

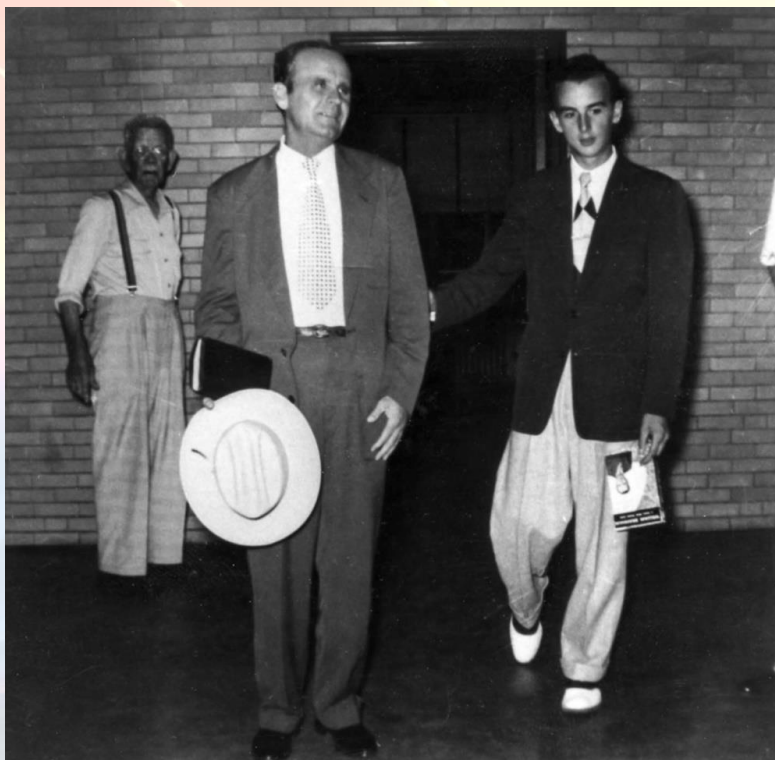
My Life Story

2



WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM

And then I said this, I said, “Lord,
You gave her to me and You
taken her away, blessed be the
Name of the Lord! If You take
even me, I’ll still love You.”



William Marrion Branham

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143 And I remember one day I had saved up my money and I was going to take a little vacation, going up to a place, the Paw Paw Lake, to fish. And on my road back...

144 And during this time...I'm leaving out my conversion. I was converted. And was ordained by Doctor Roy Davis, in the Missionary Baptist church, and

had become a minister and have the tabernacle that I now preach in in Jeffersonville. And I was pastoring the little church. And I...

145 No money, I pastored the church seventeen years and never got one penny. I didn't believe in tak-...There wasn't even an offering plate in it. And what tithings I had from work, and so forth, had a little box on the back of the building, said, little sign on it, "Insomuch as you

have done unto the least of these My little ones, you have did it unto Me.” And then that’s how the church was paid for. We had ten-years loan to pay it, and was paid off less than two years. And I never took an offering of no kind.

146 And then I had, oh, a few dollars I had saved up for my vacation. She worked, too, at Fine’s Shirt Factory. A lovely darling girl. And her grave is probably snowy today, but she’s

still in my heart. And I remember when she worked so hard to help me to have enough money to go up to this lake to fish.

147 And when I was coming back from the lake, I begin to see, coming into Mishawaka and South Bend, Indiana, and I begin to notice cars that had signs on the back, said, “Jesus Only.” And I thought, “That sounds strange, ‘Jesus Only.’” And I begin noticing those signs. And it was on anywhere from bicycles,

Fords, Cadillacs, and what-more, “Jesus Only.” And I followed some of them down, and they come to a great big church. And I found out they were Pentecostal.

148 I’d heard of Pentecostal, but they were a bunch of “holy-rollers that laid on the floor and frothed at their mouth,” and everything that they told me about. So I didn’t want nothing to do with it.

149 So I heard them all carrying on in there, and I thought, "Believe I'll just walk in." So I stopped my old Ford and walked in, and all the singing you ever heard in your life! And I come to find out there were two great churches, one of them called a P.A. of J.C., and the P.A. of W., many of you people might remember those old organi-...I think they're united, called now, and called the United Pentecostal church. Well, I listened at some of their

teachers. And they were standing there, oh, they were teaching about Jesus and how great He was, and how great everything was, and about a “baptism of the Holy Ghost.” I thought, “What are they talking about?”

150 And, after a while, somebody jumped up and started speaking with tongues. Well, I never heard anything like that in my life. And here come some woman up through there

running just as hard as she could. Then all of them got up and started running. And I thought, “Well, brother, they sure ain’t got no church manners!” Screaming and shouting and carrying on, I thought, “What a bunch this is!” But, you know, something about it, longer I sit there, the better I liked it. There was something seemed to be real good. And I begin to watch them. And it went on. I thought, “I’ll just bear with them a while, ’cause I’ll...I’m close to the door.

If anything starts just rashly, I'll run out the door. I know where my car is parked, just around the corner."

151 And I begin to hear some of them preachers, was scholars and students. Why, I thought, "That's fine."

So it come supper time, and said, "Everybody come to supper."

152 But I thought, "Wait a minute. I got a dollar and seventy-five cents to go home,

and I..." That's all I had for gasoline money. Just taken that to take me home. And I had my old Ford, it was a pretty good old Ford. It wasn't backslid, it was just like this one out here, just wore out. And it...I actually believe that Ford would go thirty miles an hour, but course that was fifteen *this* way and fifteen *this* way. You see, put it together, you have thirty. And so it...I thought, "Well, that night I think I would go out and after the..." I was stayed for the night service.

153 And, oh, he said, “All of the preachers, regardless of denomination, come to the platform.” Well, there was about two hundred of us up there, I went up. And so he said, “Now, we haven’t got time for you all to preach.” He said, “Just walk by and say who you are and where you’re from.”

154 Well, it come my time, I said, “William Branham, Baptist. Jeffersonville, Indiana.” Walked by.

155 I'd hear all the rest of them call themselves, "Pentecostal, Pentecostal, Pentecostal, P.A. of W., P.A.J.C., P.A.W., P..."

156 I walked by. I thought, "Well, I guess I'm the ugly duckling." So I set down, waited.

157 And, that day, they'd had fine, young preachers out there, and they had preached powerfully. And then they said, "The one's going to bring the message tonight is..." I believe

they called him, “Elder.” And their ministers, instead of “Reverend,” it was “Elder.” And they brought an old colored man out there, and he had one of these old-fashioned preacher’s coats. I don’t guess you ever seen one. Long pigeon-tail in the back, you know, with a velvet collar, and he had just a little white rim of hair around his head. Poor old fellow, he come out like *this*, you know. And he stood there and he turned around. And where all the preachers had

been preaching about Jesus and the great...how great He was, and so forth, that old man took his text from over in Job. “Where was you when I laid the foundation of the world, or when the morning stars sang together and the sons of God shouted for joy?”

158 And the poor old fellow, I thought, “Why didn’t they put some of them young fellows up there to preach?” Great...the place was packed and jammed.

And I thought, “Why didn’t they do that?”

159 So then this old fellow, instead of preaching what was going on down here on earth, he begin to preach what was going on in Heaven all the time. Well, he took Him up at the beginning—at the beginning of time, and brought Him back in the Second Coming down the horizontal rainbow. Why, I never heard such preaching in my life! About that time the Spirit hit him,

he jumped about *that* high and clicked his heels together, threw his shoulders back and went tipping off that platform, said, “You haven’t got room enough up here for me to preach.” And he had more room than I got here.

160 I thought, “If That’ll make an old man act like that, what would it do if it got on me?” I—I thought, “Maybe I need some of That.” Why, he come out there, I felt so sorry for the old fellow.

But, when he left, I was feeling sorry for myself. And I looked at him go off there.

161 I went out that night, and I thought, “Now, the next morning I’m not going to let nobody know where, who I am.” So I went, and that night I pressed my trousers. I took the...went out in the corn field to sleep, and I went down and bought me some stale rolls. You...I bought a whole bunch of them for a nickel. There was a hydrant down there, I got some

water. So I knowed that would last me a little while, so I got me some water and drank it, and went and eat my rolls. And come back and got another drink of water. Went out in the corn field, took the two seats and laid my little seersucker trousers in there, pressed them on the seat.

162 And, that night, I prayed pretty near all night. I said, “Lord, what is this I got into? I never seen such religious people in my

life.” And I said, “Help me to know what this is all about.”

163 And the next morning I got down there. Invited us for breakfast. Course, I wouldn't come eat with them, because I had nothing to put in the offering. And I just went back. And the next morning when I went in, why (I eat some of my rolls), and set down. And they was got on a microphone. And I had never seen a microphone before, and I was scared of that thing. So

they...And it had a little string hanging up here, and it hanging down. One of them drop mikes, like. And he said, “Last night, on the platform, there was a young preacher here, a Baptist.”

I thought, “Uh-oh, I’m good for a working-over now.”

164 And he said, “He was the youngest preacher on the platform. His name was Branham. Does anybody know any whereabouts of him? Tell

him to come on, we want him to bring the morning message.”

165 Oh, my! I had a little T-shirt on, and seersucker trousers, you know. And we Baptists believe you had to have a suit on, to get in the pulpit, you know. So...And I—I just set real still. And during the time...They had it up in the North then 'cause (their international convention) the colored people couldn't come to it if was in the South. They had the colored there, and I

was a Southerner, had starch in my collar yet, you see, thought I was a little better than somebody else. And it happened to be that morning, set right down by me was a—a colored man. So I set and looked up at him. I thought, “Well, he’s a brother.”

166 And he said, “Anybody know the whereabouts of William Branham?” I scoots down in the seat like *this*. So he said, announced it the second time, said, “Anybody on the outside”

(he pulled this little mike in)
“know the whereabouts of
William Branham? Tell him we
want him on the platform for the
morning message. He’s a Baptist
preacher from southern Indiana.”

167 I just set real still and
ducked down, you know. Nobody
knowed me, anyhow. That
colored boy looked over at me,
said, “Do you know where he
is?”

168 I thought. I—I either had to lie or do something. So I said, “Hold down here.”

He said, “Yes, sir?”

I said, “I want to tell you something.” I said, “I—I’m him.”

He said, “Well, go on up there.”

169 And I said, “No, I can’t. See,” I said, “I got on these little old seersucker trousers and this little T-shirt.” I said, “I couldn’t go up there.”

170 He said, “Them people don’t care how you dress. Go on up there.”

I said, “No, no.” I said, “Keep still, don’t say nothing now.”

171 And they come back to the phone a minute, said, “Anybody know the whereabouts of William Branham?”

172 He said, “Here he is! Here he is! Here he is!” Oh, my! There I got up with that little T-shirt on, you know. And here I...

173 He said, “Come on up, Mr. Branham, we want you to bring the message.” Oh, my, before all them preachers, uhm, all them people! And I went slipping up, you know. My face red, and my ears burning. And I slipped up, seersucker trousers and T-shirt, preacher, Baptist preacher going up to the microphone, never seen one before, you see.

174 And I stood up there, I said, “Well, I—I—I don’t know

about this.” I was fumbling, real nervous, you know. And—and I got over here around Luke 16, and I thought, “Well, now...” And I—I got on the subject, “And he lifted up his eyes in hell, and cried.” And I got...So I—I begin to preach, you know, and I got to preaching and felt a little better. And I said, “The rich man was in hell, and he cried.” That little three words, like I have a lot of sermons like that, “Believest Thou This,” and “Speak To The Rock,” you’ve heard me preach

them. And I had, “And then he cried.” And I said, “There’s no children there, certainly not in hell. Then he cried.” I said, “There’s no flowers there. Then he cried. There’s no God there. Then he cried. There’s no Christ there. Then he cried.” Then I cried. Something got a hold of me. My! Oh, my! After, I don’t know what happened. When I kind of got to myself, I was standing on the outside. Them people got screaming and

shouting and crying, and I, we had an awful time.

175 When I come outside there was a fellow walked up to me with a great big Texas hat on, big boots, walked up, said, “I’m Elder *So-and-so*.” Preacher, cowboy boots, cowboy clothes on.

I thought, “Well, my seersucker trousers ain’t so bad then.”

176 Said, “I want you to come down to Texas and hold me a revival.”

177 “Uh-huh, let me put that down, mister.” And I put it down like that.

178 Here come a fellow up with one of these little, kind of a golf trousers on, where they used to play golf, you know, had them little blouse pants. He said, “I’m Elder *So-and-so* from Miami. I like to...”

179 “My, maybe dressing isn’t so much of it.” I looked at it, and I thought, “All right.”

180 So I grabbed these things, and home I went. Wife met me, she said, “Why do you sound so happy about, Billy?”

181 I said, “Oh, I met the cream of the crop. My, it’s the best you ever seen. Them people ain’t ashamed of their religion.” And, oh, I told her all about it. And I said, “And looky here,

honey, a whole string of invitations. Them people!”

She said, “They’re not holy rollers, are they?”

182 I said, “I don’t know what kind of a rollers they are, but they got something that I needed.” See? I said, “That—that’s one thing I’m sure.” I said, “I seen an old man, ninety years old, come young again.” I said, “I never heard such preaching in my life. Why, I never seen a Baptist preach like that.” I said,

“They preach till they get out of breath, and bend their knees plumb to the floor, come back up, catch their breath. You can hear them two blocks away, still preaching.” And I said, “I—I never heard such in my life.” And I said, “They speak in an unknown tongue, and the other one tells what they’re talking about. Never heard such in my life!” I said, “Will you go with me?”

183 She said, “Honey, when I married you, I will stick with you until death shall separate us.” She said, “I’ll go.” She said, “Now, we’ll tell the folks.”

184 And I said, “Well, you tell your mama and I’ll tell my mama.” So we...I went and told Mama.

185 Mama said, “Well, sure, Billy. Whatever the Lord’s called you to do, go do it.”

186 And so Mrs. Brumbach asked for me to come up. Went

up. She said, “What’s this you’re talking about?”

187 And I said, “Oh, Mrs. Brumbach,” I said, “you all never seen such people.”

She said, “Quieten down! Quieten down!”

I said, “Yes, ma’am.” I said, “I’m sorry.”

And she said, “Do you know that’s a bunch of holy rollers?”

188 I said, “No, ma’am, I didn’t know that.” I said, “They—they sure are fine people.”

189 She said, “The very idea! Do you think you’d drag my daughter out amongst stuff like that!” Said, “Ridiculous! That’s nothing but trash that the other churches has throwed out.” She said, “Indeed! You’ll not bring my daughter out like that.”

190 And I said, “But, you know, Mrs. Brumbach, down in my heart I feel that the Lord

wants me to go with them people.”

191 She said, “You go back up to your church until they are able to afford a parsonage for you, and act like a man that’s got some sense.” Said, “You’re not taking my daughter out through there.”

I said, “Yes, ma’am.” I turned around and walked out.

192 And Hope started crying. She come out, she said, “Billy, regardless of what Mama says,

I'll stay with you." Bless her heart!

And I said, "Oh, that's all right, honey."

193 And I just let it go. She wouldn't let her daughter go with such people as that 'cause "It wasn't nothing but trash." And so I just kind of let it go. It was the worst mistake I ever made in my life, one of the worst.

194 A little later, few years after, the children come. And one day we was...There come up a

flood, in 1937. There came a flood. And our...I was on patrol at that time and I was trying my best to bring the people out of the flood, houses tearing down. And my own wife took sick, and she was real, real sick with pneumonia. And they took her out...The regular hospital was so full we couldn't put her in there, so we taken her out to the—the government where they had a room out there. And so then they called me back out. And I always lived on the river, and quite a

boatman, so I was trying to get the people, rescue them from the flood. And then I'd...one...

195 They called me, said, "There's a house over on Chestnut Street, it's about ready to go in. There's a mother and a bunch of children in there," said, "if you think your boat, your motor can get in to them."

I said, "Well, I'll do all I can."

196 And I, shooting those waves. The dike had broke up there, and, oh, my, the...just

washing the city out. And I would give it all the juice that I could, and finally down across the alleys and through the places. And I got there close to where the old levee was, the water pouring through. And I heard someone scream, and I seen a mother standing out on the porch. And there was them big rollers going through like that. Well, I went on up *this* way as far as I could, and hit the stream and come back and got on that side. I had got my boat stopped just in

time to tie it around the pillar, of the post, of the door post or porch post. And I run in and grabbed the mother and got her in there, and two or three of the children. And I undone my boat and got her to...back. Come out way down below, and got her over to the shore, about a mile and a half across the city, till I got her to the shore. And then when I got over there, she had fainted. And she had begin...she was screaming, "My baby! My baby!"

197 Well, I thought that she meant she had left the baby in the house. Oh, my! I took back again while they was trying to take care of her. And, I come to find out, it was...or she was wanting to know where her baby was there. There was a little fellow about three years old, and I thought she meant a little nursing baby or something.

198 And so I took back and got over there. And when I got that boat and got on the inside

and couldn't find no baby, and the porch give way and the house went in. And I run real quick and grabbed the—the piece there that was floating my boat, got into the boat, and pulled that and loosed it up.

199 And it done got me out into the current of the main river then. And it was about eleven-thirty at night, and just sleeting and snowing. And I grabbed a hold of the starter string and I tried to pull the boat, and it

wouldn't start, and I tried and it wouldn't start, and I tried again. Getting farther in that current, the falls just below me. And I was trying real hard, and I thought, "Oh, my, here—here's my end! This is it!" And I'd try real hard. And I said, "Lord, please don't let me die a death like this," and I'd pull and I'd pull.

200 And it come back to me, "What about that bunch of trash that you wouldn't go to?" See? Uh-huh.

201 I put my hand back on the boat, and I said, “God, be merciful to me. Don’t let me leave my wife and baby like this, and them out there sick! Please!” And I just kept pulling like that, and it wouldn’t start. And I could hear the roaring down there, ’cause I...Just a few minutes, and, oh, my, that would be it. And I said, “Lord, if You’ll forgive me, I promise You I’ll do anything,” kneeling in that boat there, and the sleet hitting me in the face, I said, “I’ll do anything that You

want me to do.” And I pulled again, and it started. And I turned all the gas on it I could, and finally got into the shore.

202 And I went back to find the truck, patrol truck. And I thought of...There was some of them said, “Say, the government just washed away.” My wife and baby in there, both babies.

203 And I took out for the government as hard as I could, and water was standing about fifteen feet deep all through it.

And there was a major there, and I said, “Major, what happened to the hospital?”

Said, “Now, don’t be worried. You have anyone in there?”

I said, “Yes, a—a sick wife and two babies.”

204 He said, “They all got out.” Said, “They’re in a freight car and they’ve headed towards Charlestown.”

205 I run, got in my boat and...or got in my car, and my

boat in the back of it, and run out there to...And then the creeks had come down about two and a half or three miles wide. And all night long I tried to...Some of them said, “The car, the freight car, washed off the tracks out there on the trestle.”

206 Well, find myself marooned out on a little island, set there three days. I had plenty of time to think about whether That was trash or not. Just beating, “Where’s my wife?”

207 Finally when I found her, in a few days after I got out and got across, she was way up to Columbus, Indiana, in the Baptist Auditorium where they had made a—a hospital like, sickrooms on little government cots. And I ran to her as hard as I could, trying to find where she was, screaming, “Hope! Hope! Hope!” And I looked, and there she was laying on a cot, and TB had set in.

She raised her little bony hand, and she said, “Billy.”

And I run to her, and I said, “Hope, honey.”

She said, “I look awful, don’t I?”

I said, “No, honey, you look all right.”

208 For about six months we worked with everything that was in us, to try to get to save her life, but she kept getting lower and lower.

209 One day I was on patrol and I had my radio turned on, and I thought I heard them say, make a call on the radio, said, “For William Branham, wanted at the hospital at once, wife dying.” I rushed back to the hospital as quick as I could, turned on the red light and the siren, and took off. And then I—I got up at the hospital and I stopped, run in. Coming down through the—the hospital, I seen a little buddy of mine that we fished together, we run together as boys, Sam Adair.

210 Doctor Sam Adair, he's the one that was the vision come not long ago and told him about the clinic. And he said, if anybody doubted the vision, just call him collect, you want to know about whether it was right or not.

211 And so then here he come out like that, and he had his hat in his hand. He looked at me and he just started crying. And I run up to him, throwed my arms around him. He put his

arms around me, said, “Billy, she’s going.” He said, “I’m sorry. I’ve done all I could do, I’ve had specialists and everything.”

I said, “Sam, surely she’s not going!”

Said, “Yeah, she’s going.” And he said, “Don’t go in there, Bill.”

And I said, “I got to go in, Sam.”

And he said, “Don’t do it. Don’t, please don’t.”

I said, "Let me go in."

Said, "I'll go with you."

212 I said, "No, you stay out here. I want to stay with her in her last minutes."

Said, "She's unconscious."

213 I walked in the room. And the nurse was sitting there, and she was crying 'cause she and Hope was schoolmates together. And so I looked over, and she started crying, put her hand up. And started walking over.

214 And I looked over, and shook her. There she was, she had went down from about a hundred and twenty pounds, to about sixty. And I—I shook her. And if I live to be a hundred years old, I'll never forget what happened. She turned over, and those great big pretty eyes looked up at me. She smiled. She said, “Why did you call me back, Billy?”

I said, “Honey, I just got the 'cast.”

215 I just had to work. We was way in debt and hundreds of dollars of doctor bill, and nothing to pay it with. And I just had to work. And I seen her two or three times a day, and every night, and then when she was in that condition.

I said, “What do you mean, ‘Call’ you ‘back’?”

216 She said, “Bill, you’ve preached about It, you’ve talked about It, but you don’t have no idea what It is.”

I said, “What are you talking about?”

217 She said, “Heaven.” She said, “Look,” she said, “I was being escorted Home by some peoples, men or women or something. They was dressed in white.” And she said, “I was at ease and peace.” Said, “Big pretty birds flying from tree to tree.” She said, “Don’t think I’m beside myself.” She said, “Billy, I’m going to tell you our mistake.” She said, “Sit down.” I

didn't; I knelt down, took her hand. She said, "You know where our mistake is?"

And I said, "Yes, sweetheart, I do."

218 She said, "We should have never listened to Mama. Them people were right."

And I said, "I know it."

219 She said, "Promise me this, that you'll go to those people," said, "because they're right." And she said, "Raise my

children like that.” And I...She said, “I want to tell you something.” She said, “I’m dying, but” said “it’s...I don’t—I don’t dread going.” Said, “It’s—it’s beautiful.” She said, “The only thing, I hate to leave you, Bill. And I know you got these two little children to raise.” She said, “Promise me that—that you’ll not stay single and let my children be pulled about from pillar to post.” That was a sensible thing for a twenty-one-year-old mother.

And I said, “I can’t promise that, Hope.”

220 She said, “Please promise me.” Said, “One thing I want to tell you.” Said, “You remember that rifle?” I’m just crazy about guns. And she said, “You wanted to buy that rifle that day and you didn’t have enough money to make the down payment.”

I said, “Yes.”

221 She said, “I’ve been saving my money, my nickels, to

try to make that down payment on that rifle for you.” She said, “Now, when this is over and you go back home, look up on the duofold...or the folding bed, under that piece of paper on top, and you’ll find the money there.” She said, “Promise me that you’ll buy that rifle.”

222 You don’t know how I felt when I seen that dollar seventy-five cents (in nickels) laying there. I got the rifle.

223 And she said, “You remember that time that you were going downtown to buy me a pair of stockings, and we was going to Fort Wayne?”

I said, “Yes.”

224 I had come in from fishing, and she said...We had to go to Fort Wayne, I had to preach that night. And she said, “You know, I told you, ‘There’s two different kind.’” One called “chiffon.” And what’s the other one, rayon? Is that right? Rayon

and chiffon. Well, ever which is, chiffon was the best. Is that right? And she said, “Now, you get me some chiffon, the full style.” You know that thing that’s got that little thing in the back of the stocking, at the top? And I didn’t know nothing about women’s clothes, so I...

225 And I was going down the street and saying, “Chiffon, chiffon, chiffon, chiffon,” trying to keep thinking of, “chiffon, chiffon, chiffon.”

Somebody said, “Hello, Billy!”

226 I said, “Oh, hello, hello.”
“Chiffon, chiffon, chiffon, chiffon,
chiffon.”

227 And I got to the corner
and I met Mr. Spon. He said,
“Hey, Billy, do you know the
perch is biting now over on the
side of that last pier?”

I said, “Sure enough, is that
right?”

“Yeah.”

I thought now, when I left him, “What was that stuff?” I forgot it.

228 So Thelma Ford, a girl that I knew, worked at the ten-cent store. And I knowed they sell women’s stockings over there, so I went over. I said, “Hi, Thelma.”

And she said, “Hi, Billy. How are you? How’s Hope?”

229 And I said, “Fine.” I said, “Thelma, I want a pair of socks for Hope.”

She said, “Hope don’t want socks.”

I said, “Yes, ma’am, she sure does.”

Said, “You mean stockings.”

230 “Oh, sure,” I said, “that’s what it is.” I thought, “Uh-oh, I done showed my ignorance.”

And she said, “What kind does she want?”

I thought, “Uh-oh!” I said, “What kind you got?”

She said, “Well, we got rayon.”

231 I didn’t know the difference. Rayon, chiffon, it all sound the same. I said, “That’s what I want.” She said...I said, “Fix me a pair of them, full style.” And she...I got that wrong. What is it? Full fashion. “Full fashion.” And so I said, “Fix me a pair of them.”

232 And when she went to give them to me, they was only about thirty cents, twenty cents

or thirty cents, about half price. Well, I said, “Give me two pair of them.” See?

233 And I went back home, and I said, “You know, honey, you women shop all over town to find bargains.” You know how you like to crow. And I said, “But here, look here, I bought two pair for the price that you buy one pair with. See?” I said, “Oh, that’s—that’s my personal ability.” See, I said—I said, “You know, Thelma sold me these.” I

said, “She might have let me have them at half price.”

She said, “Did you get chiffon?”

234 I said, “Yes, ma’am.” It all sounded the same to me, I didn’t know there was any difference.

235 And she told me, she said, “Billy.” I thought strange when she got to Fort Wayne, she had to get another pair of stockings. She said, “I give them to your mother,” said, “they’re

for older women.” Said, “I’m sorry I did that.”

And I said, “Oh, that’s all right, honey.”

236 And she said, “Now, don’t—don’t live single.” And she said...She didn’t know that what was fixing to happen in a few hours from then. And I held her darling hands while the Angels of God packed her away.

237 I went home. I didn’t know what to do. I laid down there at night and I heard...I

think it was a little mouse, was in the old grate where we had some papers in there. And I shut the door with my foot, and there hung her kimono on the back, (and laying down there in that morgue). And just in a little bit someone called me, said, “Billy!” And it was Brother Frank Broy. He said, “Your baby’s dying.”

I said, “My baby?”

238 Said, “Yes, Sharon Rose.” Said, “Doc’s up there now, and said, ‘She’s got tubercular

meningitis, she nursed it from her mother.” And said, “She’s dying.”

239 I got in the car, went up there. And there she was, the sweet little thing. And they rushed her to the hospital.

240 I went out to see him. Sam come up and said, “Billy, don’t you go in that room, you got to think of Billy Paul.” Said, “She’s dying.”

I said, “Doc, I—I got to see my baby.”

241 He said, “No, you can’t go in.” Said, “She’s got meningitis, Billy, and you’d pack it to Billy Paul.”

242 And I waited till he got out. I couldn’t stand to see her die, and her mother laying down there in the undertaker’s establishment. I tell you, the way of a transgressor is hard. And I— I went, slipped in the door, and when Sam went out and the nurse went out, I went down into the basement. It’s a little bitty

hospital. She was in an isolated place, and the flies was in her little eyes. And they had a little...what we call a “mosquito bar,” or little netting over her eyes. And she’d...with little spasm, her little fat leg was moving up and down like that, and her little hands, with that spasm. And I looked at her, and she was just big enough to be cute, about eight months old.

243 And her mother used to set her out there with her little

three-corners on, you know, in the yard, when I'd come up. And I'd toot the horn, and she'd go, "goo-goo, goo-goo," reaching for me, you know.

244 And there laid my darling, dying. I looked down to her, and I said, "Sharry, you know Daddy? You know Daddy, Sharry?" And when she looked...She was suffering so hard till one of them pretty little blue eyes had crossed. It liked to have tore my heart out of me.

245 I knelt down, I said, “Lord, what have I done? Have not I preached the Gospel on the street corners? I’ve done everything that I know to do. Don’t hold it against me. I never called them people ‘trash.’ It was her that called them people ‘trash.’” I said, “I’m sorry it all happened. Forgive me. Don’t—don’t take my baby.” And while I was praying, looked like a black...like a sheet or cloth come down. I knowed He had refused me.

246 Now, there was the hardest and the most treacherous time of my life. When I raised up and looked at her, and I thought...Satan put in my mind, “Well, you mean as hard as you’ve preached, and the way that you’ve lived, and now when it comes to your own baby, He’ll turn you down?”

247 And I said, “That’s right. If He can’t save my baby, then I can’t...” I stopped. I—I just didn’t know what to do. And then I said

this, I said, “Lord, You gave her to me and You taken her away, blessed be the Name of the Lord! If You take even me, I’ll still love You.”

248 And I put my hand over on her, I said, “Bless you, sweetheart. Daddy wanted to raise you, with all my heart I wanted to raise you, and raise you to love the Lord. But the Angels are coming for you, sweetheart. Daddy will take your little body down and lay it on the

arms of Mama. I'll bury you with her. Someday Daddy will meet you, you just wait up there with Mama."

249 When her mother was dying, she said, last words she said, she said, "Bill, stay on the field."

250 I said, "I'll..." She said...I said, "If I'm on the field when He comes, I'll get the kids and meet. If I'm not, I'll be buried by you. And you go over on the righthand side of the great gate,

and when you see all of them come in, stand there and start hollering, ‘Bill! Bill! Bill!’ just as loud as you can. I’ll meet you there.” I kissed her good-bye. I’m on the battlefield today. That’s been nearly twenty years ago. I got my date with my wife, I’m going to meet her.

251 And I took the little baby, when it died, and put it on the arms of the mother, and we taken it out to the cemetery. And I stood there to hear Brother

Smith, the Methodist preacher that preached the funeral, “Ashes to ashes, and dust to dust.” (And I thought, “Heart to heart.”) There she went.

252 Not long after that, I took little Billy there one morning. He was just a little bitty fellow. He was...

253 That's the reason he sticks with me and I stick with him, I had to be both Papa and Mama (both) to him. I'd take his little bottle. We couldn't afford to

have a fire at night to keep his milk warm, and I'd lay it under my back like this and keep it warm by the heat of my body.

254 We've stuck together like buddies, and one of these days when I go off the field I want to hand him the Word, and say, "Go on, Billy. You stay with It." Some people wonders why I got him with me all the time. I can't give him up. He's even married, but I still remember she told me, "Stay

with him.” And we stuck together like buddies.

255 I remember walking around town, the bottle under my arm, he'd get to crying. One night he was...we was walking out in the back yard where just...(When she was fixing to have him, she was smothering, and I...just a girl, you know.) And I'd walk back and forth from the old oak tree in the back of the yard. And he was crying for his Mama, and I didn't have any

Mama to take him to. And I'd pack him, I'd say, "Oh, honey." I said...

256 He said, "Daddy, where's my mama? Did you put her into that ground?"

I said, "No, honey. She's all right, she's up in Heaven."

257 And he said something there, liked to kill me, one afternoon. He was crying, was along late in the evening, and I was packing him on my back like *that*, packing him on my shoulder

and patting him like *this*. And he said, “Daddy, please go get Mama and bring her here.”

And I said, “Honey, I can’t get Mama. Jesus...”

Said, “Well, tell Jesus to send me my mama. I want her.”

258 And I said, “Well, honey, I...me and you going to go see her sometime.”

And he stopped, said, “Daddy!”

And I said, “Yes?”

Said, “I seen Mama up there on that cloud.”

259 My, liked to killed me! I thought, “My! ‘I seen Mama up there on that cloud.’” I just almost fainted. I hugged the little fellow up to my bosom like *that*, and just held my head down, went on in.

260 Days passed. I couldn’t forget it. I tried to work. Couldn’t go back home, it wasn’t a home no more. And I wanted to stay. We didn’t have nothing but just

that old tore up furniture, but it was something that she and I had enjoyed together. It was home.

261 And I remember one day I was trying to work in the public service. I had went up to fix an old secondary, was hanging down, it was real early of a morning. And I climbed up this cross. (And I couldn't give that baby up. I could see my wife going, but that baby going, just a little bitty thing.) And I was on

there, and I was singing, “On the hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross.” And the primaries run down to the transformer and went out into (you know) secondary. And I was hanging up there on it. And I happened to look, and the sun coming up behind me. And there, my hands stretched out and the sign of that Cross on the—on the hillside. I thought, “Yes, it was my sins that put Him there.”

262 I said, “Sharon, honey, Daddy wants to see you so bad, honey. How I’d like to hold you in my arms again, you darling little thing.” I got beside myself. It had been weeks. I pulled off my rubber glove. There’s twenty-three hundred volts running right by the side of me. I pulled off my rubber glove. I said, “God, I hate to do this. I’m a coward.” “But, Sharry, Daddy’s going to see you and Mommy just in a few minutes.” Started pulling off my glove, to put my hand on that

twenty-three hundred. It'd break...Why, you wouldn't even have no blood left in you. And so I—I—I started pulling that glove off, and something happened. When I come to, I was sitting on the ground with my hands up like *this*, to my face, crying. It was God's grace, or I wouldn't been having a healing service here, I'm sure of that. It was Him protecting His gift, not me.

263 I started home. I quit, put my tools away. And went back, I said, “I’m going home.”

264 I started around the house, and I picked up the mail in the house, kind of cold, and I went in. We had one little room, I was sleeping on a little cot there, and the frost coming up, and that old stove. I took the mail and I looked in the mail, and the first thing on there was her little Christmas saving, eighty cents,

“Miss Sharon Rose Branham.”
There it was, all over again.

265 I had been game warden. I reached in there and got my gun, pistol, out from the holster. I said, “Lord, I—I can’t go this anymore, I’m—I’m dying. I’m—I’m so tormented.” I pulled the hammer back on the gun, put it up to my head, kneeling there on that cot in that dark room. I said, “Our Father Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thine will be

done,” and as I tried, and I squeezed that trigger as hard as I could, I said, “on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.” And it wouldn’t go off!

266 And I thought, “O God, are You just tearing me to pieces? What have I done? You won’t even let me die.” And I throwed the gun down, and it went off and shot through the room. I said, “God, why can’t I die and get out of it? I just can’t

go no farther. You've got to do something to me." And I fell over and started crying on my little, old dirty bunk there.

267 And I must have went to sleep. I don't know whether I was asleep or what happened.

268 I've always longed to be out West. I've always wanted one of them hats. My father broke horses in his young days, and I always wanted one of them hats. And Brother Demos Shakarian bought me one yesterday, first

one I've had (ever had) like that,
one of them kind of western hats.

269 And I thought I was going
down along through the prairie,
singing that song, "There's a
wheel on the wagon is broken,
sign on the ranch, 'For Sale.'"
And as I went along, I noticed an
old covered wagon, like an old
prairie schooner, and the wheel
was broke. Course, that
represented my broken family.
And as I got close, I looked, and
there stood a—a real pretty,

young girl, about twenty years old, white flowing hair and blue eyes, dressed in white. I looked over at her, I said, “How do you do?” Went on.

She said, “Hello, Dad.”

270 And I turned back, I said, “Dad?” “Why,” I said, “how, Miss, can you...can I be your daddy when you’re as old as I am?”

271 She said, “Daddy, you just don’t know where you’re at.”

And I said, “What do you mean?”

272 She said, “This is Heaven.” Said, “On earth I was your little Sharon.”

“Why,” I said, “honey, you was just a little baby.”

273 Said, “Daddy, little babies are not little babies here, they’re immortal. They never get old or never grow.”

274 And I said, “Well, Sharon, honey, you—you’re a pretty, young woman.”

She said, “Mama’s waiting for you.”

And I said, “Where?”

She said, “Up at your new home.”

275 And I said, “New home?”
Branhams are vagabonds, they don’t have homes, they just...And I said, “Well, I never had a home, honey.”

276 She said, “But you got one up here, Daddy.” I don’t mean to be a baby, but it’s just so real to me. [Brother Branham weeps—Ed.] As I start to thinking of it, it all comes back again. Said, “You got one here, Daddy.” I know I got one over there, someday I’ll go to it. She said, “Where’s Billy Paul, my brother?”

277 And I said, “Well, I left him at Mrs. Broy’s, just a few minutes ago.”

Said, “Mother wants to see you.”

278 And I turned and looked, and there was great big palaces, and the Glory of God coming up around them. And I heard an Angelic choir singing, “My Home, sweet Home.” I started up a long steps, running just as hard as I could. And when I got to the door, there she stood, a white garment on, that black hair, long, holding down her back. She raised out her arms, as she

always did when I come home tired from work or something. I caught her by the hands, and I said, “Honey, I seen Sharon down there.” I said, “She made a pretty girl, didn’t she?”

279 She said, “Yes, Bill.” She said, “Bill.” Put her arms around me, (and she said) just around my shoulders, she started patting me, she said, “Stop worrying about me and Sharon.”

I said, “Honey, I can’t help it.”

280 She said, “Now Sharon and I are better off than you are.” And said, “Don’t worry about us no more. Will you promise me?”

281 And I said, “Hope,” I said, “I’ve been so lonesome for you and for Sharon, and Billy cries all the time for you.” I said, “I don’t know what to do with him.”

282 And she said, “It’ll be all right, Bill.” She said, “Just promise me you won’t worry no more.” And she said, “Won’t you

sit down?” And I looked around and there was a great big chair.

283 And I remember I tried to buy a chair. Now, in closing. I tried to buy a chair one time. We just had them old—old common wooden-bottom chairs for that breakfast set. We had to use them, the only chairs we had. And we could buy one of these chairs that you let back in the back, like a...I forget what kind of an easy-rest chair. And it cost seventeen dollars, and you could

pay three dollars down and a dollar a week. And we got one. And, oh, when I'd come in...I'd work all day, and preach till midnight around streets and wherever I could preach.

284 And—and I one day I got behind on my payments. We couldn't make it, and it got day after day, and finally one day they come and got my chair and took it. That night, I never will forget, she had me a cherry pie baked. Poor little old thing, she—

she—she knowed I was going to be disappointed. And after supper I said, “What’s you so good about tonight, honey?”

285 And she said, “Say, I had the boys over in the neighborhood to dig you some fishing worms. Don’t you think we ought to go down to the river and fish a little while?”

And I said, “Yes, but...”

286 And she started crying. I knowed there was something wrong. I had an idea ’cause they

had already sent me a notice they was coming to get it. And we couldn't make that dollar payment a week. We couldn't, didn't...couldn't afford it. She put her arms around me, and I went to the door and my chair was gone.

She told me up There, she said, "You remember that chair, Bill?"

And I said, "Yes, honey, I remember."

Said, "That's what you was thinking about, wasn't it?"

"Yeah."

287 Said, "Well, they won't take this one, this one's paid for." She said, "Sit down just a minute, I want to talk to you."

And I said, "Honey, I don't understand this."

288 And she said, "Promise me, Billy, promise me that you won't worry anymore. You're

going back now.” And said,
“Promise me you won’t worry.”

And I said, “I can’t do that,
Hope.”

289 And just then I come to, it
was dark in the room. I looked
around, and I felt her arm around
me. I said, “Hope, are you here in
the room?”

290 She started patting me.
She said, “You going to make me
that promise, Bill? Promise me
you won’t marry...worry no
more.”

I said, “I promise you.”

291 And when then she patted me two or three times, and she was gone. I jumped up and turned on the light, looked everywhere, she was gone. But she just gone out of the room. She isn't gone, she's still living. She was a Christian.

292 Billy and I went to the grave here some time ago, packing a little flower for his mother and sister, just on an Easter morning, and we stopped.

The little fellow started crying, he said, “Daddy, my mommy’s down there.”

293 I said, “No, honey. No, she ain’t down there. Sister ain’t down there. We got a folded over grave here, but way across the sea there’s an open grave where Jesus rose. And someday He’ll come, He’ll bring Sister and Mama with Him.”

294 I’m on the battlefield today, friends. I—I just can’t tell any more. I...[Brother Branham

weeps—Ed.] God bless you.
Let's bow our heads a minute.

295 O Lord! Many times, Lord,
I'm sure people don't
understand, when they think
these things come easy. But
there's a great day coming when
Jesus shall come and all these
sorrows will be wiped away. I
pray, Heavenly Father, that You'll
help us to be prepared.

296 And that last promise,
when I kissed her on the cheek
that morning, that I'd meet her

there that day. I believe she'll be standing at that post, screaming my name. I've lived true to that promise since, Lord, around the world, in all kinds of places, trying to bring the Gospel. Getting old now, and tired, I'm wore out. One of these days I'm going to close this Bible for the last time. And, God, keep me faithful to the promise. Keep Your grace around me, Lord. Let me not look at the things of this life, but live for the things that's beyond. Help me to be honest. I

don't ask for a flower bed of ease, no, Lord, when my Christ died there under suffering. And all the rest of them died like that. I don't ask for any easy thing. Just let me be honest, Lord, truthful. Let people love me so I can lead them to Thee. And someday when it's all over and we gather around under the evergreen trees, I want to get her by the hand and walk her up, to show the people of Angelus Temple and all the others. It'll be a great time then.

297 I pray that Your mercies rest upon each of us here. And those who are here, Lord, may not even know You. And maybe they've got some little loved one across the sea yonder. If they've never fulfilled their promise, may they do it now, Lord.

298 While we have our heads bowed, I wonder in this great huge auditorium this afternoon, how many of you say "Brother Branham, I want to meet my loved ones, too. I—I—I've got

some loved ones just across the river yonder”? Maybe you made a promise that you’d meet them, maybe when you told Mother “good-bye” up there at the grave that day, maybe when you told little Sister “good-bye,” or Dad, or some of them at the grave, promised you’d meet them, and you—you’ve never made that preparation yet. Don’t you think it’s a good time now to do it?

299 Excuse my breaking down. But, oh, my, you don’t

realize, friend. You don't know what—what sacrifice! That's not a spot, hardly, of the life story.

300 How many of you would like to raise up now and walk up here for prayer, say, "I want to meet my loved ones"? Raise up out of the audience and come down here. Will you do it? If somebody has never made that preparation yet. God bless you, sir. I see an aged colored man coming out, others coming. Move yourself, you in the balconies up

there, just move right out into the aisle. Or stand up, you who wants to be remembered in a word of prayer just now. That's it. Stand right up to your feet. That's good. Stand up, everywhere, you who would say, "I've got a father over yonder, I've got a mother or a loved one over yonder. I want to go see them. I want to meet them in peace." Will you raise up, just stand up to your feet, anywhere in the audience. Stand up to your feet, say, "I want to accept."

301 God bless you, lady. God bless you back there. And bless you up there. Lord bless you here, sir. That's right. Up in the balcony, the Lord bless you. All around, everywhere, stand up to your feet now to have a word of prayer, while the Holy Spirit is here and moving upon our hearts, to—to—to break up.

302 You know, what the church needs today is a breaking up. We need to go down to the Potter's House. Our stiff

homemade theology sometime doesn't work so good. What we need is an old-fashioned breaking up, repentance in our hearts, getting mellow towards God. Is that all now that's ready to stand?

Let us bow our heads then for prayer.

303 O Lord, Who brought again Jesus for the...from the dead, to justify all of us by faith, believing. I pray, Lord, that these who are standing now to their

feet to accept Thee, I pray that forgiveness will be to them. And, O Lord, I pray that they will accept You as their Saviour and King and Lover, and maybe they got a mama or a papa or somebody just across the sea. There's one thing sure, they got a Saviour. May they be forgiven of their sins, and all their iniquity blotted out, that their souls may be washed in the Blood of the Lamb, and they live in peace from hereafter.

304 And some glorious day when it's all over, may we gather at Your House, and be there as unbroken families, to meet our loved ones that's waiting on the other side. This, we commit them unto Thee, that "Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose heart is stayed upon Him." Grant it, Lord, as we commit them to Thee. In the Name of Thy Son, the Lord Jesus. Amen.

305 God bless you. I'm sure the workers see where you're

standing, and they will be right with you in a few minutes.

306 And now to those who are going to receive prayer cards. Billy, where's Gene and Leo, they in the back? They're here to give out the prayer cards just in a few minutes. Brother will dismiss the audience in prayer, and the prayer cards will be given out. We'll be back here just in a little bit, to pray for the sick. All right, brother.

My Life Story

2



WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM