

Mary Mossman was closely associated with the Christian and Missionary Alliance movement led by A. B. Simpson. This testimony of the healing of Mary Shoemaker was published in the January 24, 1890 Christian Alliance and Missionary Weekly. It's very possible that this is the same Miss Shoemaker who eventually became associated with Ethan Otis Allen and his healing home in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Miss Shoemaker's Healing

I believed, therefore have I spoken. This being the 8th anniversary of a remarkable event in my life, I feel led to write it for the comfort and encouragement of others who are seeking Divine healing that they may rest more fully on the promises of God, which are, "yea and amen, in Christ Jesus. During the last eight years I have never had a return of the illness, although previous to my healing the exception was when I was free from the dreadful infirmity.

Nearly all my life (since I was about fourteen years old) I would dislocate the joint of my knee, and what others might recover from in a few weeks, would lay me up for months and sometimes years. As time passed on, I became worse rather than better. At times both limbs would be not only useless but I suffered painfully, would be obliged to lie down most of the time, and in my worst attacks if any one came near my bed the least motion would put me in agony. Sometimes I would so far recover that I could resume my school duties, but it would not last long. The old weakness was sure to come back.

I kept on in this way for several years and began to feel that my case was hopeless, but I continued asking the advice of many physicians and taking many drugs. The medical men did me no good. Some said they feared white swelling, and others that amputation would be necessary. These remarks were very depressing to me, and I began to give the doctors up, and to look more and more to the Lord, especially as my pastor, Rev. A. B. King, urged me so earnestly to take my case to Him. About this time I was suffering a longer attack than usual. It was nearly five years that I had hardly taken one step. My strength and health failed, and my spirits also. I was a mere wreck, and felt that in the Lord was my only hope. About this time one of my relatives wished me in go to Asbury Park, hoping the change would benefit my general health, but I objected to going, my pride objected to my being carried from one depot to another, whenever a change would need to be made.

I thought I had suffered enough inconvenience and embarrassment in that way, and preferred to remain quietly at home, but the Lord ordered otherwise and at last inclined me to be willing to go.

I had been in Asbury Park about ten days when I sent for a carriage and invited my friend and a few others to take a drive with me, and in my efforts to get in, I injured my best limb. I had not gone far when I whispered my fears to my friend, and she replied, almost reprovingly, "Why Mary, you have had so much trouble with lameness you are becoming nervous and morbid, now don't imagine anything like this; just try to enjoy the drive." This was good advice and I tried to follow it, but at night when I retired to my own room, I knew too well the symptoms of a sprained knee to be deceived. After this I was obliged to lie on my bed nearly all the time, pain of body and anxiety of mind reduced my strength greatly.

The friends who had been with me were obliged to go to their homes and I was left alone; no not alone, my Master was with me, although at the time I knew it not. Soon after this the kind

friend with whom I boarded said, "There are a few ladies in the Park, who have prayer meetings at private houses, and they pray for the sick. I wish you would have them come and pray for you, I believe you would be helped." I said I would be glad to meet them, but a moment after I said, "but I cannot go into the parlor; my limbs are so painful I cannot take one step." The colored girl who stood near said, "Why I can take you in on this little rocking chair before the people come." Even that way of being moved caused me distress; the inflammation and swelling were so great pain, I would have thanked my Heavenly Father from the depth of my heart if He had seen good to remove me from this life.

After being taken to the parlor I waited a half hour or so, when four or five ladies came in and among them was Miss Mossman. She asked me if I was a Christian, I said I was and had been twenty years and more. She asked if I believed fully in prayer, and if in the last chapter of James, I did not see clearly God's promise for the sick, etc. I said I did. Then Miss Mossman laid her hand on my knee and began to pray, when I asked her to lay the other hand on my other knee, for I did not know which was the worst. She did so and asked the Lord to heal me then and to seal it by His own blessed spirit, and at the close of the prayer I got right up and walked across the room without the slightest pain in either limb. I then turned and walked back without the least pain or inconvenience of any kind, and from that day to this, eight years after, I have never had any kind of a sprain, and am going on from strength to strength. I was so absorbed in the hope of getting rid of the dreadful disease in my limbs, that I even forgot to mention to Miss Mossman that my ankle had been sprained so often it was bad as my knee—but my gracious Savior did not forget it, for He healed that too. As soon as I began to walk, I found my ankle was perfectly healed. I wish to call attention to this fact, for some unbelieving ones say this healing is done by mesmerism, or the influence of one's mind upon another, but this cannot be said of my ankle, for I forgot to mention it to Miss Mossman. It was evidently grace. I had often asked the Lord to heal my ankle, but I had never united in prayer with others for healing. I was healed through faith in the name of Jesus and I recommend Him to all who may read this article.

After this physical healing I received a wonderful baptism of the Holy Spirit, in larger measure than when I was converted. Oh that we would believe His precious word. "Lord thou halt dealt with thy servant according unto thy word."

Mary Shoemaker, Summit NJ

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History and Destiny in Healing