

About Dawn Townsend

Early life

Born in Dunedin Jan 1945, and was the third child in a family of eight. Was baptized in the Catholic church when I was 3 weeks old and received the name of Dawn, after lots of discusses. Grew up reasonable strong willed, which lead me to have to need lots of Healing of Life Hurts when I came into the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Always knew that there was a God, and tried to talk to Him thru Mary his mother, as that was the teaching that I received. I met Bernie when I was 15 years, and thought he was great, I especially loved his smiling eyes. Fell madly in love with him, we were married when I was 17 and he was 19 and I was pregnant.

Our parents were not happy, and didn't want us to be married but we insisted, and were married on St Patrick's day 17th March 1962. We settled down and had 3 children in 3 years, and ended up having 8 children 5 boys and 3 girls. It was hard work and financially we were strained, but we found that every time I was pregnant, Bernie got a rise, and we managed, not having lots of things but we had one another.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

We worked in the Catholic Church very actively, and Bernie was asked to go to a Life In the Spirit seminar, I was not keen as all I knew of it was that those people spoke in tongues. Bernie went and came home very excited and tried to enthuse me but I was very cold on the idea, and on the 4th night I thought I had better go and find out what he was getting involved in, and as you can guess I was well and truly hooked There were about 70 people and I was put in a group with an older woman who asked me my name, and seemed to get excited, and asked me if I was married to Bernie, and when I informed her that I was she was very excited, and then she pointed him out to me and asked if that was the guy, and I told her yes she took in a very large breath and bowed her head, I was extremely nervous and thought she was a very strange lady, and tried to move away from her, but later on she told me that when she met Bernie God had told her that one wing couldn't fly alone and that I would come, she didn't know when, it could have been a few years down the track, and here I was in her group right beside her. When I was prayed for I asked for all the gifts that the Holy Spirit wanted me to have, and received the gift of tongues.

Life certainly changed. The Holy Spirit was inside me and I had a release of His power. Bernie and I practiced our gifts on our children, seeing miracles, and healing of lives hurts. I went thru a tremendous time of healing with my own parents. My mother had died about 12 years before, so I had to do my forgiving thru faith in the Lord. I was able to ask my father for forgiveness, and he was rather nervous but gladly gave it to me. Felt a great deal of freedom as I worked thru this time, and I had such a faithful husband who stood by me and would pray till the Lord released me.

The first time that I was called out to really trust God, I usually had some other way if God didn't come thru, was when our 15year old daughter Jackie decided to run away from home. I discovered that \$20.00 had been taken out of my purse, and insisted that I get it back before anyone was allowed to go to school, and found out that Jackie had taken it. They all went off to school, and I got a phone call from the college to tall me that Jackie and

her friend, who we didn't know, had decided to go for a holiday by themselves. I knew that she had no money (how I wish that I hadn't made a performance that morning) at least she would have been able to pay her way. They decided to hitch hike to Auckland. I couldn't believe it, and kept hoping that she would turn up after school as per normal, no such luck. We went to the police, and about 3 days later there was a sighting of them in Auckland, but they ran away. We prayed and cried, didn't know if we would see her again, and had the prayer group praying for her. I had never prayed like I prayed at that time. One night Jackie had a dream of the prodigal son, and they had got themselves down to Rotorua. They decided to go to the police station. The police rang us and we had to pay for a plane ticket for her to come back. She got off the plane and said hi mum and hi dad, I have had a wonderful holiday. We could have shaken her, but Bernie insisted on giving her a party, and welcoming her home. The next day there was punishment, as the other children had to learn that you don't do things like that. We have used that testimony heaps of times with teenaged girls, and it has always been a great night of forgiveness for their parents, and a coming to The Lord.

Working in the Catholic Church in Upper Hutt.

Stayed in the Catholic Church for 9 years where we continued to learn the ways of the Holy Spirit, and had 3 more children Chris, Sam and Hannah. We ran a lot of Life in the Spirit seminars, where lots of people came and experience the Spirit, and saw many people turn their lives around and accept Salvation, and received Baptism in the Spirit, and seem to leave the Catholic Church for Pentecostal churches.

Miracles

- Saw heaps of these, prayed for two different people in our prayer group and they were blessed with a child each, hadn't been able to conceive.
- Prayed with Therese who was anorexic, and dearly wanted a child, and she conceived and had a special wee baby girl.
- Ran one at the Community at Paraparaumu, and The Holy Spirit was so powerful.
- The Stokes Valley priest, Father McHale was very ill in hospital. The Lord wanted us to go in and see him and wash his feet, and tell him he was forgiven on behalf of the Stokes Valley parishioners. He had built a big church, and it had cost the parish a lot of money to build it.
- We were very scared, and decided to go and do it, but we had lots of conditions, if there wasn't a hand basin handy, we wouldn't, and if there wasn't a towel, and generally if it was going to be a hard deal, then we would know it wasn't God. We duly arrived, and to our dismay everything was in order, and he even had a private room with an ensuite. Well here goes, and we asked him, and he was very agreeable, and it was very moving and beautiful, and he seemed to enjoy it. We had a great time of prayer, and left. He died about a month later. On the way home I sense that the trees over the Hutt River were waving their branches.

Palmerston North

We ran a programme called Renewal in Palmerston North and it was a 3 year course for 6 weeks twice a year, and was working towards the congregation being renewed by The Holy Spirit. During the 3rd year with the help of a Redemptory priest Fr. Bruce McGill, the whole church took on a new vigour and life. It was so great to see peoples' lives changed for good towards God.

Miracles

- A woman who had been a sister in the ward of the local hospital had been walking with M.S. and was on a very restricted diet. After we had prayed she was able to eat sausages rolls and all the things that she wasn't able to eat. Saw many people turn their lives around and accept Salvation.
- Ran lots of Life in the Spirit seminars and saw many people turn their lives around and accept Salvation.

Hamilton

We then shifted to Hamilton, and we ran a Life in the Spirit for the Marriage Encounter group, and the result was that some walked away from closer relationship with God, some went on to have a much closer relationship with Him, and some left the church.

We found that we could not find any real spiritual outlet in the Catholic Church, and felt God telling us to go to AOG church, where we would learn more about the bible and how to walk in Pentecost. We threw ourselves into study and learned so much about of the bible, of the people, and became captivated by God word. One day during a church service Peter Morrow, got us both to stand up and told us that God wanted us to read, sleep, eat, drink and walk in the word of God, which we really wanted to do. We wanted to see the depth of the scriptures.

I joined a Women's prayer group, run by Barbara Mitchell, a really strong woman of God, who taught us how to pray and minister in the gifts. Every Friday morning I was so eager to go, we would arrive at 9.00 pre group prayer session, then everybody else would arrive 10.00 and sometimes the session would last till 2.30, people would come and go but I would stay till the end. What a wonderful 3 years of learning.

I went to Bible College, and learned so much about God, and found out that many Pastors had wrong believes about what the Catholic Church taught. We did The Bethel Series, and I fell in love with the Old Testament, with the people and their lives, and tried to make sense of what God was trying to do. I love the Gospels, when Jesus came to earth and all of His ministry. Acts is so great, and we saw this being worked out in India.

India then Nepal

We had an opportunity to go to India, and felt the Lord telling us to go. We went with a team for our Church 5 men and me. What a scene that we meet, never had I seen anything like it, traffic everywhere, and it was so scary on the roads as there seem to be no rules. Went out into the villages, where I seem to go back in time about 100 years. The women cooked on kerosene cookers, and with their saris, they caught fire very easily, and a lot of

woman had burnt skins.

We preached the Gospel, and many people came to the Lord, and there were Pastors that caught up the people and in the weeks and months would be able to disciple them. As we prayed many people were healed by the laying on of hands. We saw blind people see, the deaf hear, the cripple walk, the dumb speak and saw burns on women's arms grow back new skin.

This is where I found out that I needed my husband Bernie. A woman came up to me and asked if I would take the spirit of witchcraft of her, and I said yes, and as I prayed I felt my head swimming, and was going to be sick, so I yelled for my beloved Bernie, and he came and prayed it of her, it was very scary.

We continue to pray for many people and saw many miracles take place in people lives. A lot of our team got sick. It was an amazing time of walking with God and seeing His love for these people, resulting in so much healing. We preached very simple messages of the love of Jesus, and He then took over and moved on the hearts of the Indians. In Nepal, I was taking a women's day and felt the Holy Spirit say to me to let Bernie take the after lunch session, and get him to do the session on forgiveness. I found this difficult as I had the teaching for the afternoon, but told him what God wanted. He did it so beautiful, Bernie has a shoebox and explains the story of the monkey that put his hand in the cage for the nuts, and won't give way, even if he starves, and he relates it to not forgiving, everybody can see it but we can't. The women were able to forgive, and even some of the men did too. We had them write down the people that they need to forgive and we burnt the paper, and we saw many of the women set free.

Prison ministry

When down to the prison with Bernie and the team. This took me out of my comfort zone. When I was waiting a lot of very young, seemed to be very big men came into the room, I was nervous, but there was a peace in my spirit. Worked with the under aged murders. One night we were trying to get the prisoners to communicate with each. We played a game. We put occupations of people: truck driver, farmer, taxi driver etc on to a paper with a sticky top edge and put them on each of the prisoner's foreheads. They were to ask question of each other and try to determine what occupation they had. After a few minutes there was a buzz and we ask what was going on, and the prisoners wanted to know who had told us who had committed what crime. One had killed a taxi driver, one was a farmer, and out of 10 of them the Holy Spirit had nailed them. We had to tell them no one had said anything but it was the Holy Spirit who loved them enough to personalize their crimes. What a night. All we could do was to give Glory to our God.

Auckland

Moved to Auckland, and we had a very hard time finding a church. Bernie decided to do his Bachelor degree, we both did a perspectives course, I did the first 10 weeks and Bernie finished doing 20 weeks. Over the next few years He continued, and finished it. I got myself a job in Real Estate, and thoroughly enjoyed, never knowing who I would have in my car from day to day. I found that I could share a lot of my Christian faith with Muslims and Buddhist people, which was very interesting.

Camborne

Decided to take up tramping and get ourselves fit. Out on tramps we had the freedom to share our faith with all sorts of people, and telling of our adventures.

Went to Nepal, and we headed over to London first, and then over to Israel and spent 4 wonderful days exploring the Old City, and then journeying up to Lake Galilee. What a wonderful experience walking the land that Jesus walked.

In August/September 2002 we went to India, New Delhi, and up to Siliguary and ran seminars, and I ran a women's day in both places.

On the Sunday we were taken up into the hills of the Himalayas where we ministered to very poor villages and sort people healed. They were so hospitable, and they had so very little. I was a three hour journey up there, and on the way home we met villages who warned us that there was rioting in the town and because we were white, they advised us not to proceed so we had to go back up the hills and come down another way, because they would have wrecked the van that we were in.. We were so blessed.

Kapiti Coast

Shifted to the Kapiti Coast where we joined a house church with Doug and Judy Williams, and had wonderful fellowship. Over a period of three years, we saw a lot of miracles and healings take place in our group.

I started working for IHC and on day felt very ill and just got sicker. I was told it was a virus and to just go to bed, but I got worse, I thought that I was dying, and was quite prepared to die. I ended up in hospital with viral hepatitis. My liver was badly affected. It took prayer and quite a few months to recover. At the same time the doctor told me she didn't like the mark that had come up on my check and to go to a skin specialist and I found out that I had point 4 melanoma which had to be cut out, so I have a scar in the shape of a question mark. I was ask to go on the board for Women's Aglow, and within about six months was asked to take over the presidency. At about this time we had some huge difficulties in our marriage, but I felt that the Lord said for me to take it on, and we were able to work through these. Aglow went well and we had some amazing speakers, and our women were truly blessed. Over the time a lot of women didn't come, and we didn't manage to replace them. Felt it was time to take it into the home, but it seemed to be a small fellowship group going nowhere. We decided to close it in Kapiti, as there is one in Waikanae. Aglow gave my leadership skills and time to flourish, and I loved the women who came.

Bernie had his new hip operation on 4th December and when he was still under anesthetic I was driving home, and I turned into the doctors, and a car struck me from behind and propelled me into a stationary car, the lady who had seen me indicate was waiting for me to come in before she came out. I got out of the car unharmed, a tow truck came down the street in about 2 mins, and was able to take my car away, the police came, and the guy admitted it was his fault, and he didn't have insurance. A friend from our loose group community rang me and told me the Lord had told her to ring, she doesn't very often ring me, and never on the cell phone, and was astounded to hear that I had had an accident. My

friend from 3 pm came and got me and we went home, got hold of the insurance company, had some lunch and she put me on the train into Wellington, where I could sit and relax, get the bus out to the hospital, where I could visit with Bernie. I came back and Joy was shope was mended. I recognized that God had His hand on my life, and looked after every little detail.