Changed Lives

W Barratt and A Williams The amazing story of two ordinary men whose lives were transformed by the power of God



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Preface

Those who have known and worked with Pastors Barratt and Williams over the years know that God has called them to a Divine Ministry of Deliverance, for which we are humbly grateful to God.

Many have been led to know that God saves and heals and works miracles today, through their ministry. In this book you will be thrilled to read the story of their life which is itself a miracle. For surely God has led them step by step even before they knew Him, keeping them together in so many ways until they are now at that place where God is using them to bring God's Miracle Working Power to countless others. We have included some reports of the Campaigns they have held and so proven testimonies to the Miracles that God has wrought under their ministry.

It is our earnest prayer that all who read this book will find a greater understand of the Love of God and His wonderful plan of Salvation for mankind.

Boyhood Days

"For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Eph.2:10

Thirty five years ago, twelve year old Bill Barratt met his former schoolmate Arthur Williams walking down a Withington, Manchester street. Little did either of them realise the tremendous outcome of this apparently chance encounter. Even at this early stage God was directing their lives. One day they were to look back and see how His Hand in love with Divine Omnipotence guided even their earliest steps.

They had known one another at "Webster Street School" in Moss Side. Bill's family had moved to Withington, and at that time he was attending "North Manchester Grammar School". "What are you doing in these parts" young Bill said to Arthur. "Just come to live here" Arthur replied. "Good" said Bill, "You can join our football team". From that time the two youthful soccer enthusiasts became firm friends. Born within five hundred yards of each other, with only six months difference in age they were totally unalike in background and temperament. Sparked off by their mutual love of football, their friendship grew until they became almost inseparable. They talked football, played it, dreamt about it, lived for it in those days. Every spare minute was spent with a football.

Bill had a very happy and secure home life, in spite of having lost his father in the First World War. His mother had married again, and his stepfather proved to be a kindly and understanding man, doing his best to fill the gap left in the boy's life. Although they were not rich, they were certainly never short of money, and Bill generously shared any money he had with Arthur, whose family were in poorer circumstances. He always gave his pal exactly half of all he had.



Webster Street School.

Arthur, a sensitive boy, suffered a rather disturbing child hood — his mother being a chronic invalid, and his father, although physically very strong, was an old man when Arthur was quite a young boy. Perhaps this has some bearing on the morbid fear of death which haunted him from as long as he could remember. A fear that was not to be dispelled until he found Christ as his Saviour many years later. Added to this another dark shadow followed young Arthur about — the heavy consciousness of sin. Try as he would to put it off, it always returned to weigh him down sooner or later. One might say-his life to be lived in the shadow of the grave — his poor mother had frequent haemorrhages, which must have been very frightening for the young lad.

His family lived near a large church, and quite often Arthur was faced with a sight which he came to dread — a funeral cortege! He literally took to his heels and ran as fast as his little legs could carry him, away from this awful symbol of death. Once a neighbour saw him running madly away from such a procession, and followed him, thinking the lad had gone berserk — but although his legs were much longer, he never caught up with the boy. Arthur was a good runner at the best of times, but fear lent wings to his feet.

The one bright spot in his life was his love of sport. He was a good footballer, and became Vice-Captain of the team which Bill captained — The Whitchurch Football Club — in their view the best team for miles around! They both dreamt of a career in Soccer. Who could tell — they might even play for England one day! But God had other plans.



Hazel Pastor & Mrs. Williams - Pamela



Pastor & Mrs.Barratt · Maurice Elisabeth · Christine

Growing Up Together

... and the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David." (I Sam. 18:1).

As the years passed so their friendship grew. Football was still the love of their lives, but like most young boys they began to go to dance-halls and take the occasional drink. It was at a local dance-hall that they were one day to meet the two young sisters who were to become their wives. This was to bring them if possible, even closer together.

From the Grammar School, Bill had gone into the family business which was run by his grandfather — Barratt's, the well-known musical instrument makers, famed throughout the country for their brass band instruments. With his happy disposition, he had soon settled down to learn the trade, and had also learnt to play the trumpet. Meanwhile, Arthur had tried various jobs, always seeking to better himself, finally ending up as a baker's assistant. He never dreamed that this trade was to be the means of preserving his life one day.

As Bill had taken up a musical instrument Arthur decided to follow suit, and obtained a drum kit practising assiduously so that he could join his pal at music making. There is one touching (if somewhat amusing) incident, that serves to illustrate the firm bond of loyalty which bound the two together. Bill, making prowess with his trumpet, decided one day to enter for a talent contest at a big theatre. Accompanied as usual by Arthur, the young aspirant for fame and fortune made his way to the stage-door. After wishing his pal good luck, Arthur went and sat up in the balcony, eagerly awaiting Bill's turn to perform. Meanwhile, to his dismay, poor Bill found backstage many other artists who were professionals and spent all their time travelling from one place to another, performing at such contests, (These were lean days for Variety Artists, many of whom were out of work.). The Fifteen-year-old boy's knees began to knock. After watching the first three turns, he decided that even the Third Prize was beyond him, but when his turn came he went bravely on stage determined to see it through. In the middle of his piece he was overcome with nerves and ran off stage, leaving half the mutes he had been going to use At the end of the Show, all the artists who had competed went and stood on the stage to be judged by the audience's response: Whoever received the greatest applause was the winner. Many of the artists were thunderously applauded, but when Bill stepped forward there was silence except for one solitary little figure up in the balcony, clapping and shouting "Encore!" for all it was worth — but to no avail; no-one else would join in!

After this experience, they decided that talent competitions were not for them, but they still kept their interest in music and later on formed a dance-band, travelling about together and playing at dances and local public houses. By this time they had begun to court the two attractive young sisters whom they later married, and they made a happy foursome as the girls accompanied them on their dance-band engagements. The passing years had only served to strengthen their lifelong friendship — they still shared everything, money included. They were soon to be separated however, as the ugly shadow of the Second World War loomed closer. Like so many of their contemporaries, both boys were called up after war was declared, Bill to become a paratrooper in the 6th Airborne Division, and Arthur an Infantryman with the Durham Light Infantry. He was to go through the war unscathed, but Bill was so badly wounded he was re-graded C3, and later awarded a pension. Even in this however, God's name was to be uplifted and His glory revealed when Bill was completely and miraculously healed.

Marriage And The War Years

"I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not" Is.65:1

Arthur, and Irene the younger of the two sisters, became engaged early in 1940, planning to be married on Christmas Eve when he came home on leave. However, Bill and Edna stole a march on them, and when he was given leave a fortnight before Christmas they were married by Special Licence, and even managed a taxi and flowers — luxuries even for a wedding in those austere days. Poor Irene and Arthur, in spite of all their preparations were denied the trimmings — who will ever forget that dreadful Blitz of Christmas 940! Certainly they could not! Arthur grimly picked his way through the blazing streets of Manchester, wondering if his fiancée's home might have been one of the many hit. In the meantime she waited his homecoming, not knowing whether she would ever see her loved one again. Even when they were reunited on Christmas Eve, they nearly had to postpone their wedding. After all their torturing doubts and various setbacks and delays they arrived at the Registry Office, only to find it on fire! However, their determination won the day and they were finally married in a corner of the Town Hall that had been hastily improvised for that purpose.

Although he was stationed in various parts of England until 1942, Arthur saw very little of his young bride even during that period, but afterwards he was posted overseas and not to return home for over four years. Bill was more fortunate, being stationed in England for the greater part of the war, and was able to come home on leave now and again. Norma, the Barratt's first child, was born during these war years. Later God was to use this young girl to draw the whole family to Himself.



Looking back, both the Pastors can see how wonderfully God preserved their lives. When he was sent out to Gibraltar, Arthur was transferred to the Second King's Liverpool Regiment, with whom he served as an infantryman for some time. He was fully trained and had qualified as a signaller, but one day he was sent to help out in the bake house where, although he was AI, they retained him since there was an acute shortage of bakers to feed the troops. His officer protested in vain! Arthur now found himself transferred again — this time to the Royal Army Service Corps. For the remainder of the war he was to serve as a baker with the R.A.S.C., later travelling with them to Italy and Yugoslavia. Imagine his feelings when some time after his transfer he was told that a great part of his old Regiment had been killed in action, and many of the survivors had been wounded!

Bill's wartime experience was comparatively uneventful until D.Day, in which he as a Sergeant in the 6th Airborne Division of the Paratroop Regiment took an active part. He faced death many times, and it is certain on at least one occasion, his preservation was nothing short of miraculous! The following narrative illustrates this.

As the Padre led them in prayer just before the 'planes took off for France, he lifted his heart to God for one brief moment. He had scarcely thought of God since his childhood days when he had gone to Sunday School — sent there by his parents. As he had grown older he had begun to play truant, sneaking his football boots out, and going off to play football instead. Now, he suddenly felt strangely moved as the Spirit of God spoke to his heart. But the moment passed, and soon he was boarding the plane for Normandy with his comrades. In what seemed no time at all (actually about an hour) they were preparing to make their jump — each man with his own private thoughts. This was what they had been preparing for during the many months and years of training — making countless practice jumps. First the officer leading their platoon jumped, followed one by one by the men and Bill who being the sergeant was last of all. Just as he was about to go the plane threw him backwards, delaying his jump by seconds, but he recovered his balance and finally left the plane to float down through a sky lit up with a weird red glow from the tracer bullets which were zipping through the air from all directions — so thick that he could not understand how it was they missed him. Great balls of flame seemed to come from the ground straight towards him — then veer off. The noise was deafening! When he landed, after what seemed an eternity, he found himself in a great garden. It was in fact the garden of the very Château which his Platoon had been given orders to capture. It was a German HQ. The moon was shining brightly, and he saw on each corner of the large garden—German machine-gunners, so busily firing at the aircraft zooming overhead that they never saw him! He was fully exposed on the lawn. Quickly he released his parachute harness and ran for the wall. Standing there in the shadow he waited.... Soon, a patrol of Germans came towards him down the path. As he held his breath he formed a quick plan. Taking a hand grenade out of his pocket, he removed the pin and held it ready to throw, If they saw him, he decided to shout "Nicht schiessen!" (don't shoot!) and whilst they were taken momentarily off guard, throw the grenade and throw himself beside the wall, and hope for the best. As they drew opposite to his hiding place in the shadow of the wall, they stopped. He saw that there were two full sections of them — about twenty men in all. As they crouched down beside the grass verge only about two yards away from him, two of them turned and looked into the darkness. They seemed to look right at him — their guns were pointing straight at his stomach. He felt sure that they had seen him. Holding his breath he could almost feel the impact of the bullets. He was just about to shout "Nicht schiessen!" - how the words were held back God Himself only knows — when slowly they turned away again. Walking slowly across the lawn in the moonlight, they passed out of his sight. He never saw them again.



The Village clock struck Two — Dong! Dong! All the noise seemed to have subsided. He wondered how his comrades had fared. His thoughts flashed back to his childhood.... He saw himself as a boy, and then his pal Arthur — dribbling with a ball on the flat roof of the school where they used to play, with his shock of fair hair that no comb could tame. Then his thoughts moved on towards his wife at home — never realising that he was here in a garden in Normandy at 2 o'clock in the morning, surrounded by enemy troops. The thought brought him back with a shock to the present! Dawn was approaching, and if he did not move from his position he would be seen by the Germans when daylight came. Slowly in the quietness, he began to move from the shadow of the wall. He wondered if any of his friends in the Parachute Regiment were left. Cautiously he crossed the garden without mishap and was soon making his way through the Village of Ranville. The sight that met his eyes was one he would never forget; he saw British parachutists hanging from the sides of houses dead. Their rigging lines had caught around the chimney pots. He recognised many of his friends and comrades. Others were lying dead, together with Germans, in pools of blood. As he walked past them he wondered that he had been spared. Many times since he has thought back to that dreadful night and of how God preserved his life.

The fighting that followed was quite fierce. The Germans constantly attacked, until practically all the unit to which he belonged had been either killed or wounded. Then they were taken back for four days rest behind the front line. This was at the time of the 4,000 Bomber Raid on Caen. The British Troops had been held up. One day as they

were in this resting place about four or five miles behind the front line, they saw in the sky a great Armada of 'planes approaching. There were so many they seemed to blacken the sky. When they recognised them as British they began to cheer, and as they passed slowly over head, the watching troops saw a great curtain of fire rise from the German lines. Then the first wave of bombers went over, dropping their bombs, followed by wave after wave, until there was no German resistance left. They heard later that they had been bombed almost out of existence — some of the pitiful remnant had gone quite insane. As Bill joined in the exultant cheers that were ringing out, he happened to look at one soldier apart from the rest — a Christian, and a Conscientious Objector, who had decided to come and help the wounded although he would not carry a weapon and kill. Tears were streaming from his eyes as he prayed for his enemies. God spoke to Bill through that man! He possessed something that Bill did not have. He remembered other times when the lives of Christian boys had spoken to him it the thick of the battle. These boys had been mocked and ridiculed in the Barrack Room as they read their Bibles and knelt to pray. The men called them effeminate, but later they were to see them go out under tremendous fire to bring in the wounded, with a strange courage that only God could give them.

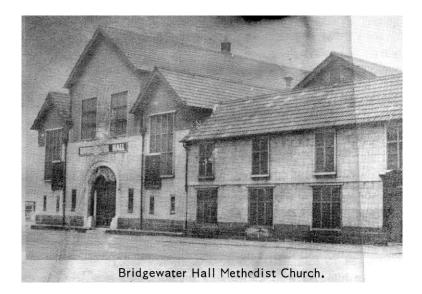
After six weeks in action Bill was wounded, and was brought back home to a hospital within two miles of his home. There in Withington Hospital his wife was able to visit him. His fighting days were over. When he finally came out of hospital he received C3 grading and served for the remaining months of the war as an Instructor.

God Comes Into Their Lives

When the war was over, Bill returned to his trade of instrument maker, but not to his grandfather's firm. He had a quarrel with the old man and had walked out. However with his skill, he found no difficulty in obtaining a job, and in fact soon became a foreman. When Arthur returned and was demobbed he managed to join Bill at the same firm, although the trade was new to him. As well as working together they now lived in the same house; the Barratts were on the ground floor and Williamses in the flat above. Once again their lives had linked up. Their marriages had only brought them closer together. By this time the Barratts had a son — Maurice, who was one day in the future to have his own important part to play in their Ministry.

The two men and their families spent all their spare time together, sharing their troubles and their good times. Bill always ambitious, had great plans for becoming rich, Both of them gambled on the Football Pools, and Arthur also gambled heavily on horses (a passion inherited from his father, whose only outside interest had been in horse racing). However riches did not seem to come their way, and after much discussion, the pooled gratuities, investing them in a joint business venture — making and repairing musical instruments. They set up their workshop in the basement of the house where they were living — No.69 Upper Chorlton Road, Brooks' Bar, Manchester, the house which now serves as the Base for their international evangelistic ministry. It was decided that Bill should be the one to work full time in the basement workshop whilst Arthur would still carry on earning a wage outside until such time as their business could employ them both full-time. It is a sad fact, but it is true and must therefore be recorded, that to start this business they stole goods from the firm where they had been working. At that time materials were hard to get, and so they stooped to stealing to obtain various things they needed.

Bill left the firm as planned, and began to work in the basement at No.69, and soon afterwards Arthur changed his job for a more remunerative one, to work for a nationwide Stationers, posting advertisements on public transport vehicles, This was the best job he had ever had in his life, with easy hours, good pay and good working conditions, and if anyone had told him he would ever leave it of his own free will to work as a $\pounds 4$ per week Minister of the Gospel he would have thought they were mad; but that is exactly what did happen!



The business was beginning to do quite well. Everything seemed to be going smoothly and to plan, and then came the start of the happenings that were to turn their lives upside down.... Norma, the Barratts' eldest child, had been attending a Methodist Sunday School where she was taken regularly by a dear Christian lady, who had approached her mother and asked if she might take the young girl to Sunday School. Now the Sunday School teacher came and asked Norma's mother and father if they would go to the Church the following Sunday night. It was the School Anniversary and Norma would be taking part. Bill and Edna were very reluctant to relinquish their Sunday night to go to Church — it was their Whist Night! However, they finally went leaving a rather disgruntled Irene and Arthur, who had been looking forward to their usual Sunday evening Whist.

That night Bill and his wife heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ for the first time: How Jesus Christ, the Son of God took our sins and our punishment, bearing them on the Cross, taking the wrath of God in our place.

> Bearing shame and scoffing rude, In my place condemned He stood; Sealed my pardon with His Blood — Hallelujah! What a Saviour!"

The claims of the Lord Jesus were clearly presented to them —He had died for each one of us personally, and if we would accept Him as our Saviour, repenting of our sins, God

would not only forgive, but cleanse completely. Never had they heard such a message, and Bill said to his wife — We must go again!, and so for four or five consecutive Sunday nights they went. Arthur, although he dearly loved his friend, began to think something had gone wrong with him. He had "gone religious - had even stopped gambling, and there were no more cosy Sunday evening Whist parties. Things came to a head for Bill, when on the fifth Sunday, the 30th of September 1948, the Minister challenged any in the congregation who were willing to accept Christ as their Saviour, to come out during the singing of the last hymn, and quietly, reverently and humbly to kneel down at the Communion Rail in front of all the people in the Church. Deep in his own spirit Bill once again heard the voice of God. Although the voice was not audible he knew Who it was that spoke to him, saying "This is it!" That was a strange thing for God to say, but it was Bill's language and he understood it. He decided right then that he would do it — he would surrender himself completely to God, accept Christ as his Saviour and live for Him. Then began the biggest Battle he had ever known. As the congregation began to sing he wanted to move out towards the front, but his legs seemed rooted to the spot, and his will paralysed. So strange and powerful was this spiritual experience — so vivid, that he actually looked down at his feet expecting to see them literally chained! He could not move and yet inside he longed to go out with all his heart. Verse after verse was sung whilst he remained rooted to the ground, held there irresistibly by some mysterious power. When the last verse came he was still standing there fighting this terrible and awful battle; then he heard God's Voice again — "This is it!" — the same words, and he knew that if he did not accept Christ as his Saviour that night he might never go back. He couldn't possibly go through an experience like this again. Without understanding why or how, he just moved his fingers as they were at his side, and touched his wife who was standing next to him, and then his voice was released and he said "I'm going". He can never remember walking down to the front, but the next moment he was kneeling at the Communion Rail, looking up into the Minister's face. Edna was at his side. From that very moment until this present day he has been a changed man. The mouth that uttered swear words and curses now praises God. He has never since that day used foul language. The hands that stole have been laid upon hundreds of sick people, and he has seen them miraculously healed in the Name of the Lord Jesus. His life has been changed completely by the wonderful grace and power of God. The Minister told him "You are now a child of God — Christ has come into your heart. You are very inexperienced, so you'll have to be careful how you speak or people will not understand you". He then asked him if there was anyone he would like to have this experience that he had had. Bill said "Yes — I'd like my friend to have it, but he's a hard case," and the Minister then replied, "You and I will pray every day for him". And so they did.

Bill saw Arthur every day, but he never said a word of what had happened to his friend. He just kept on praying for him. He did not have to wait long, for about six weeks later in November he was working in the basement of the house in Upper Chorlton Road, when Arthur rushed down the stairs in great excitement and agitation. As soon as Bill saw his face he knew that he too had been born again.

This is the story he heard from Arthur. He had been coming home from work on a No.81 bus feeling particularly miserable. He had gambled away his last five shillings on a horse — a certain winner. It had lost! Now he had n lunch money. As he sat there on

top of the 'bus, a sudden strange feeling came over him. He thought he was about to die, right there on that 81 bus in the midst of strangers. Panic stricken, he felt inside his coat to see if his heart was beating properly. It felt alright but the awful feeling of being mortally stricken persisted and intensified. He wondered if he could manage to touch the man sitting opposite to him and ask him if he would stop the bus and help him downstairs. Just as he had almost made a move in the stranger's direction, he heard a Voice speaking to him. Although not audible, it was quite clear, It said, "Why not try God!" Without understanding why he used these words, Arthur prayed right then, "God, save me now!" Immediately he became charged with new strength, and a wonderful peace and joy welled up in his heart. He was conscious of a great weight being lifted. The weight of the consciousness of sin which he had carried about with him since early childhood. Now he no longer feared the grave. At last he was free! He experienced a strange and yet wonderful sensation of a wind blowing somewhere inside him, cleansing and exhilarating. All the fears that had haunted him for as long as he could remember had gone.

He went home to his wife like a man walking on air. As he went in, his face radiant, she said, "You've won!" He said "I've lost!", but found it hard to convince her. He tried to sit down and eat his tea, but unable to contain himself, got up again, and went off in search of his friend. He found him in the cellar working, but the work was soon forgotten as Arthur blurted out the whole story. The strange wonderful wind was still blowing inside him, and he wondered if he were dreaming or perhaps going out of his mind. After Bill had listened in silence, Arthur ended in desperation "Now look Bill, you will have to get me the best minister you know, or else a psychiatrist — I think I must be going mad! Bill's heart was singing inside him; he felt like dancing for joy. God had gloriously answered his prayers. "No You are not mad Arthur," he said, "I know what has happened to you. You've been born again."

"Where d'you get that from!" said the bewildered Arthur. "It's in the Bible — haven't you ever read about it" Bill replied. At Arthur's urgent request he hastened to go and fetch a Bible, and then turning to the Gospel of St. John, chapter three, he read out to him Jesus's conversation with Nicodemus. "Ye must be born again". Bill repeated. (St. John 3:7) As Arthur heard the inspired words of Scripture, everything suddenly came into focus and he knew without a shadow of a doubt that he was born again of the Spirit of God. Jesus was his Saviour! Simultaneously the two men fell down on their knees on the cellar floor and wept, thanking and praising God.

Afterwards Bill took Arthur to see the Minister at the Methodist Church and they related Arthur's story to him. When they had finished he said if I have ever seen the Acts of the Apostles in evidence in this day and age I have seen it in your two lives. He spent some time with them, counselling them and helping them in the Scriptures.

Every Sunday night from then on found both families in Church. Irene went along with the others although she did not yet understand what had happened to them. However, each week as she accompanied the others to Church, she heard the Word of God, and His Word cannot return void. Finally after about a year, the Spirit of God has His way with her and she surrendered heart and life to Him. What a wonderful joy and satisfaction the four of them now found in Christian Fellowship together, praying and reading the Bible. God had greater thrills yet in store for them, as they began to learn of Him and of His ways.

New Men In Christ

Arthur was so different after his conversion that it amazed all who knew him. Many obvious changes took place, but the really vital change was inside. Christ now reigned in his heart. Right away he stopped smoking cigarettes. In fact he hardly noticed this detail he was so wrapped up in his wonderful new life. He used to pray as he walked down the street, and often on the way to work he sought until he found a church open — any church would do - so that he could go n and pray to God. When his workmates saw him doing this trey thought he had gone clean crazy. Whereas in the past he had been miserable now he was full of joy, and loved everybody. His gambling stopped too. He never missed it, he was so completely satisfied with Jesus. In fact, all he wanted to do was to read his Bible and pray, and learn more about Jesus.

Bill was just the same. Hungry for God and the things of God. They used to go out together and preach the Gospel in the open air. On one occasion Bill took his trumpet and played the most rousing piece he knew — The Post Horn Gallop. The people rushed out from their houses, wondering what on earth was happening. As soon as they had a good crowd gathered they stopped the music, jumped upon an old box, and began to tell the people about Jesus and His Power to cleanse and save.

One day, about eighteen months after his conversion, Arthur was coming home from work on a bus when a stranger spoke to him. He had been reading an article in a Christian magazine entitled The Bible or Science, and the man, seeing what he was reading, asked him what his beliefs were. It was soon established that they were both Christians and believers in the Second Birth, although the man was a Jew. He was a travelling evangelist, and the two men were soon deep in conversation about the things of God. Arthur ended up taking his new friend home to tea, and this proved to be the first of many visits made by this dear Jewish Brother in Christ. He taught them many things from the Word of God, and it was from him that they first heard about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit which is intended for all Believers. They had not even heard about this experience, let alone received it, but when he pointed out the Scriptures concerning it, (Acts 2:v.4.) they became fully convinced it was for them, and started to seek it with great earnestness. They began to make occasional visits to Bethshan Tabernacle in Longsight, Manchester, a Church mightily used of God, and well known outside as well as inside the Pentecostal Movement. It was here that hands were laid on them (Acts 19:v.5) by J.Nelson Parr, that grand old Pioneer of Pentecost, whose name will ever be linked with that of Bethshan. At last, after seeking Him for about six months, the Holy Spirit came upon them both in glorious fullness. Once again we see how their lives were inextricably linked, as SIMULTANEOUSLY they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, speaking and glorifying God in strange new languages as the Spirit gave them utterance. They thought they had been taken up to Heaven. Neither of them wanted to stop talking in these wonderful new tongues in case they couldn't start again. When they reached home it was quite late.

Called To The Ministry

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; And God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty" I Cor.1:26-27

Since the Divine Healing of Christ had been proved beyond the shadow of a doubt in their own lives, Bill and Arthur felt compelled to spread the Good News. The two of them often prayed together in the front room downstairs. They both felt an impelling urge to start preaching and praying for the sick in their own locality, and one day, after they had been in prayer together for about three or four hours, they received a definite Call from God to open up this Front Room as a Church. No time was wasted! They moved all the furniture out and rolled up the carpet. Then they brought in all the chairs they could find, and a motley collection it was! Some even had springs sticking out! After searching the Scripture and praying, they decided to call the new Church "SHARON". (This is referred to in the Bible as "a fold of flocks". (Is.65:1). They distributed leaflets around the entire district and stuck a notice board by the front gate, and thus the Ministry of Barratt and Williams was begun.

For about six months they totalled a congregation of five, including the preacher. This was made up of their two faithful wives, themselves and one other man. Then God sent a lady who was suffering with cancer. She was doubled up with pain, but after prayer with the laying on of hands, according to the Scripture (Mark 16:18) she stood up quite straight — instantly healed. After this miracle, other people began to trickle steadily in and Christ did not fail to answer their need. Many were saved and healed. About eighty people alone were baptized with the Holy Spirit during that first year of the Pastors' Ministry.

Numbers increased until it became evident that larger premises were necessary. They had no money to buy or build a Church. They had not even bothered to take up a collection for quite some time until a lady in their congregation suggested it for the Work of God. Even so, most of their people were quite poor and the weekly offering rarely totalled more than 10/--d. Once again God spoke to them as they prayed. He directed them to go and see a Brother in Christ whom they knew. He was not a member of their own congregation, but someone they had known at the Methodist Church. They could not understand why God wanted them to visit this particular person. They thought he was a pauper. He always dressed in tatters and never seemed to have any money. Nevertheless they followed the Lord's leading and paid the man a visit. After they had told him about their need of money to obtain a Church building, to their amazement the man produced f_{180} in notes and offered to lend it to them free of interest and without any security at all! It was agreed that they should pay him back out of their own pockets at the rate of f_{1} per week. (They still went out to work). As if in a dream they made their way home, praising and thanking God for this humble man who was sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

A whole chapter at least could be devoted to the miraculous way in which they obtained a sectional building suitable for their purpose and at a price they could pay. For the purpose of this short book, suffice it is to say that God led them every step of the way. As they could not afford to buy any land for a site, the obvious place to build their new Church was at the back of No. 69 Chorlton Road which had a very large garden. The building had no floor, but nothing daunted, the Pastors and their Flock mixed and laid their own concrete floor when the building was up. As they worked they sang praises to God. Some even sacrificed their holidays to help with the erection of the building and laying of the floor. Young boys and elderly men and even women and girls all worked together in the unity that is only to be found in Christ. They were working for their Lord and for His Glory, that His wonderful Full Gospel might be preached to others, liberating them from their pain and loneliness and misery. At last the day came when the work was finished.



The Pastors carried on with their Ministry at Sharon and through the Campaigns which were gradually taking them farther and farther afield, as the demand for their Ministry grew, until they found themselves conducting Campaigns on the Continent. By this time, "Sharon" had been accepted for membership of the Assemblies of God of Gt. Britain and Ireland, and various Ministers helped out at the "Sharon" Services when the Pastors were away campaigning. The numbers in the Church began to swell so greatly that on Sunday evenings when new faces were seen in the congregation, quite a few of the Church Members had to stand at the back! Once again, larger premises became necessary. Although by this time the Church totalled about 100 Members, most of whom tithed (i.e. gave at least one tenth of their income), regularly and faithfully, they just did not have the kind of money needed to buy a building suited to their purpose. By now both Pastors were full-time in their Ministry. How they and their families lived on their joint wage of £8 to £10 per week, which was all the Church could afford to pay them in those days, is known only to themselves and God. He never failed to supply their needs, but there were many times of testing when it must have been hard for them to carry on. The Barratt's had four children and the Williamses two by this time. All the children were at school.

Once again the Church began to fast and pray. They started to rent a Welsh Congregational Church about half a mile away on Chorlton Road for the Sunday Evening Service, and when this Church came up for sale they saw God's hand in it. All they could muster was a mere f_{400} — a ridiculous sum for a building the size of the Welsh Church, but God was with them and once more He caused a miracle to happen. In one week, during which they fasted and prayed £1,000 was raised by the Church Members. They gave sacrificially, some mortgaging their houses; others gave their savings, denied themselves holidays and even sold their furniture. With the help of a loan from the Assemblies of God they were now able to outbid their competitors, several secular firms, and soon the old Welsh Church was in full-time business for God again, but now its name had been changed to "SHARON". Since then countless number of people have visited it and been saved and healed by the almighty Power of God. Mention must just be made of the GRANADA Television Film "SHARON" made by Mr. Mitchell, and the resulting flood of people from all corners of the British Isles. One or two have even come from the continent, believing that Christ could meet their need at "Sharon". What is the secret of the amazing happenings at this Full Gospel Church of the 20thC. The account of their doings reads like another chapter of the Book of Acts. Surely it has something to do with the fact that these two dedicated men whom God has chosen to use are still as humble today as they were in those far-off days when He first took them up. They spend hours a day in prayer and their one desire is to serve God and uplift His Name to as many as they can reach, and to Him they still give all the Glory!

Reports From Campaigns

Campaigns on the Continent....

Voici L'ordre Du Christ A Ses Disciples "Allez par tout le monde et prêchez la bonne nouvelle... Voici les miracles qui accompagneront ceux qui auront cru: ils imposeront les mains aux maladies et les malades seront guéris" *Evangile selon Marc chap 16*

Blessings At France

During the past years it has been the privilege of Evangelists Barratt and Williams to visit several French Towns to hold Campaigns. God has blessed these visits to the French Churches in a wonderful way. Mr. Woerner, a Baptist Minister was the main sponsor and organiser for these Campaigns and the Evangelists have always appreciated his co-operation. The most recent visits were to Douai, Cambrai, Anzin and Denain. Many people made a decision to follow Christ and healings took place. The same Christ worked in France as in Holland. (Hebrews.13.8. Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever.) Some miracles were wrought which will long be remembered. A totally deaf man was instantly healed and went through the waters of Baptism shortly afterwards. Other deaf were healed too, also many kinds of sicknesses and infirmities. The power of God was very evident especially in the large Hippodrome at Douai. Some nights the people who were prayed for fell to the ground under the Great Anointing. Brother Nixon was a valued help as interpreter as were the many helpers.

Holland

Over a period of three weeks in 1960, Barratt and Williams Campaigns were held in different cities in Holland, namely Amsterdam, Gouda, Leyden and the Hague. Each of these Campaigns reported wonderful results. At the end of the series of meetings in these places approximately 300 decisions had been recorded for Christ. In the Hague the Evangelist was not able to leave the Hall until l2.00.pm one night as there were almost 500 people waiting to be prayed for. Many wonderful miracles took place, including a woman who was bound in a Bath Chair. There was no hope for her from the Medical Profession. After prayer she stepped out of the Bath Chair, free, and able to walk. — Her husband was not able to contain himself and wept openly. The deaf were healed and one man who was totally paralysed down one side received a miracle. Space will not permit to tell more of the wonderful Blessing and work of God that took place in Holland.

Belgium

The Crusade in La Bouverie was particularly blessed under the leadership of Pastor Grouselle. This Pastor organised the meetings and erected a portable building for his mission, and how wonderfully God blessed the efforts of the Church. This is a mainly Roman Catholic Area. The outpouring of the Spirit was tremendous. Night after night these Roman Catholic people came until the building was almost too small. The end doors of the building were left open to allow others to see inside. Large numbers waited outside every night taking deep interest. 4 meetings were held and at the conclusion of the Campaign 40 decisions had been made for Christ. As the sick were prayed for God once again proved His word with signs, as the power of God healed all manner of sickness.

Campaigns At Chesterfield & Coventry

Campaigns Which Brought Blessing To Our Churches

The first campaign which Pastors Barrart and Williams conducted for me was at Chesterfield October in 1961. From the very first meeting of the fifteen day crusade the presence of God was mightily manifest. Mrs. Tighe, until that time a stranger to me, brought her year old son for prayer. As hands were laid on this little one, I heard the mother cry out, "He is pushing at me with his feet!" "He is pushing at me with his feet!" She told us a few days later, that her child was afflicted with water on the brain. He had not been able to sit up or move hand or foot. He lay in his pram all day and she had to turn him at intervals to prevent bed sores. The next day after prayer he was sitting up and playing with his toys. A week later I spent the best part of a day with a reporter and photographer from a National Sunday Newspaper which published a report and photo of this child. Three years later I met the mother and child and he was running along the road, a testimony to the lasting power of God. This was just one miracle of many that took place during that memorable fortnight.

Nearly eighteen months later in March 1963, Pastors Barratt and Williams returned for another campaign to the Assembly of God, Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield. This campaign was even more fruitful than the first. An outstanding miracle amongst many was the case of Mr. J. Saunderson from Churston Road. He had been crippled with arthritis for many years. He came to the meeting for prayer and was healed before hands were laid on him. As he struggled to his feet to come into the prayer line, he felt the power of God come upon him and was able to walk quickly to the front of the church.

A couple of weeks later neighbours came out to see him effecting a repair job to his garage roof. That this one who had been so grievously crippled was moving around so

freely and climbing to the roof of his garage was in itself a testimony to the power of the Risen Christ of God. The most pleasing feature of this crusade was the large number of people which added to our church. Thank God, He added to our number such as were saved.

I next had the privilege of working with these brethren in December of 1964. By this time I had moved to take over the pastorate of the Full Gospel Church in Much Park Street, Coventry. I was delighted when we had the opportunity of a four night visit immediately following their remarkable Television Broadcast. These were four Dynamic nights for our church. Ninety Five people passed through the enquiry room. There was case after case when God's healing power was manifest. Again, an outstanding one. Mrs. Kempster, of Dunchurch Highway, had been a chronic heart case for many, many years. She was unable to take many steps without severe pain, discomfort and breathlessness. A friendly neighbour brought her to the meetings in her car. As hands were laid upon her use fell to the floor under the power of God. In a few minutes she got up, to the astonishment of her neighbour who said, you were not able to get up like that before. She then ran to the back of the church and down the aisle again. The neighbour taking her home said, "If he had not seen it with his own eyes, he would never have believed it". Astonished neighbours came out of their houses at half past ten that night to see her running up and down the pavement outside her house. To God be all the Glory.

Pastors Williams came back to Coventry for a long week end in March 1965. Praise God for over forty who passed through the enquiry room on this occasion. Many people again testified of physical benefit. Our members will never forget one young lady so grievously afflicted with epilepsy that she could not stand without being supported by her father and mother. This eighteen year old girl was one of the most pathetic cases I have seen. After prayer there seemed to be no visible evidence of anything which had taken place. But a few nights later an over joyed mother was in the meeting thanking God over and over again for His blessing. Miss Jenks, of Astley Avenue, Coventry had been brought from hospital for prayer. She was taken back to hospital after the meeting. The mother told me that the nurses were amazed at her daughter, she was able to dress herself and to walk unaided. It is now just one month since Brother Williams' visit. We are praying that God will continue His healing work upon this young women to full and complete deliverance.

When special Divine Healing meetings of this nature are advertised, one is made acutely conscious of how much suffering and despair there is around us as the sick and their sorrowing friends throng to the church. We are aware also of the more grievous affliction of sin which results in eternal death in hell. Thank God there is remedy in Jesus Christ our Lord. When He died on the cross of Calvary, He died to save our souls and He died to heal our bodies. We are plainly told that He bore our sins in His body when He died on the cross, Isaiah 53:6 and IPeter 2:24. We are also told that He bore also our sicknesses on the cross, Isaiah 53:4:5 and Matthew 8:17.

I thank God for the gifts which He has given to Pastors Barratt and Williams and for the way in which He has used them. We need to pray that God will raise up many more men who will seek His face, will be humble before Him and will be mightily used to bring this Gospel of Salvation and healing to lost and suffering humanity.

Pastor C. Rees.

Miracles at 'Sharon Televised

The showing of the Documentary Film "SHARON" on ITV has been wonderfully blessed of God. When Pastors Barratt and Williams were approached by the Producer, Mr. Denis Mitchell, who asked if they were willing for a Film to be made of the Services at the Church, they agreed to this.

The local neighbourhood was certainly stirred when two great GRANADA "Roving Eyes" vans parked outside the Church. We understand they contained \pounds 500,000 worth of equipment! Large television cameras were positioned in the Church, special floodlights and microphones were installed, and great cables and wires were everywhere. Fifteen technicians were employed in producing the film.

Pastors and flock faced a dilemma! How could one possibly have reverence and a suitable atmosphere to pray for the sick under such conditions? How could men and women accept Christ, or come for prayer — knowing they were being filmed and would be seen by millions? Would God, anoint the preaching to save souls?

The first night came!.., prayer was made that the Holy Ghost would not be grieved, and that millions would hear the wonderful Gospel of Jesus. It was absolutely amazing! Decisions were made every night and God healed the sick. Perhaps the most amazing miracle of the whole five nights was that the Services went on as if there were no cameras or technicians or filming at all. Only God could have done this.

The results have been far above all expectations. Practically all provincial newspapers gave sympathetic reports. Letters poured in from all over the British Isles. SHARON local Sunday Services have been packed ever since, and approximately 300 decisions have been made for Christ on Sunday evenings. Many have come from far away, and taken blessings back with them.

Every letter sent to the Pastors has been answered, and the Way of Salvation pointed out. Seekers have been directed to their nearest live Church.

Ministers from varied denominations have been in touch with Brothers Barratt and Williams. Some have visited them to express their appreciation and interest; one minister 'phoned to say that five people were attending his Church through the film. A lecturer of a Theological College and some of his students were greatly impressed. It has all been a thrilling and humbling experience.

Reports have appeared in the TV Times of blessings received — of Salvation, and of those who were healed whilst watching the Film on television.

One lady phoned through to say that she had suffered very badly with eczema, and after seeing the Television Programme was completely healed. A pastor informed us of a man who was about to commit suicide — but after seeing the programme, gave his heart to Christ, and is now attending the church regularly.

One lady with Osteo Arthritis, twenty years who could not walk or climb stairs, came to a healing meeting at Sharon. When hands were laid upon her in the name of Jesus she heard all her bones cracking, and instantly she was healed and began to walk up and down the pulpit stairs, and around the church. She came back the next week to say she was perfectly whole after twenty years, having all kinds of treatment. One moment in the presence of the divine physician, and she was made perfectly whole.

One very touching incident happened about eleven weeks after the Film was shown. Pastor Barratt had just closed the meeting after praying for the sick, when a lady and little girl asked to have a few words with him. Thinking they were mother and child he said "Is this your little girl." "No" said the lady. Pastor Barratt then asked the little girl who she was and she replied "Don't you remember me. I was blind from birth, and I was prayed for by Pastor Williams" "I fell down to the ground and saw a vision of Jesus. I have been completely healed ever since."

The whole church is humbly grateful to God for the opportunity of witnessing to God's healing power on a nationwide television network. May the scripture continue to be fulfilled. And great multitudes came unto Him, having those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus feet; and He healed them: Insomuch that the multitudes wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see; and they glorified the God of Israel. Matt. 15v30-31.

Revival Scenes At Birmingham

The Hockley Assembly, Birmingham, have often had the privilege of the blessed, powerful ministry of Pastors Barratt and Williams of the Sharon Church, Manchester. It would be impossible to give an account of the miracles of healing and deliverance, and the blessing received through their ministry. In the following we recall a little of the supernatural moving of God through His servants.

Their programme "SHARON" which appeared on the I.T.V. was a great success and the names of Barratt and Williams have become household words. Even the ungodly have become interested in their miraculous ministry. The arrival of these men for a campaign, or even a few services, is met with great eagerness and enthusiasm by Christians and the unsaved. Before the appointed time one can hear the footsteps of the halt and lame limping toward the church. Others of varying diseases hopefully, timidly, arrive not quite knowing what to expect. Soon the Church is packed with as many non-Churchgoers as Christians, and the atmosphere of expectancy rises with the praises of God's people. Time arrives for prayer for the sick, and as one of the pastors lays hands on them 'In the Name of Jesus', the power of God is manifested. Many are overcome by the power of God, and they lie on the floor in a state of peaceful bliss for several minutes, then rise, strengthened, healed, delivered! There was great rejoicing in one family of a grandmother, father, mother and son.

The grandmother came out of a wheel-chair after five-and-a-half years, never to return to it. The boy had been given up by doctors, and suffered with 'cancer of the stomach'. He was unable to keep anything down, but he was completely healed. He is now back at school, taking part in sports and eating normally. Mrs. Wincott (Handsworth) after twelve operations was unable to move her arm and hand for ten years. After prayer she moved them. Mrs. Hinks, of Smethwick was instantaneously healed of an internal growth. Miss Jennifer Mulloy of Bartley Green, eighteen years old, was unable to go to work or in anywise mix with others, because of epileptic-fits. She too was healed, and because a changed girl was able soon to work and meet people. She has not had another fit. During three Services there were twenty-three decisions for Christ. Thus we prove that Jesus is alive, and still confirming His Word with signs and wonders following the Word to those who believe.

H. Fisher and O. Reeve (Leaders)

Miracles In Jesus Name

Blind man. Now Sees!!

I gladly testify to all who may read it, that our Precious Lord Jesus Christ healed me at the age of 78 years. In 1958 my sight was badly impaired and I was certified blind. Surgeons could only advise me to be reconciled to my condition. The retina nerves and muscles were broken. However I kept up my prayers and had some lovely times with the Lord Jesus. An Evangelistic Crusade conducted by Pastors Barratt and Williams came to the Arts Centre, Stafford. I went to the meetings. When I was prayed for in the Name of Jesus, I saw the Pastor's face, then the moulded plaster on the ceiling and the laces of the congregation. I realised that I had found my sight. Whereas I was blind, now I can see. Praise the Lord.

P. J. Pashley. Mr

Crippled with Arthritis

I had been suffering with arthritis for many years. After leaving hospital in 1954 it was thought I would never walk again. For five years I was house bound. Then I was taken by a friend to Hockley Pentecostal Church, during a Campaign of Pastors Barratt and Williams. Since I was prayed for, I have improved so much that everyone is amazed. Only those people who knew my old condition know what a miracle has been performed in my body.

Healed Of Epilepsy

From being 10 years old I had suffered from Epilepsy. I underwent many tests in an effort to find some cure, but after being in Hospital and having these tests I was told that all that could be done was for me to take drugs to control the fits. Then one night my friend and I saw the programme from "Sharon" on T.V. and this made us think. Finally my two friends and myself set out to find "Sharon". After many difficulties had been faced we arrived at Pastor Williams's house. There he prayed for me and God instantly healed me. I was overjoyed. Now my friends and I all live happier lives, thanking God for what He has done for me. *C. Woodhead*

Paralysed Baby now Walks

From birth Shawn had what most people would call water on the brain. This made him completely useless. He could not use any limb and never moved out of his pram for twelve months. Every few hours he had to be turned over to prevent bed sores. I brought Shawn to the Healing Campaign at the A.O.G. Church in Chesterfield held by Pastors Barratt and Williams in October, 1961. He was prayed for and was immediately able to take weight on his legs. Within one week he could sit up on his own, and stand holding a chair. The day after he was prayed for he could not keep still in his pram, and he sat playing with his toys as Reporters from the "Sunday Express", came and interviewed me. He is now a normal boy. Thanks be to God from a grateful mother. *Mrs. M. Tighe*

Crippled For Forty Years.

I was sixteen or seventeen when the pain first started, I did not take much notice of it thinking it would go away. It became worse, until I had to use a walking stick, I was then nineteen. I still had not been to a doctor as my father was paralysed and depended on me.

In 1923 my sister died very suddenly and I became steadily worse, but I still carried on as usual. In 1927 I married, and my husband called in medical advice. In 1930 I was sent to hospital for two operations. I was told that I had suffered internal shock at my sister's death. The doctor was amazed that I wasn't bedfast. In 1932, and again 1938 I underwent major operations. In 1958 I went steadily down hill and circulatory trouble started. By 1960 I could only walk 200 yards, with a stick.

In April 1960, my husband and I went to a Campaign of Barratt and Williams in Edinburgh, and on the first night my husband was healed of deafness. Two nights later I went out for prayer, after the minister had revealed my symptoms, and I was completely healed. The next day I went for a three mile walk, without the aid of my stick or my husbands' arm. Since I was nineteen I had used a stick, and at the age of fifty nine I was able to discard it. I give all the glory to God.

Mrs. S. Scott-Rae.

Seven Years Of Constant Pain.

I was suffering with a fibroid growth, which caused haemorrhages. This caused continual pain, which had for seven long years. I attended a Divine Healing Campaign Conducted by Pastors Barratt and Williams and went out for prayer. The haemorrhages ceased and my health was fully restored from that time. I give all the glory to God. Praise His wonderful name.

Mrs. Ruth Reeve.

Stricture Of The Brain

Peter Donegani

At the age of five my boy Peter, was taken ill, on his way home from school. After tests it was found that he had gone blind and he was rushed to Manchester Royal Infirmary where he was operated on for a tumour on the brain. This was not a success, and a second operation became necessary in order to remove the pressure from behind the eyes. This second operation proved partially successful and after six months he was discharged in the following condition. He was unable to walk straight as his balance had been affected, he was blind in one eye and he was not able to attend school. After a while we managed to take him to a school for backward children.

When he was eleven he had to be taken once more to the Infirmary for special X-Rays. He was maturing too quickly due to the operations he had undergone. Whilst these operations were being taken, his brain flooded, and for a week he was unconscious We then found out that the trouble was not due to a tumour of the brain, but a stricture. He needed another operation, but this was impossible as there was fluid on his brain, and a danger of meningitis being caused, so he was sent home. I had resigned myself to having him as an invalid all my life.

In 1955 my life was changed by Christ, and I heard that he could still heal as in Bible days. I took my son to the front of the church to be prayed for. He immediately received

the sight in his blind eye. I was amazed, and took him to a specialist. He told me that the fluid had completely gone from his brain, and that he did not need another operation.

From that day he has steadily improved, and has never needed to go to the hospital since.

I thank and praise God for meeting my every need, and for giving me a peace and joy that never leaves me.

Specialists Gave Him Up To A Life Of Pain.

In 956 I had a serious accident at work. The tibia and fibula bones in my leg were broken and my toes were fractured. My head was also damaged. As I was claiming compensation for neglect I had to see several specialists who all said that I would have to live with the pain all my life. My toes overlapped one another and I walked with a limp. I had to wear open toed sandals or plimsolls.

In 1958 I attended a campaign at Sharon (I had been attending the meetings regularly for a few months prior to this) and I went out for prayer. My toes immediately straightened out and my limp vanished. After two years absence I was able to start work again, and I praise and thank the Lord Jesus for healing me.

Mr. J. Green.

Registered Blind Now Can Read The Smallest Print:

In 1960 I had to have operations for Glaucoma and I had to wear a frosted lense over my right eye. I was also put on the partially sighted register. I took tablets continually for the pain and I was always depressed.

In June 1964 I gave my heart to the Lord Jesus Christ, and I was prayed for that God would heal my eyes. My vision came back in my right eye and all the pain went and I am now wearing clear glasses.

When I went back to the Optician he tested my eyes and everyone was amazed at the improvement. I have not been back to the Doctor's for tablets, and I want the world to know what Jesus has done for me. He has healed me physically and also spiritually and given me a wonderful peace.

Mrs. M. Midgley

Pastors Barratt and Williams have many Campaigns booked in Gt. Britain and the Continent, for the future. The local Church "Sharon" is also being blessed of God.

We trust, after reading how these two men have given up all, to spread the Gospel to needy souls, you will have been inspired to do more for God in winning people for Christ in these last days.

John 9:4 I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day. The night comes when no man can work

Deal Pentecostal Church

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