

**Steve said many times: “We are here for Life –
Life is what builds the church!”**

On a fishing trip on 3/6/08, Steve said “There were 2 main things in my life:

1. Marrying June
2. Coming in contact with the ministry of Witness Lee.”

Steve said “I always loved the Lord but not like this. Since I met brother Witness Lee my life level (of the Divine Life) has been going up, up, and up.”

Steve said on 6/5/08, “I started loving the Lord when I was saved in 1946. Even before I was saved I had a heart for the Lord. I always believed in God. My mother helped us to pray every night and she took us to Sunday School. When I came forth from my mother’s womb the Lord put a mark on me for His eternal purpose.”

Steve’s mother played and sang her favorite song on the organ in every family gathering:
Nearer my God to Thee

On the afternoon of 8/31/11 Margie Doyl (Steve’s sister) visited Steve with her 2 sons, Russ and Ron. Toward the end of the visit, Ron said “I have a verse for you, uncle Steve.” It was from Hebrews 6:10 – “For God is not unrighteous, so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name in having ministered to the saints and in ministering still.” This was a very fitting verse describing our brother Steve’s life of always ministering to the saints, and ministering still.

In 1967 the newly saved Lewis Vigil appreciated very much Steve and June’s shepherding. In the Teneff’s home Lewis recalls how they “taught me how to pray.” 43 years later Lewis called the church office looking for Steve and June. He had a nice visit with Steve in his home.

**In his latter days, Steve so often said “Whether we live or we die
we are the Lords.”**

On 3/2/06 on a fishing trip, Steve said “I never felt wealthy because the money belonged to the Lord. We gave a lot of money to Christianity and even the more to the Lord’s Recovery. I only wanted to gain the riches of the Triune God.”

Steve and June married in 1945 and were saved in 1946. They went on hiking trips together every Saturday with the goal of receiving God's speaking, so that June could relay it to the adult Sunday School Class she taught.

Steve said that he was one of the fastest runners in school but he did not want to be in track and field competition because of the glory of the sports.

In 1948 Steve bought out his partner in the Jewelry business.

June worked at a Federal Agency for about 2 years and gave all of her pay checks to the church for the Lord's interests.

On a fishing trip on 3/6/08, Steve said "There were 2 main things in my life:

1. Marrying June
2. Coming in contact with the ministry of Witness Lee"

On June 5, 2008 Steve said, "I always loved the Lord but not like this; since I met brother Witness Lee my life level (of the Divine Life) has been going up, up, and up. I started loving the Lord when I was saved in 1946. Even before I was saved I had a heart for the Lord. I always believed in God. My mother helped us to pray every night and she took us to Sunday School. When I came forth from my mother's womb the Lord put a mark on me for His eternal purpose."

The Lord wants to end the age. He will do a quick work and cut it short in righteousness.

The Bride makes herself ready by: loving the Lord continuously, having uninterrupted fellowship with Him, and being one with Him continually.

The Lord is spreading.

You all could be the living overcomers – your life and living should equal that view.

If we are happy we are open and the Lord can come in.

You have all the goods you need. Dispense them out.

Flee the evil age (I don't know how evil it is. I have no appetite to find out). For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

We don't want to end up as a piece of Christianity work, but we want to love the Lord and have the Lord be the center of everything we do. Love is the goal, the focus - an increase of enjoying the Lord to the uttermost.

Keep centered on the Lord!

**Some fellowship from brother Steve
with the elders of the church
February 2012**

Thursday, August 10, 2006

Today – another somewhat normal Thursday outing with Steve, Rachel, Janet, Andrew and Jill. Meeting at Steve’s house at 4:30 A.M. we loaded up and left for Pyramid Lake in the panhandle of Idaho about 10 miles from the Canadian border. It is cooler than usual this morning and the morning star is a reminder of our Lord’s second coming. The sun rise is beautiful today as the shining colors come forth to touch clouds and three expanding jet streams. After praying we began to read the Romans Life Study. Romans is the gospel of God and the gospel gladdens those who here it. It is the good news from God, from the heavens!

This day is about a couple of weeks before Steve’s 89th birthday and we hiked a little over 4 miles on a good hiking trail that had patches of huckleberries (one cup in the bag and one cup mingled with us). After a leisurely hike up to the lake, the sisters picked their favorite spots and began catching fish. A brother set the hook and the fish got tangled up in an underwater bush and the line broke at his reel. The end of the line landed on a log and after retrieving it he began to reel in, hand over hand, all the fishing line, the cut throat trout, and the bush up to the shore. The following day that fish landed in brother Steve’s frying pan – he said it was very tasty.

After we caught 15 fish, the temperature dropped down to 50 degrees and strong winds, thunder, and lightening came upon us along with half inch hail stones. After sitting under our umbrellas for a time, each one of us felt the water making entrance through our rain gear, and at 1:30 P.M. one among us suggested that we work our way to the car. Steve’s reply was “Lets wait until 4:00 P.M. to see how it is then. Well, after our hands and feet began getting a little colder, we thought it would be a good idea to get out of there. Although the trail was wet and the rocks were slippery, Steve traversed the trail as sure-footed as a mountain goat.

As we were making our way down the trail, we noticed that the tops of some of the trees were whipping around in a ten foot circle during this wind and thunder storm. As we arrived at the car we were all damp but not frozen and we cranked up the heat as we drove out of the woods. About 5 tree falls across the road slowed down our progress. One pretty good sized tree took all of our effort to saw it in half and pull it aside with the Durango. Steve was always prepared for the worst (his car had all the emergency gear we needed). His motto was “Always bring them back alive.”

The last obstacle was a yellow tape across the road from the Sheriff’s Department that said something like “danger, no entry.” We all agreed with Steve that it didn’t say “absolutely no entry” so we proceeded. Driving a short way we realized that we were driving over some downed power lines. And then it happened – after seeing so many deer, blue heron, osprey, turkeys, ducks, Canadian geese, eagles and humming birds this day – we ran right into something we had never seen before – a red faced sheriff in full uniform. He couldn’t believe that we had driven right through his blockade. Well, after looking at the older gentlemen driving, listening to one of the sister’s calming voice, and noticing another sister aiming her camera at him waiting for him to smile, this dear man softened and told us to proceed through his other barrier.

The last thing we read was about how the overcomers see the Body of Christ, know the Body, care for the Body, honor the Body, do the work of the Body, and keep every principle of the Body. While we also enjoyed singing songs like “Fight saints for Jesus our Lord, take in His word, stand in one accord, fighting as the one new man fulfilling our Lord’s great, Hallelujah” brother Steve kept the beat by tapping the car horn in rhythm with the singing. Just another ordinary Thursday outing in our adventures with brother Steve Teneff.

Steve spent his last day in his favorite chair in the living room of his home.

At breakfast, which was around noon time these last few weeks, Steve asked if I would bring his food to him as he just couldn't make it to the dining room table. This was the first time that happened. His breakfast for years was a bowl of hot cereal with half a banana mixed in, a piece of toast with jam, a cup of fruit, a glass of cranberry juice, and a soft boiled egg (cooked exactly 28 seconds in the microwave). This day Steve ate only a couple of bites of cereal, a quarter piece of toast, one bite of egg and a couple of glasses of cranberry juice. He said that he didn't feel good and his lower back was bothering him. So we decided to take one Tylenol – he would never take more than one. He told me that he has been dodging doctors and pills for most all of his life. I said "Well, it seems to have worked well for you – can't complain about living over 94 years." He asked me to cancel the visit from Kim & Sue for that evening as he didn't feel well enough to have visitors. He seemed pretty comfortable sleeping in his chair so I left and went home for a while. That evening Jill fixed the three of us supper and we went over to eat with Steve. These times were very pleasant to him, but tonight he said that he wasn't hungry and asked if we could bring him an energy drink mixed with cranberry juice. He drank three big glasses of this drink and two more glasses of water. We had never seen him drink so much liquid before. I put a small container of chocolates on the tray by him, and noticed later that, although he didn't eat any of his chicken and potatoes, he did eat one piece of candy. He wanted to go to bed so I tried to lift him out of the chair and couldn't make it. We called the Hospice people for the first time and waited for a very nice young man to come. Steve was such a noble person. He asked for his electric razor so that he could shave and prepare himself for this visitor. Aaron came and helped Steve out of his chair into a sitting spot on a walker. This was the first time Steve ever used this walker. He then took Steve into the bathroom and got him ready for bed. Steve, however, asked if he could come back to the chair and, after helping him get settled, Aaron left. This was 9:30 P.M. We read from the Galatians Life-Studies, opened his mail, paid a bill, and for the rest of the evening until 11:00 P.M. we had so much fun. Joel Kennon had sent a packet of Rhema reports, so I brought the world globe over to Steve and we traveled from country to country amazed at how the Lord's Testimony was spreading in Riga, Latvia, Germany, Egypt, Turkey and Sir Lanka. At one point, after reading a very encouraging report, Steve exclaimed "Wow! This is wonderful! There is a Lord's Table in Turkey! Believers from Armenia are blending with those in Turkey, hallelujah!" Well, after this very enjoyable time, we decided it would be good to go to bed, so with the help of the walker we made a bathroom stop and then off to bed. I helped him into bed, covered him with his blankets, and told him "brother Steve, I love you very much and I'll be back after the prayer meeting in the morning." He nodded his head and whispered "good, good."

I came back the next day to find him very restfully sleeping. His face looked so peaceful and there was no sign of any struggling. He simply departed to be with the

Lord Whom he loved, enjoyed, and testified of throughout his sojourn here on earth.
We will miss our spiritual father, Steve Teneff, very much!