

# PERSONAL TESTIMONY

## Bil Gallatin: A New Work in Switzerland

Pastor Bil Gallatin, CC Finger Lakes, was asked to speak at a conference in England last year. A Swiss man traveled there specifically to speak with him. He had been listening to Bil's tapes and asked him to pray about beginning a church in Basel, Switzerland. Bil felt this was of God, so he visited the man's farmhouse in Basel, near the Jura Mountains. Early one morning Bil observed the constellation known as the sickle. As it faded into the light of dawn, the morning star, which is representative of Jesus, appeared. Bil felt the Lord's voice saying, "It's time for the harvest." Later, through Scriptures, this new direction was confirmed.



*Pastor Bil Gallatin speaks at a conference in India last year.*

"Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, 'Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.'" Jeremiah 1:9-10. God revealed to Bil that he was

to go to the nations both to pull down the strongholds of legalism and tradition, and to build up and plant churches based on God's Word.

"'Arise, get you up unto the wealthy nation, that dwelleth without care', saith the LORD, 'which have neither gates nor bars, which dwell alone.'" Jeremiah 49:31. This spoke clearly of Switzerland to Bil. Back in New York by October, Bil was pleased that his son, Scott, had done well taking on the duties of senior pastor and had brought fresh, young vision to the ministry. It was further confirmation of the Lord's new direction for Bil.

While in Switzerland, a Bible study began in Basel and later in St. Gallen. Bil and his wife, Rosemary, will remain a vital part of CC Finger Lakes and keep their home in New York, enabling Bil to accept conference invitations all over the world.

**"Christ and Christ alone is the one who satisfies, and the world needs to know how wonderful He is."**

*Pastor Bil Gallatin*

One of the defining aspects of CC Finger Lakes has been the churches planted in the upstate New York area. When the anointing was on someone, Bil would not hesitate to send them out to begin their own work. Pastor Henry Tomasso, CC Westside, NY, was sent out from the Finger Lakes church. "Bil is a pastor's pastor, with strong gifts of wisdom, exhortation, grace, faith, and best of all—love. He forever challenges me to go where I never dreamed. Bil advised me to stay in the Word of God, stay close to Jesus, and always follow the Holy Spirit's leading."

Pastor Bob Chappell, CC Greece, NY, has known Bil for 32 years. Their families traveled together from CC Costa Mesa to begin the home Bible study in upstate New York. He was Bil's worship leader and assistant in the early days. "Bil's real and genuine relationship with Jesus and his commitment to the ministry of the Word and prayer had a major impact on my life

and upon many other young men who sat under his teaching. His passion to simply know Jesus has affected this whole region. Bil has always charged us not to fall for the shallow trends of entertainment oriented churches, but to stay faithful to the simplicity of ministry modeled in the book of Acts—feeding His sheep the Word, line upon line."

Bil attended CC Costa Mesa after giving his life to the Lord in 1969. He grew in the Lord under Pastor Chuck Smith's teachings. Later, Bil's carpentry skill was needed at the church and he was invited on staff. He became involved in prayer ministry, counseling, afterglow, and teaching a home Bible study. Bil felt the Lord's guidance to carry the Calvary movement to upstate New York, and he arrived on 7/7/77. Twenty-eight years later, that pioneering fellowship of CC of the Finger Lakes, has started over 30 churches, all over the East Coast, and in Canada and Europe.

Pastor Chuck tells of Bil's phone calls soon after his arrival in New York. Bil complained that the people in New York weren't interested in Jesus and he wanted to return to California. Pastor Chuck encouraged him to stay just a few more months to see what the Lord might do. Bil is in awe of the mighty work the Lord has done in the ministry in upstate New York. Bil said, "How can I do all this? I have failed. But Jesus is faithful—It's because of God's grace and mercy. Christ and Christ alone is the one who satisfies, and the world needs to know how wonderful He is."



*Pastor Bil Gallatin.*

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*Scriptures quoted above from KJV*