

MISSIONARY STORIES

REAL STORIES ABOUT SPREADING GOD'S WORD

The Whole Church Said Yes!

THIS STORY IS ABOUT: BRAVE OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD

BIG IDEA

When one person bravely chooses to obey the Bible, it can give a whole crowd the courage to obey too. God honors people who do exactly what His Word says!

THE STORY

In a big American city called Indianapolis, there lived a wonderful preacher named G.T. Haywood. He led a church called Christ Temple, and his people loved him. Haywood had a deep, beautiful singing voice, and he loved to teach straight from the Bible.

One day in the year 1914, exciting news traveled all the way from California. Two men named Frank Ewart and Glenn Cook had been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, just like the apostles did in the book of Acts! The news spread from city to city until it reached Haywood.

Now Haywood was a careful man. He did not get excited too quickly.

Instead, he opened his Bible and began to study. He prayed. He read the book of Acts over and over to see exactly how the early church baptized people.



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THE STORY CONTINUES

The more he read, the more amazed he became! Every single time someone was baptized in the Bible, it was in the name of Jesus.

Haywood's heart began to pound. 'If this is how the apostles did it,' he thought, 'then this is how I must do it too!'

This was a big decision. Some people might not understand. It might cost Haywood his good name and even some of his friends. But Haywood loved God's Word more than he loved being comfortable. He decided to obey, no matter what.

So Haywood stood up in front of his whole church. Gently and humbly, he showed them everything he had found in the Bible. He did not yell or scare anyone. He simply said, 'Here is what the Scriptures say. And I am going to be baptized in the name of Jesus, to obey God.'

Then something happened that surprised even Haywood himself! One by one, the people began to come forward. More and more of them!

When they finished counting, about 465 people wanted to be baptized in the name of Jesus, just like their pastor!

In special services, all those people were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And as they obeyed, the Holy Ghost fell on many of them, and they were filled with God's Spirit, some right there in the water and some in the days right after!

This amazing day at Christ Temple became one of the most important moments in the history of the church. It showed that God's truth is for every person, of every color, in every place. The good news rippled out across the whole country and around the world!



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THE STORY

And it all happened because one man opened his Bible, found the truth, bravely obeyed it, and gave everyone else the chance to obey too. To this day, churches all over the world can trace their faith back to that brave day in Indianapolis!



DID YOU KNOW?

- G.T. Haywood was a real preacher who led a church called Christ Temple in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- About 465 people were baptized in Jesus' name at his church, which is enough people to fill a whole movie theater!
- Haywood also wrote hymns and songs, and he had a powerful singing voice that people remembered for years.
- Some of Haywood's writings from over 100 years ago can still be read today, and churches around the world trace their beginnings back to that day!

MEMORY VERSE

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.” Acts 2:38

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. How did Haywood decide whether the new message was true? What did he do first?
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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 2** About how many people came forward to be baptized like their pastor?

- 3** Obeying the Bible might have cost Haywood his friends and his good name. Why did he choose to obey anyway?

- 4** Haywood's brave choice gave others courage. Has someone you know ever helped you be brave by going first?

- 5** What is one thing in the Bible that you know is true and want to obey, even if it feels hard?

LET'S PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You for the Bible that shows us exactly what to do. Make me brave like G.T. Haywood, so I will obey Your Word even when it is hard. And help my obedience give other people courage to follow You too. In Your name I pray, Amen.

TRY THIS!

Play 'Follow the Leader, Bible Style'! Pick one person to be the leader who does a good action (like clapping, kneeling to pray, or saying 'I will obey God'). Everyone follows. Then talk about how Haywood led 465 people by going first. Ask each child to name one good thing they can lead their friends to do this week!

