

## Family Overnight Stay Encounter

By VBOJR 3/14/17

We had taken a camping trip to Maine and from the very start it was one disaster after another disaster! It rained and rained and rained some more. Our old tent trailer camper became saturated with the rain and so it was just as wet on the inside as it was in the outside-----well almost!

On our return trip to New York, I think that my Dad had made arrangements for us to spend the night with an elderly woman near Hudson Falls New York. As I think about it now, she lived on the other side of the river from where we lived, maybe in Fort Edward.

Well anyway, this is what I remember about this stay over at her house -- I don't remember anything about her house, color or size. I don't remember anything about the bedrooms or the bathroom. Ruth does remember that the bedrooms were upstairs.

The truth is, except for the kitchen being very small, I can't recall anything about her or her house.

She was Aunt Claire to me, but she wasn't really a relative to our family, just a church member from Dad's Advent Christian Church in Hudson Falls which we had left many years before. I can't recall her at all but that is because I was about 6 years old when we left the Hudson Falls Church. This is the only thing that I can remember and I have recalled it over and over through the years.

It wasn't her cooking, it wasn't her hospitality, It wasn't her looks or how tidy her house was----it was her morning prayer.

When we all got up to leave in the morning, she had breakfast ready for us. Setting around her little table we joined hands and she prayed this way,

"Good morning Lord."

A long pause, I opened my eyes to see if she was going to continue.

"Thank you for this new day you have given to us."

Then another long pause, a pause as if she was waiting for God to answer her.

"Thanks for all your provisions, just for us to enjoy."

Another long pause, this time I looked at her face; her eyes were closed, but her face was glowing.

"Thank you for Victor Jr., Ruth and their family. Father, please bless them today."

Pause again---I can't see her face anymore, only the glow---something really real about her prayer.

"Thank You for saving us and thank you for giving us this food to nourish us."

A little shorter pause this time One last statement----that I never forgot.

"We are blessed that You have joined us here around this table."

Paused again---I could feel----I could see His presence here.

"You are precious to me (pause)---to us. In Your Name, Jesus (pause), Amen."

Now looking back after some 45 years have passed, this women, my Aunt Claire, **it was her prayer**, not her life, not her testimony, no quoting bible verses, just a simple prayer, that left such an impact on us! Our whole family had been part of a very personal visitation of God just for us! He came to us through Aunt Claire's prayer. We had been with God!!

Here is what that simple prayer did for both Ruth and me:

- 1) First of all it opened our eyes to the reality that a personal relationship with God can and does happen, not religious or not just knowing about God but intimacy with God.

- 2) Secondly this encounter with God *left a hunger in us* (which at this point was missing) to know God personally, like on “Good morning Father” basis.
- 3) Thirdly, of all the prayers that we have ever heard in our life, this one was real. If we are going to pray for people, people’s situations, for healing, deliverance or whatever---we want to pray *Real prayers, Spirit filled prayers*; not long or wordy prayers, but *a simple heartfelt anointed prayer*. A prayer just like Aunt Claire prayed, that leaves a lasting, *God invading impact* on the person we are praying with for. A “God was here,” prayer.
- 4) Fourthly and maybe the most important, that the *Glow of His presence* in us would be seen by other people, creating in them a hunger for the reality of the Living Savoir, Who is here, Who is real in us and Who can be seen and felt through us.

The real truth is that we are living proof of answered prayer. Aunt Claire’s prayer for Father God to bless Victor’s family has already taken place in our lives. We now live in the presence of the Living God and often pray “Good morning Father.” We are in love with our Creator and He Loves us back, blessing us each day with fresh breath, new life, His Loving presence and complete provision. What more can we ask from Him?

Well there is one thing we ask Father to do, we asked Him for you. Yes, for you who are reading this “Real Life Encounter Story” that God may become as *real* to you as He was to my Aunt Claire and is to us. In Jesus’ Name, Amen and Amen.

### **“I Prayed for You”**

by VBOJR

My eyes are closed, too much of life  
 Closed to help, leading to much strife.  
 Blind to see the need of my heart’s cry  
 What is there I’m missing - my heart sigh

Open one eye just a little to see  
 Some little prayer said just for me  
 Any hope out there for me today?  
 Hoping and looking for a new way

Yes, I said a prayer for you today  
 Joy to fill your heart, ever to stay.  
 God would open your eyes to see  
 All that He has in store for thee

Let your heart sing, His praises to peal  
 His presence living in you can be so real  
 Eyes to see, heart open to above  
 Receiving His love, fits like a glove

Your eyes wide open to believe  
 Now you can hear the cry of the heart  
 His Love to fill it, a fresh new start  
 Spirit here to help, now just receive.