

# SENSATIONAL

Significant Events in the Life of  
**WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM**  
as Reported in the News

Notes:

# Notes:

## **Documents in this booklet:**

The construction of the Louisville Memorial Bridge

1 Jeffersonville Evening News, June 19, 1929

2 Jeffersonville Evening News, September 10, 1929

Hope's Church

3 Jeffersonville Evening News, February 4, 1933

The First Revival

4 Jeffersonville Evening News, June 2, 1933

The Commission

5 I was Not Disobedient Unto the Heavenly Vision, 1946

The Bosworth – Best Debate

6 The Houston Press, January 24, 1950

The Sound of Thunder

7 The Arizona Republic, March 1, 1963

Questions

Answers

**I was playing marbles** with my little brother. And I thought I'd got sick, some real funny feeling came on me. And I went and set down by the side of a tree. And I looked down at the river, and there went a bridge, a big, great big bridge going across the river. And I counted sixteen men that fell off of that bridge and drowned. And I went and told mother. And I told her I seen it. And they thought I was crazy or something. They thought I was just at a little nervous hysterical child.

And twenty-two years from that time, on the same ground went the Municipal Bridge across, and sixteen men lost their lives on it. See? Wasn't nothing that... It's--it's God sent it. Your prayers brought it. See?

[William Branham, Experiences, March 3, 1948](#)

#### **Document 7: The Houston Press, January 24, 1950**

- 1) F.F. Bosworth is sitting in the chair on the right of the photograph.
- 2) Rev. W.E. Best is standing at the podium.
- 3) The photograph is of Rev. W.E. Best pointing his finger at F.F. Bosworth.
- 4) Yes, despite the fact that William Branham said that God would not allow a picture to be developed of Rev. Best pointing his finger at F.F. Bosworth.

#### **Document 8: The Arizona Republic, March 1, 1963**

- 1) In early 1963, the residents of Springerville, Arizona were accustomed to sonic booms.
- 2) In 1962, Williams Air Force Base in Mesa, Arizona (30 miles south of Phoenix) began training pilots in T-38 Talon jets. In 1963, they expanded this to training with F-5 A/B Freedom Fighter jets. Both of these jets could fly at supersonic speeds, and were capable of producing sonic booms. The residents of Springerville called the Williams Air Force base to complain about these booms.
- 3) Springerville is a three-hour drive west of the Williams Air Force Base. It is likely that there were multiple flight areas for these jets over Arizona during 1963, and complaints from one area could have caused a redirection of supersonic flights over Southern Arizona in the first week of March, 1963, when William Branham claimed he met seven angels while hunting on Sunset Mountain (Rattlesnake Mesa) as testified by a large blast.

Document 5: Jeffersonville Evening News, August 17, 1935

- 1) The Pentecostal Tabernacle.
- 2) William Branham.
- 3) It appears that William Branham was the pastor of a Pentecostal church on this date.
- 4) William Branham said that he first met Pentecostals when he travelled to Mishawaka, Illinois (c.1935). In his recorded sermons, William Branham said he was a Baptist minister at the time.

Document 6: I Was Not Disobedient Unto The Heavenly Vision:

The vision:

- 1) In this tract, William Branham wrote that he received this vision in March 1945. In later sermons he refers to receiving his commission in 1946 or 1947, pointing out that this timing matches with the establishment of Israel as a Nation.
- 2) William Branham talked about going to the Methodists.
- 3) The people of William Branham's Tabernacle refused the bread.
- 4) A tent, making this the first recorded tent vision.

The St. Louis meetings:

- 5) A young girl named Betty Daugherty recovered from her sickness prior to the healing revival in St. Louis.
- 6) William Branham travelled to St. Louis with his wife Meda and his son Billy Paul.
- 7) Rebecca Branham was born on March 21, 1946.
- 8) Gas rationing ended in the United States on August 15, 1945.

William Branham's first evangelistic campaign with healing services was held in 1945, and not during 1946.

- 9) The sermon titled "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision" preached on July 18, 1949 in Zion, Illinois, omits this vision. The town of Zion was founded by Alexander Dowie, who thought he was Elijah the prophet. F.F. Bosworth had been the leader of the Zion City Band earlier in his ministry.
- 10) Most patients spontaneously recover from St. Vitus Dance (Sydenham's Chorea) within 2 - 6 months.

# First Life Lost In Erection Of Traffic Bridge

The first life was spent in the erection of the new Jeffersonville, Louisville traffic bridge shortly after 2:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon when Richard Pilton, 26 years old, Jeffersonville, was struck on the right temple by an iron crank he was using to tighten a wire rope near Pier No. 5 of the bridge. The blow knocked the workman off a barge at the side of the pier and his body landed in the river. It was recovered by United States Coast Guardsmen within five minutes after the accident.

Deputy Coroner Joseph Beck of Louisville said Pilton's death was due to a fractured skull. The man had been employed two months by the American Bridge Company, which has the contract for the steel work on the municipal bridge. Four other workmen were nearby when Pilton was knocked into the river. Edward Gibbs, Frank Pezzullo, Edward Connelly, Alfred Sult and William Seibert were the Coast Guardsmen who recovered the body.

For more than a year, workmen have been engaged in the erection of the traffic bridge across the Ohio river from Jeffersonville to Louisville. A safety program inaugurated by all companies and contractors who have placed men in the service of this erection has been recognized as efficient in that this is the first fatal and serious accident that has occurred. Pilton is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ellen Pilton; two small children, Richard Pilton, Jr., 2 and Betty Jane Pilton, 3; and his parents Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pilton of Evansville. The body was taken to the home of the Rev. C. S. Whitted at 229 East Chestnut street, Jeffersonville. Mrs. Whitted is an aunt of Pilton.

Funeral services are to be held at 7:30 o'clock tonight at the Whitted home in charge of the Rev. Mr. Whitted. The body is to be taken to Boonville, Friday morning for burial.

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# Workman Killed In 85-Foot Fall From Traffic Bridge

Lloyd McEwen, 25 years old, Bruce, Wis., riveter employed by the American Bridge Company, contractor for the erection of the steel super-structure of the new traffic bridge from Jeffersonville to Louisville was killed at 11:30 o'clock Wednesday morning when he fell from the floor of the bridge, eighty-five feet below to a barge containing steel and anchored in the river.

McEwen's death was due to a broken neck, Coroner Asa D. Combs, reported Wednesday. The man also sustained a broken back, broken left arm and lacerations on his head.

Workmen who saw the man plunge to his death reported that he was working on the floor of the bridge and apparently made a misstep, losing his balance.

McEwen's death marks the second to occur since the beginning of the bridge more than a year ago.

## ANSWERS

**It was seen on the river** there when I was just a boy, baptizing my first group in the Baptist church: Five hundred, one afternoon, at the foot of Spring Street in Jeffersonville. The newspapers packed an article of it: A Mystic Light Appears Over Local Baptist Minister While Baptizing At The River.”

William Branham, *Angel of the Covenant*, March 1, 1954

### **Document 1: Jeffersonville Evening News, June 19, 1929**

- 1) Richard Pilton died from a blow to the head from an iron crank.
- 2) He was working on a barge under the bridge, and fell into the river.
- 3) The safety program was commended.
- 4) While the Jeffersonville Evening News reported that William Branham was in Kansas, the story from his recorded sermons is that he was working as a cowboy in Arizona when he received news of his brother’s death. This means that William Branham was not in Jeffersonville during the construction of the Louisville Memorial Bridge.

### **Document 2: Jeffersonville Evening News, September 10, 1929**

- 1) Lloyd McEwan died when he fell of the bridge.
- 2) No. He landed on a barge.
- 3) This was the second death during the construction of the Louisville Memorial Bridge up to September 10, 1929?
- 4) The Louisville Municipal Bridge opened to the public on October 31, 1929. There were no other reported deaths on this bridge from September 10, 1929 – October 31, 1929.

### **Document 3: Jeffersonville Evening News, June 2, 1933**

- 1) The newspaper reported that 14 people were converted during William Branham’s first evangelistic meeting in June 1933.
- 2) No baptisms are reported.
- 3) Nothing unusual is reported.
- 4) There is no mention of a light, or mention of the Ohio River.

### **Document 4: Jeffersonville Evening News, February 4, 1933**

- 1) Hope Brumbach was leading the Saturday Night devotional service. Hope later married William Branham.
- 2) The First Pentecostal Baptist Church of Jeffersonville.
- 3) Roy Davis was a Baptist who preached a Pentecostal message. In an article in the Voice of Healing, he claimed that William Branham received the baptism of the Holy Ghost while in his home. Many of Roy Davis’ sermons from this time refer to Pentecost and revivals.
- 4) William Branham said that he first met Pentecostals when he travelled to Mishawaka, Illinois (c.1935). This was after his marriage to Hope in 1934.

Document 8: The Arizona Republic, March 1, 1963

- 1) Were sonic booms new to residents of Springerville, Arizona?
- 2) What was the source of these sonic booms?
- 3) How far is Springerville from Williams Air Force Base?

### Indiana Throats June 10

Evansville, Ind., June 2—Cook's Goldblum's beer will be on the market about June 10, according to Adolph Schmidt, president of the F. W. Cook Company. He is unable to state as yet what the average output will be.

### The Supplement?

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which are scattered throughout  
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other services from government.  
Being scattered all over the map, it  
soon was clear that these independent  
settlers were costing the public a lot  
of money. To build a road into a com-  
munity is one thing; to build a separ-  
ate road into each of many scatter-  
ed clearings is quite another. To build  
schools for a compact community is  
no great problem; to build schools for  
scattered homesteads may mean to  
build a separate school for a single  
family, in instances.

So it has been going in many parts  
of northern Wisconsin. The unregu-  
lated use of lands has meant scatter-  
ing public functions over wide terri-  
tories; and, in instances, giving indi-  
viduals or families services costing  
ten times the amount of taxes the  
family would pay in a lifetime.

Wise land use is important from  
the public standpoint. Oneida county  
realizes that. It now is saying to its  
citizens:

"Here are good agricultural areas  
and if you want to engage in farming  
you must do so in these areas. Here  
are recreational areas where you can  
build summer cottages or resorts.  
Here are forest areas and if you  
choose to buy these you must grow or  
harvest trees."

By that process there will yet be  
sound development in Oneida county  
and a gradual decline in the public  
load that comes of too little planning  
in the use of land.

### FOURTEEN CONVERTED

Fourteen conversions are report-  
ed in a tent meeting conducted at  
Eighth and Pratt streets by the  
Rev. William Branham.

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**And Doctor Roy Davis** was, Missionary Baptist Church that ordained me into the Missionary Baptist Church, was the one who sent him to me--the one who first told me I had a nightmare, when the Angel of the Lord came to me. Now he's preaching Divine healing himself.

William Branham, *The Angel of the Lord*, June 4, 1953

**Document 5: Jeffersonville Evening News, August 17, 1935**

- 1) What was the name of the Church?
- 2) What was the name of the Pastor?
- 3) Was the Pastor of this church a Baptist, or a Pentecostal?

**Document 6: I Was Not Disobedient Unto The Heavenly Vision:**

The vision:

- 1) What year did William Branham receive this heavenly vision?
- 2) William Branham was sent to a woman. Who was she?
- 3) Did the people of the Tabernacle accept the bread of life?
- 4) What was erected in the middle of a large plain?

The St. Louis meetings:

- 5) Who was healed by vision prior to the healing revival in St. Louis?
- 6) Who travelled together to St. Louis?
- 7) What year did gas rationing end in the United States?
- 8) What year was Rebecca Branham born?

The tract "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision" was written by William Branham at the start of his healing ministry in the late 1940's. He also preached a sermon titled "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision" on July 18, 1949 in Zion, Illinois.

- 11) Is the vision in the printed tract retold during the audio sermon?

William Branham testified many times that Betty Daugherty was healed of St. Vitus Dance.

- 12) Do you know what the medical prognosis is for people with St. Vitus Dance (also called Sydenham's Chorea)?

**Document 7: The Houston Press, January 24, 1950**

- 1) Who is the man sitting in the chair?
- 2) Who is the man standing at the podium?
- 3) What is the man at the podium doing?
- 4) Was this photograph developed?



## QUESTIONS

### Document 1: Jeffersonville Evening News, June 19, 1929

- 1) How did Richard Pilton die?
- 2) Did he fall off the bridge?
- 3) Was the safety program blamed, or commended?
- 4) An article about the death of William Branham's brother Edward also appeared on the front page of the June 19, 1929 edition of the Jeffersonville Evening News. Where was William Branham when his brother Edward passed away?

### Document 2: Jeffersonville Evening News, September 10, 1929

- 1) How did Lloyd McEwan die?
- 2) Did he fall into the river?
- 3) How many other deaths occurred during the construction of the bridge up to September 10, 1929?
- 4) When did the Louisville Municipal Bridge open to the public?

### Document 3: Jeffersonville Evening News, June 2, 1933

- 1) How many people were reported converted during this meeting?
- 2) How many baptisms were reported by the newspaper?
- 3) Did the newspaper report anything unusual about William Branham's first evangelistic meeting?
- 4) Did the newspaper comment on a light on the Ohio River?

### Document 4: Jeffersonville Evening News, February 4, 1933

- 1) Who was leading the Saturday Night devotional service?
- 2) What was the name of the Church?
- 3) What was the name of the Pastor?
- 4) Was the Pastor of this church a Baptist, or a Pentecostal?
- 5) In what year did William Branham travel to Mishawaka, Illinois, and meet Pentecostals for the first time?

Jeffersonville Evening News  
February 4, 1933

**FIRST PENTECOSTAL BAPTIST**  
**DR. ROY E. DAVIS, Pastor**

**Saturday Night**  
An old-time testimony meeting  
preceding the sermon  
Hope Brumbach will lead the devotional meeting.

**Sunday Morning**  
Sunday School 10 a. m.  
C. E. Meyers, Supt.  
Sunday Night, 6:30  
Young Peoples' Meeting  
7:30 Special Song Service at  
which time Sister "Spuds" will sing  
several numbers.  
8 p. m. Sermon by the pastor.  
We will have chairs in the aisles to  
seat most of those who come to  
these meetings.

Jeffersonville Evening News  
August 17, 1935

**PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE**  
8th and Penn Sta.  
**REV. WM. BRANHAM, Pastor**  
Preaching every Sunday 10:30 a.  
m. and 7:30 p. m.  
Sunday School 9:30  
Special music and a great sermo  
Sunday Evening. Everybody welcom  
No collection taken.

One of my first books I published, called, "I Was Not Disobedient To The Heavenly Vision," to a little lady, a little girl, dying with something like Saint Vitus' dance, just screaming and going on.

William Branham, Blind Bartimaeus, April 2, 1954

And when the Angel of the Lord, giving me my commission, He said to me, "You was borned into this world to take a gift of Divine healing to the peoples of the world.

And I said, "Sir, I am uneducated. And I'm brought among my people, and we're all poor. And I--I have no education. The people would not believe me, Sir. And I could not do that."

And He said, "As the prophet, Moses, was given two to a vindicate his sending of God, so will you be given two for this a vindication." Said, "One of them will be, that you will take the people by the hand." And said, "In there, just keep quiet, and it'll be told to you. You'll just say what's wrong with the person."

William Branham, Get the people to believe, July 17, 1952



**Now, have you noticed the mysterious parts of this week?** That's what it is. That's what it's been. It's been, not a human being, a man; it has been the Angels of the Lord. Notice, there's witnesses of three setting in here, that a week ago (a little over a week ago) I was up way back into the mountains, nearly to Mexico, with two brethren that's setting here, picking cocklebur--or sand burrs off of my trouser leg, **and a blast went off that almost, looked like, shook the mountains down.** Now, that's right. I never told my brethren, but they noticed a difference. And He said to me, "Now, be ready. Go east." Here's the interpretation of that vision. See?

[William Branham, The Seventh Seal, March 24, 1963](#)

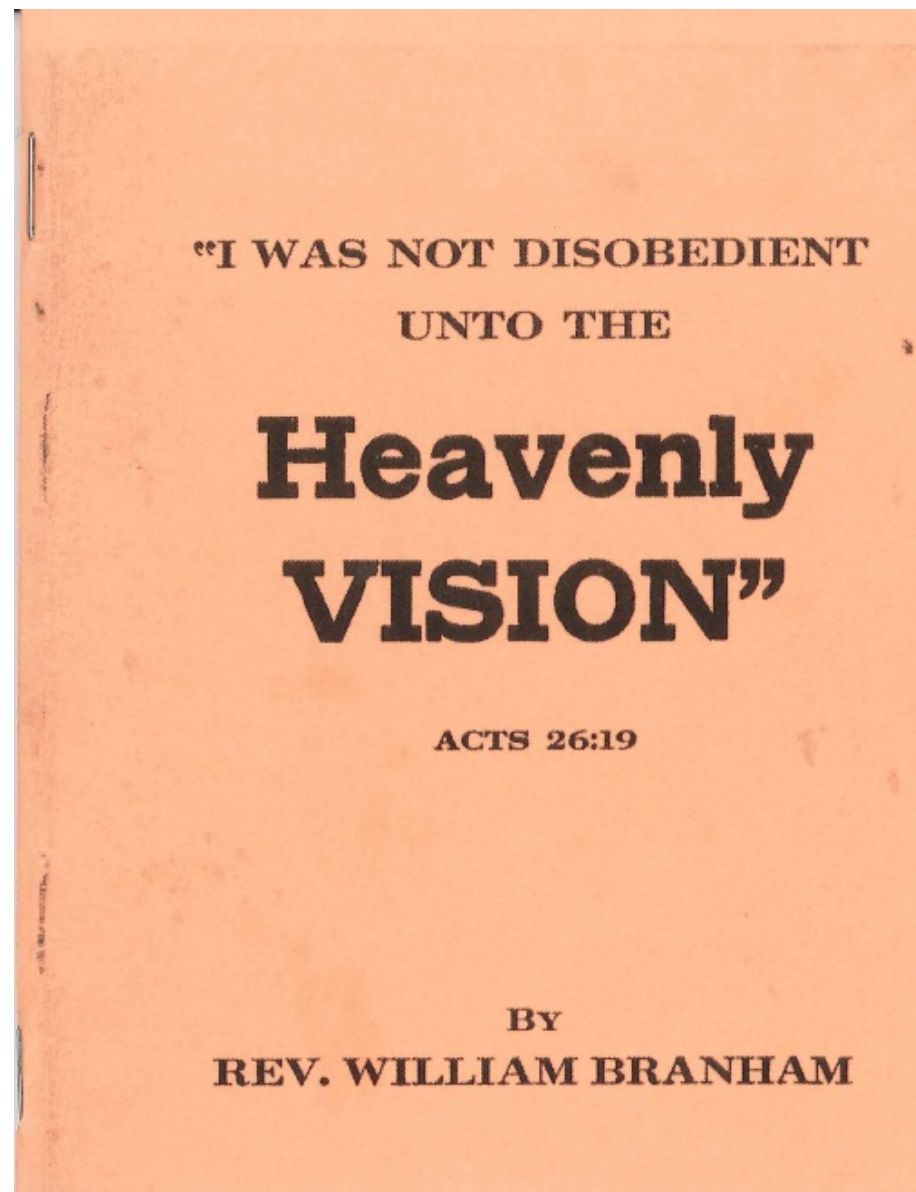
Well we heard this blast. **It sounded like seven of them planes breaking the sound barrier at the same time.** It was such a bang. I thought, Mercy, they could hear that all over the country.

[Fred Sothman](#)

I hunted, oh, probably about a half hour, and that blast went off. It sounded like it was just right above my head. And, I looked up, and, I didn't see nothing. Ah, yeah, I did, I seen something, but I didn't see the cloud in the form that it shows in the picture.

**When I looked up I seen two long streaks like, ah, like a plane leaving a trail.**

[Gene Norman](#)



Dear Reader:

This book of testimonies is for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is for that purpose only that I write it.

It was in the month of March, 1945, one morning about 3:00 A.M. that our Lord Jesus Christ gave me a vision. This He has done many times and I most humbly praise Him for it.

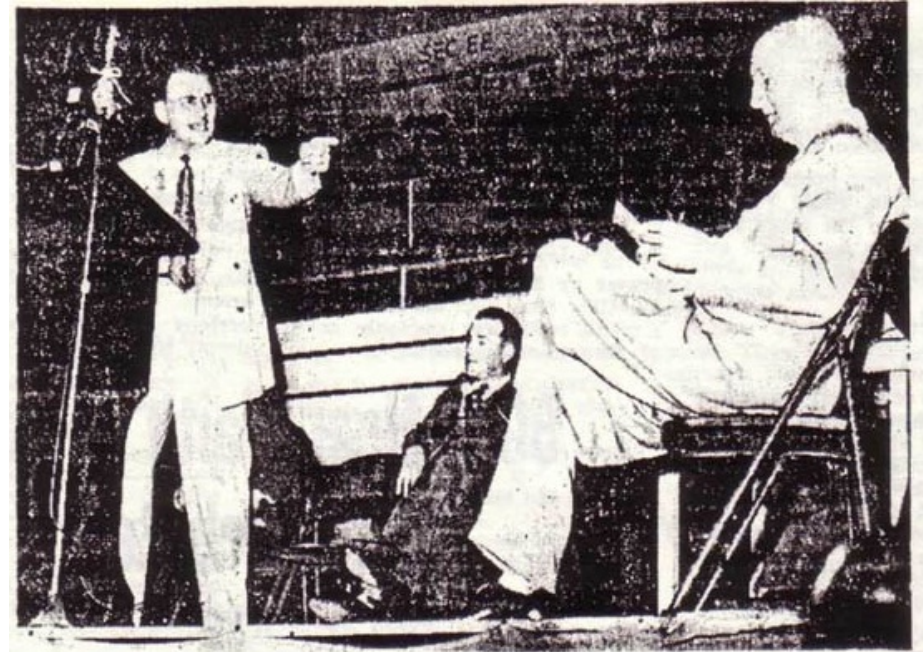
At the beginning of this vision, seemingly, I was walking northeast on a road when the Spirit turned me and pointed me toward the west. I was facing a great mountain. It seemed to be the mountain of the Lord! It had a towering, high church steeple on the top of it. I was then asked to go west toward the mountain.

I entered the mountain through a door and on the inside I was met by a woman who had on a garment that might have been snow white at one time. Now the garment was very soiled. She asked me if I was Bro. Billy Branham and I replied, "I am." She then introduced herself as Mrs. Methodist.

I asked her why the spots on that lovely white garment. She replied, "I have been so busy." I then said to her, "That's right; you Methodists have so many organizations and societies in your church, you haven't had much time for the Lord." Then she said, "I was told that you were being sent to me. Maybe I should awaken my husband!" Then she disappeared.

Looking to my left, I saw a small heap of smooth-baked bread. There were white fowls standing near it, but they would not eat much of it. Then the Lord said to me, "Do you know them?" I said, "No."

Then He said, "That is your Tabernacle and they won't



"THIS IS NOT HEAVEN ON EARTH," shouts Rev. W. E. Best, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, as Rev. F. F. Bosworth, an out-of-town evangelist, sits quietly listening. The debate between the two preachers centered around whether any man has the power of miraculous healing.

**I seen him the night of the debate** when this Angel of the Lord came down and had His picture taken that you see here now, they got of the meeting. It was Brother Bosworth who stood there that night, and this young fellow just out of the seminary, pointing his finger in that old saints face, and having him take his picture like this. And he shaking his fist in that old saintly man's face, and saying, "Now, take my picture. And now take my picture," like that. 'Cause he wanted six pictures taken; he could publish it in his paper in such positions as that. And Almighty God would not permit one of them to be developed. Every one of them was perfect negative. That's right.

William Branham, Be not afraid, July 20, 1954

eat the bread of life anymore. I am sending you this way." Then I journeyed on westward.

I was then brought to a plain where a platform was erected. Seemingly, it was under a large tent or auditorium. There were curtains drawn in back of the platform. The Lord then told me to pull back the curtains and when I did I saw a great mountain of the bread of life. He then said, "Feed these," and turning around I saw white-robed people coming from everywhere, making up a large audience.

The following night, after the vision was over, I explained it to my church just as the Lord had given it to me.

Now all this may seem strange to you, dear reader, but have you not read in the scriptures how He said that in the last days your young men shall see visions? Acts 2:17.

About three weeks from the time of the vision, I received a telegram from a minister in St. Louis, Mo., by the name of Rev. Robert Daugherty. He asked me to come at once because his little daughter, Betty, was dying. They had sought medical aid for her and the doctors had done all that they knew how to help her. But the child continued to grow worse and was now near death.

The following afternoon the Rev. Daugherty's father came to my house and told me that his son had called him by phone at Arnold, Ky., and asked him to bring me to St. Louis at once. That was on Sunday afternoon. That night after my church services at the Tabernacle, I met with Rev. Daugherty's father at the Seventh Street Railroad Station in Louisville, Ky. At 11:30 P.M. we caught the train to St. Louis, Mo.

We arrived in St. Louis at 10:00 A.M. the next morning. We had prearranged to meet the Rev. Daugherty and he

was waiting for us. We were then taken to his home where the little sick girl lay. Here I witnessed one of the most heart-breaking scenes.

A small girl about the age of seven was lying there. She had curly blonde hair and was a heart full of love to any parents. She was mere skin and bones and acted like an animal, clawing, scratching and screaming. They could not calm her at all. The mother and father said this had been going on for about three months. They said the doctors could not diagnose the case, but, dear reader, it was God's way of getting the message of healing to the dear people of St. Louis, as you will read later.

I had known the Daugherty family previous to this time but did not recognize the little girl due to her condition.

We had prayer for the little girl but with no results. Rev. Daugherty said there had been many outstanding ministers and Christians of the city there to pray for her. Bro. Daugherty, his father and I then left for church to continue our prayer. After praying again, I told Bro. Daugherty I was going out alone to pray. (Many times God has to get us alone to talk to us.) It was at this time that our dear Lord Jesus showed me what to do for the child's healing. I went quickly to Bro. Daugherty and his wife and told them to believe me for I had "Thus saith the Spirit." I will never forget how they looked at me and at one another.

They seemed to want to cry or shout. Then they turned and said to me, "Bro. Branham, if we didn't believe that God heard your prayers and that God has given you the gift of Divine Healing, we would not have sent for you to come on this long trip." And may I say here that the Daugherty family is one of the most humble and God-loving families that I have ever met.

Then I asked Sister Daugherty to get a pan of clear water and a small white cloth, which she did. Then I asked Bro. Daugherty to kneel at my right and his father to my left, at the foot of the sick child's bed. That was the way it had been shown to me. I then asked Sister Daugherty to wet the cloth and to wipe it across the child's face, hands and feet. The Brothers and I were to be in prayer. After this had been carried out, the vision for her was complete.

Then I asked our dear Lord to heal the child and He did. Immediately she stopped crying and pulling her little hand through her hair. Then I returned home.

About three months later, one afternoon while sitting on my front porch, a car stopped in front of my house and a sweet, little curly-haired, plump girl jumped out of the car. She ran up the walk and threw her little arms around my neck. Yes, it was little Betty Daugherty! Friends, that is the kind of things that mean more to me than the riches of this world.

Bro. Daugherty and I had a long talk and he told me the people wanted me to come to St. Louis for a healing revival. I agreed to go and the following Sunday I announced it to my congregation. I told them that I believed this was where the bread of life was to be fed, according to the vision.

Many wanted to go with me, but as gas was rationed, we took only one car. Two Sisters from the church, my wife and nine-year-old son, Billy, Jr., and I went. The Sisters took notes of some of the things that happened during the revival. They are put in this book only for God's glory and that the people might believe in His Son, Jesus Christ.

By Rev. Wm. "Billy" Branham