

## My Damascus Road Experience

Not so dramatic as Paul's was my first encounter with our Creator and Lord. After finishing High School under very unfavorable circumstances I found myself drawn by a friend to a tent revival of the Pentecostal persuasion. Being an orphan and homeless I was somewhat beholden to my kind benefactors which had opened up their home to me and for all practical purposes adopted me as part of their family at the behest of their daughter, Karleen. They had also known me as the foster son of said daughter's Aunt some years before.

This tent revival was on some acres behind a small old country church which seemed to draw many of the "hippie" generation to its door, so we found a place to hang out and meet new friends. Personally I thought these people were a little bit crazy, especially when they laid hands on me and started babbling "in unknown tongues." They mistakenly believed my uncontrollable laughter while rolling on the floor was a sign of the Holy Spirit coming on me which only encouraged more of the same insane behavior! Was it the Holy Spirit? Did something happen? Yes, something did happen. They did give me a Bible, and I began to read it.

Plymouth Road runs from Detroit to Plymouth Michigan, it was this road which I walked from that country church to my adopted home while reading the Bible when I came across this verse: *A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, [is] God in his holy habitation. (Psa 68:5)* I cannot convey to you in words the reality of the moment, but His Holy Spirit fell upon me and He offered me this adoption. I accepted, terms unknown, but my first prayer was that He would also adopt my brother and sister, the joy that filled that moment I wanted them to have it too.

This was the defining moment of my life. To the skeptic only my imagination run amok - but they can never know unless they are taken to that heavenly place where I am now content to remain seated. *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus: (Eph 2:4-6)*

*Nicklas Arthur*