

Volume II

**PIONEER
PENTECOSTAL
WOMEN**

PIONEER PENTECOSTAL WOMEN VOLUME II

Compiled by Mary H. Wallace

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ADA MAE RENO ANDERSON

By Marian June Starr

Ada Mae Anderson was born March 26, 1898, in Montecello, Kentucky, not far from the Tennessee border. The first-born child of Marion and Elsie Reno, she later had six brothers and sisters. When Ada was five years old, the family moved to Louisville, Kentucky.

About this time Ada began to pray and wonder about God and she started catechism in the Catholic Church.

In 1910 the Reno family decided to move to a part of Indianapolis, Indiana, called Brightwood. One of Ada's girl friends, Lora Durban, introduced her to a Greek lad who had been in this country for about three years working at the Big Four Railroad. A relative who had sponsored him in this country, gave his

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name to the employer as Alexander Anderson. His name was Alexander Basil Angeloupolos but Anderson was much easier to remember. When Alex began to understand English and found out about this name change, he was unhappy; however, he decided to accept the name, Anderson, because of the "red tape" in changing it back.

Alex was attracted immediately to Ada and after a short courtship, he proposed marriage. Alex soon convinced Ada to marry him. November 8, 1913 was the date.

Alex was a member of the Greek Orthodox Church and the priest was a frequent dinner guest. Ada enjoyed Alex's friends in the Greek church.

In October 1914, a son named Chris was born. Proud of their son, Alex planned for him to be a good Greek Orthodox church member. Ada, however, seemed to feel a desire to know more about God. Cora Durban had been going to Oak Hill Tabernacle, a Pentecostal Church where the pastor was Brother L. V. Roberts.

"Ada, go with me to church Sunday afternoon. People speak in a language they never learned when the spirit of God comes into them," Cora invited. Ada gladly accepted the invitation.

That Sunday in the year 1915, at Oak Hill Tabernacle, Ada was filled with the Holy Ghost. How happy she was! She and Cora began to witness to many people. In later years Cora's husband founded the Pentecostal Church in Martinsville, Indiana.

Ada and Cora and others of the church gathered in different homes for prayer meetings. Often other women visited these prayer meetings and received the

Ada Mae Anderson

Holy Ghost. Then they took the new converts to church and introduced them to their pioneer pastor, Brother L. V. Roberts. Great miracles happened frequently in the church.

Ada quit going to movies and soon Alex said, "I don't enjoy them without you." But he did not oppose her going to church or having prayer meetings in her home. Some of the sisters in those years attending the prayer meetings were Sister Spillman (founder of Christian Tabernacle), Sister Maddie Kimberlin, Sister Cora Durban, and her own sisters.

One of the women, Mrs. Childers, who lived next door to the Andersons, confided that she was so depressed, "I don't know where to turn."

"Let's just kneel down right here and ask God for help," Ada suggested. Mrs. Childers did and went away rejoicing with the Holy Ghost.

One day while Ada and some other women were praying, Alex brought the priest home. Upon seeing the ladies praying so fervently, he exclaimed, "Alex, your wife is a fanatic." Alex took the priest's remark as a personal insult. He loved and respected his wife even though he certainly did not understand her religion. Although he still attended the Greek Orthodox church, this brought a breach between Alex and the priest. (Was God moving Alex toward being saved!)

"Alex, I can't understand how an intelligent man like you can believe in a religion like yours," Ada sometimes commented.

In March of 1916, Augustus (Gus) the second son was born. When the boys grew old enough to attend church, Alex would take them with him, but Ada would