he took to his bed, we were around the bed talking, laughing, singing. Suddenly Dad looked up; he never saw us again. He saw what was invisible to us. He began to greet people and hug people—he was enraptured. Every once in a while he would break off and look around saying, "Oh, it is so beautiful."

He did this for several hours. Finally, with a smile on his face, he put his head back and slept. We took turns sitting with him. My wife, Stella, was sitting with him when she suddenly realized that he had stopped breathing. There had been no struggle, no pain, no sound, no death rattle. The psalmist had described it correctly—God had simply removed his breath and he was home! "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" This is the testimony and ultimate triumph of F. F. Bosworth and CHRIST, THE HEALER.

## References

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