

The Helsinki Revival

INSTALLMENT II

By Tommy Hicks

Last month we carried the amazing story of Tommy Hicks Evangelistic Mission to Russia. Now he tells about the Helsinki Revival that resulted in an invitation from the State Church to conduct a national revival.

RETURNING to Helsinki from Russia, preparation had been made while I was behind the Iron Curtain. The business men had spared no effort to make this a great success, but none of them dreamed of what God was going to do, for had they known or had they realized what God was about to do, greater plans would have been made. On the opening night, beneath the stars, in the beautiful park, stood 4 giant tents, filled to capacity. What a thrill to see the hand of God begin to move in a new way across the face of one of the smallest nations of the world. This revival was destined to make a tremendous impact upon this nation. The State Church, which is Lutheran, had never before fully cooperated in any kind of a revival effort.

This was God's time and God's hour for Finland. Now everybody was working toward one end — "Lord send a revival — save our nation and bring peace." For six days every effort was bent toward that end. We saw thousands come to Christ. The miracle-working power of God was manifest in every service. His glory was seen and felt. The people learned to praise the Lord and clap their hands and rejoice. No service was too long, for hour after hour they waited with patience and love to see God move. It was with almost deep sorrow that we had to bring these meetings to a close.

Many signs and wonders were manifested during those six days. Sunday afternoon was our official closing day. There were two great services on Sunday afternoon, the first one in the great Town Square, on the steps of the great Church of Finland, with between thirty-five and fifty thousand people gathered to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Hundreds and hundreds raised their hands to testify that they had received Christ as their Saviour. After the meeting was over, we marched in one body in a great parade, with different bands playing as we marched. After the parade, we returned to other tents, and then another service followed.

Monday night we set aside as convert night, for which we sent out invitations for all of the new converts to meet us in that service. In all the campaigns God has given us throughout the world, nothing has ever stirred our hearts more than that Monday night. As far as we know, every invitation that we had sent out was answered, and we had the joy of preaching again to these new-born converts. When the altar call was made to the great mass crowd, which was the largest we had had on any one night, the greatest number responded to receive Christ as their Saviour of any night in the campaign. It was a glorious climax, but I want you to hear what some of the leading newspaper reporters and journalists



Colonel Paavo Waris

HOW THE MIRACLE TOOK PLACE

By Gordon Lindsay

Last spring Colonel Paavo Waris of Helsinki, representing a Full Gospel group in that city, wrote me a letter requesting me to get in touch with some evangelist for that country. I replied saying that I would be at the Stockholm Convention and would talk to him about the matter there. Unfortunately, circumstances came up that made it necessary for me to cancel my reservations. Knowing that God is the only one that can send a man to a country with a message that will stir a nation, I hardly knew how to answer Colonel Waris except to pray and believe that God would work the matter out.

Here is how God answered my prayer. When Tommy Hicks was in Finland on his way to the Russian legation embassy in Helsinki, not knowing exactly where the location was he looked about for someone who could speak English. He saw a man who looked like he might be able to give him the information desired and accosted him. Yes, the man not only understood English but gave him the necessary directions. Brother Hicks then thanked the man and told him his name. Upon the mention of the name the colonel stopped short, hardly believing his ears. "You are not the Tommy Hicks who held the great meeting in Buenos Aires?" he said. Brother Hicks assured him he was the person to whom he referred. "Well, then, the Lord must have sent you this way." The result of this supposedly chance, but actually providential, meeting, was the great revival in Helsinki, a photograph of which is on this page.

Here is another lesson on the headship of Christ. It is not wrong to plan and to lay plans. But they must be subject to the headship of Christ. Leeway must be given for God to indicate His will. Then we will see the leading of the Spirit of God, even as it was when Paul sought to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit suffered him not, and rather led him through a vision to introduce the gospel message for the first time in Europe.

had to say about the revival meetings. Tuesday afternoon we flew to the city of Jyväskylä with practically no advertising whatsoever, and with less than one day's notice. There again we saw the hand of God move and we read the reports

from the newspapers telling us of what had happened.

Wednesday, the following day, we returned to Helsinki by plane, arriving back in my hotel by eleven o'clock in the morning. Tired and weary, I walked into my room, and as I passed the mirror in my room, I glanced at myself and said, "Tommy, God has been good to you. He has done something for you He has never done for anyone else." It was my voice, but it seemed to be the Spirit of God speaking through me. I stood for a moment and then suddenly began to cry. I dropped on my knees, putting my face in my hands, I began to thank God for what He had done. How long I prayed like this, I do not know, but as I raised my hands and began to praise God, I heard the voice of God say, "I have given you Finland as an inheritance because thou hast been obedient to follow my path. I love thee with an everlasting love." It seemed almost too good to be true and from the depths of my soul, I cried out, "Lord, if you have given me Finland, and this is your voice, let something happen at once that I may know this is You." The words were not out of my mouth, when there came a knock on the door, and two men of the State Church were standing outside. We invited them in, and after a little conversation, they told me they would like to see me return and evangelize thirty-five of the largest cities of Finland; that if I could spend two months, making ten great campaigns, they would do all in their power to make them a success. You can imagine the joy and thrill that came to my soul. God had confirmed His word.

Then when we met with the pastors and business men, I was approached again upon the same measure, asking me if I would return to Finland and cover the cities in the interior, and, of course, my answer was "yes."

Friends, there is a mighty revival breaking forth all over the world, and I believe that God is going to give the Body of Christ a double portion of His Spirit to bring forth the greatest revival the world has ever known. We know the Body of Christ was born in the Blazing Glory and Power of the Holy Spirit. She performed mighty signs and miracles, the dead were raised, the blind eyes opened, the deaf ears were opened. The early church set the pattern by the power of the Holy Ghost, and God has never changed, nor will He ever change.

To those men and women who have faith in God and in the Word He has spoken, they, too, can become miracle workers, because it is written, "God hath dealt to every man a measure of faith." Romans 12:3. Faith is not something to get, faith is something you have.

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THE HELSINKI MEETING

By *Vusi Suume*

[The lady who wrote this article speaks of Tommy Hicks as a healer. Of course it is Christ who heals.]

I am seated in the 'giantiq' tent as a drop in the living sea of listeners, gathered from the whole of Helsinki and even from the surrounding country (I know there have been some people from the vicinity of Jyvaskyla) to hear the evangelist Tommy Hicks, perhaps the most (astonishing) man of our time, and to see him performing miracles in front of our eyes with the help of God in the Name of Jesus through the Holy Ghost.

There is seen a mother with her son — the boy was still a moment ago quite lame, walking only leaning to a pair of crutches. Now he goes up along the steps with his own cured legs to tell about his wonderful healing by Tommy Hicks in the other tent.

I saw myself how Mr. Hicks healed a dumb and deaf little boy. (She describes the procedure and prayer.) The prayer he said several times again and again, concentratedly, in a suggestive voice. When he had quickly drawn his hand off,

the boy had become quiet and looked wondering to his healer, who splashed his fingers behind the boy's head. The boy laughed merrily—he could hear the sound. The father wept for joy.

There were learned people standing around — clergymen, B.A.'s, businessmen — but in front of this vision there could no eye remain dry. Tommy Hicks' message reminds one of the living flame of a burning torch, shining through darkness. His words are the simplest possible, mostly straight from the Bible, which is the object of his study during all of his vacant time, day and night. He told how he during his journey in Palestine used his Bible as his guide along all the places known from the history of Jesus and His disciples. Standing on the place of the event he read the story of the Bible again and was filled with new power and new faith, seeming strong enough to remove mountains.

His oratory style (his style of speaking) is for itself, without comparison. Thinking on the new style of gymnastics one could speak much about his 'central movements': he is really vigorousness itself — full of life, joy, courage, not wanting words nor comparisons and pictures.

While speaking he creates — he is the winner of life.

His economical policy is here: "I have worked for God without salary in 27 years. But I have a great bank account in heaven. I need but stretch out my hand (he makes one of his finest gestures upwards — the finest gesture I have ever seen) and they will send me just the sum I am in need of. Nobody ever died of hunger in God's work. If you begin this work and are going to die of hunger, you may ask to have written on your grave: 'I am the first man who died of hunger in the work of God.'"

Tommy Hicks is sorry that his time in Finland is soon finished. He feels the Finnish listeners support him in this work, which is his only call in his trying to follow in the steps of his Master.

He came here from the Soviet Union; he is the first evangelist to whom the Iron Curtain was opened. He tells that the Living Jesus can melt the Iron Curtain.

The Finns sing, 'Voitt ohon, voitt ohon,' in their typical slow tempo — Hicks says: 'Let us take it again with more speed and joy — we are not on our way to a funeral, but to a wedding.'