

BIOGRAPHY

Steve was born in Deaconess Hospital to George and Helen Teneff and raised on Spokane's south hill. He was one of four children; older sister Mary, younger brother Hobart, and youngest sister, Margie. He often said that he was a "naughty boy." He was a boxer, a hunter, and a fisherman. As a young boy, he rode his bicycle to many lakes in the greater Spokane area and even took his brother, Hobart, on his bike to Deep Creek to go fishing.

Steve told us that he always believed in God and prayed every night due to his dear mother's influence. He was ready to defend God to anyone who didn't believe.

He graduated from Lewis and Clark High School in 1935, "never to go to school again" (he was ready to make some money). He loved working with his hands and his favorite class was wood shop.

He failed the physical for the armed services during World War II due to flat feet and high blood pressure ("what's wrong with high blood pressure"). The recruiting officer asked Steve if his feet hurt after walking long distances. Steve agreed that they did ("long distances," however, is relative and Steve thought that a long distance is after 20 miles!).

Steve became a partner in a jewelry manufacturing company and soon bought out the partner's half of the business. Then a young girl (the love of his life – June Pounder) came to work for him. Steve had to wait until she graduated from high school before he asked her out to lunch. They dated "for an entire year" and married on October 3, 1945. In September of 1946 they had their only child, Steven G. Teneff, Jr. and lost him three short months later.

Also that year, they attended an open air tent meeting and received the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior. This was the first major change in the course of their lives. They met Jo Ann Gering (Sandberg) and often hiked and fished with the Sandberg family along with Bud and Grace Cowell. They had fellowship and sought the Lord's speaking from the Bible on these outings. At one point in their lives they obtained a permit from the city to preach the gospel on the Lord's Day afternoon on the corner of Main and Howard. Many were saved through this activity.

Then in 1969-1970 through Jo Ann and Norm Sandberg they came in contact with the New Testament Ministry of the Age, saw the Lord's heart's desire to have His expression through the church and took the way of meeting as one church in one city. They consecrated themselves, praying to the Lord, "All that I am, all that I have, and all that I ever will be, I consecrate to Christ and the church." This was the second major change in the course of their lives. This caused them to drop their love for the world and anything that would cause their love for the Lord to wane. They lived every day to shepherd the church and labored diligently in preparation for the Lord's return.

In the fall of 1996 June was diagnosed with cancer and went to be with the Lord after a two year battle which caused Steve to deeply grieve. At this time, Steve listened

to a message by brother Witness Lee who shared about maintaining your joy in the Lord and to keep your heart open to the Lord. These words were a supply to Steve for the rest of his journey. He drew his strength from Bible phrases such as “The joy of the Lord is our strength and In God’s presence is fullness of joy.” He often told us “It never helps to feel sorry for yourself, it doesn’t change anything.”

Steve always loved the hymns and enjoyed the brothers and sisters singing to him on the outings. He also listened to the ministry of brother Witness Lee at every meal on his tape recorder. He said “I eat with brother Lee every day.”

Steve was a real lover and pursuer of Christ. He told us a few times that he would sit in his chair and have sweet fellowship with the Lord. “Just He and I – Oh, we would just fellowship dearly together.” Steve also told us that we could read a spiritual message ten times before we really knew what it was saying.

In Steve’s last years he began to lose weight. He said “I am just fading away.” He never complained and never lost his mental ability (he was doing his taxes with his bookkeeper and dear friend, Harry Fuhs, just four days before he went to be with the Lord.

Steve always anticipated the Lord’s return and supplied much financial support for the Lord’s move to distribute Bibles and ministry materials throughout the world. He maintained weekly fellowship with Joel Kennon and the brothers from Seattle Rhema (a Bible and Christian literature distributor) during his last fourteen years. These brothers also had semi-annual meetings with Steve in Spokane for reports and fellowship.

Steve, you followed the Lord to the end. You were such a pattern and a father to us. We are so thankful for the privilege of being a part of your life which was aimed at God’s kingdom and we expect to see you there in glory. We love you and we will miss you.

Letters of Appreciation

The sentiments of the brothers at Living Stream Ministry in Anaheim, California for Steve were conveyed in an e-mail last year from Ed Marks to brother Steve: “Your prayers for and your faithfulness to the Lord’s unique ministry is something that we brothers greatly treasure.”

I just received an email regarding Steve’s now being fully in the Lord. I am saddened yet joyful; saddened that his portion will be so missed by you all, but joyful as another overcomer has finished his course and is now in glory with our Beloved. I can’t help but remember the many times, in the early days of my church life, that we were in his home with June for meals and “new beginners” meetings and all the sweet fellowship that flowed from both he and June. I am also thankful that I was able to be with you brothers and Steve this past summer and have a little time with Steve – he was radiant at the time and full of the living Christ. He leaves a living legacy of being one spirit with the Lord all his days as an example to all who came under his fellowship. L.W.

Brother Steve gave this verse and portion of the footnote to some of us in his small group during the winter training in 2009. The following words describe who Steve was very well. He was a person who loved God with his whole being, was fully occupied by God and lost in Him; he was practically one with God. I remember Steve always saying "For me to live is Christ!" He also reminded us that it was possible to have continual and uninterrupted personal, private, and intimate fellowship with the Lord all the time. I always knew that when Steve spoke these things he was real and genuine, and that he really lived this way. "But as it is written, things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Corinthians 2:9)." To Love Him is the indispensable requirement. To love God means to set our entire being - spirit, soul, and body, with the heart, soul, mind, and strength - absolutely on Him, that is, to let our entire being be occupied by Him and lost in Him, so that He becomes everything to us and we are one with Him practically in our daily life. In this way we have the closest and most intimate fellowship with God, and we are able to enter into His heart and apprehend all its secrets. Thus, we not only realize but also experience, enjoy, and fully participate in these deep and hidden things of God. I'm so thankful that I got to know brother Steve, and I treasure very much all the times spent together with him. I know that what we have gained are the real and eternal memories. Praise the Lord! K.F.

Brother Steve will be in our prayers. We appreciate so much his standing with and for the Lord all these years. "Lord, we ask that in Your mercy keep Your servant Steve close to You in these days." R.L.

We just heard about brother Steve going to be with the Lord. I am so grateful to the Lord that I was able to get up to Spokane last fall and spend the better part of an afternoon with Steve. We really touched the throne together, enjoyed some favorite portions from the ministry (which he loved so dearly) reminisced much about the early days in Spokane, shared some laughter and some tears, and felt the love for one another in the Lord renewed, restored and refreshed. It is a time I will cherish all my days. Please convey our condolences and loving care to all the saints. We fully stand with you all and with the church during the coming days. May He supply Himself as grace superabundantly to comfort and encourage you all, and praise Him for producing such a dear lover of Christ who was faithful to the end. C.W.

We are very sorry to hear about brother Steve's passing away, but we rejoice in the life that he lived to the Lord and are assured that he is now fully at home with the Lord. E.M.

Steve was truly a grand gentleman, and it was such a privilege to visit with him. I pray your time of remembrance is blessed with laughter amid the tears. I know you will all maintain the joy! B.R.

Steve was always telling the young brothers to flee to the glorious church life and fight the enemy. N.S.

I met brother Steve in Dec. of 1974. I was newly saved. Over the years I could see that Steve's love for the Lord was displayed by his care for the Church. His care for

the Church gave the Lord a way to bring in the recovery to Spokane and to the east side of the state of Washington. Steve gave his time, money, heart and life to the Church. He is clearly a martyr for the Church. His life was a living on the cross so he could follow the Lord for the building up of the Church, God's heart's desire. Steve's legacy is clearly the Church in Spokane. D.K.

We feel that what our brother Steve received, he passed on to us all. We all want to continue to heed his words to maintain our joy. We count it a privilege and a mercy to have known such a brother and to be shepherded by both his and June's living and loving care and their words of life and encouragement throughout the years. In pursuing the Lord, they were real patterns for us to follow. J.&B.M.

It is my wish and also of all my family of being with all of you and express our feelings of sadness and rejoice simultaneously. Sadness because we can't have among us the physical presence of our beloved brother Steve; and rejoice because we know that he is now with his precious Savior and Lord. Steve was a model to follow. His life, along with the life of his beloved wife June, was an inspiration to love and live the Lord. Something that I will treasure all my life are the experiences of the "Basic Truth Meetings" at his house; every Saturday when we visited his home for those meetings, we felt like we were in the third heavens: happy and with the assurance of receiving Words of Life from the lips of our brother and from the Ministry. A phrase that was always in his mouth: "Just enjoy the Lord," will be with us until the end of our lives. This is the secret of the Christian Life, not our efforts and struggles but our enjoyment of the Lord. We learned about this basic truth not only from our brother's words but from his deeds on this earth. We love our brother and the Christ in his life. Christ was magnified in the life of our brother on this earth and He (Christ) is magnified now in his departure from this world. We love you all. Saints, let's just Praise the Lord! C.&D.L.

I was saddened to hear that our brother Steve had passed away. He was such a faithful warrior for the Lord and His Recovery. Praise the Lord that his passing was peaceful. I am sorry that I will be unable to attend the memorial for our brother. May the Lord comfort and shepherd the dear saints in Spokane. S.R.

Thank you so very much for letting us know of our dear brother Steve's passing. I am so grateful for the Lord's care and shepherding of him in these final days. How I treasure his final word of encouragement to us all (maintain your joy – our Lord is the joy of the whole earth)! May the Lord comfort his dear family and supply all of the dear saints. R.S.

Dear brother Steve, I pray and trust your joy has been full and that you remain in the enjoyment of our wonderful Christ. We do continue to remember you that day by day and hour by hour He will supply you and fill you with His joy. It continues being a great joy to participate in the distribution of this Bride producing, church producing, new man producing, and manchild producing ministry of this age. Praise and thank Him! J.K.

I enjoyed the service Saturday, especially the testimonies. I agree, I don't recall any conversation I have had with Steve, where I did not feel closer to our Lord Jesus afterwards. I will miss my conversations with him! G.S.

I wanted to thank you for your letter of fellowship that I received on March 13 concerning our dear brother Steve Teneff's passing. We can never forget his service to the Lord in Spokane and service that reached elsewhere especially into Russia. His generous gift was greatly appreciated by the many saints that have participated in the facilities that were built through his generous offerings. I hope you were able to find a way to contact the brothers particularly in Ramanskaya concerning Steve's going to be with the Lord. They speak of him often, and I hope that they can be notified. We continue to stand with you brothers and the church in Spokane, praying that his service that was with you spoke volumes of Christ in every way to all the saints. We will be standing with you on the 24th. I'm sorry that I am not able to come. Ed Marks will come, and I want to assure you that the church in Anaheim and Living Stream Ministry will be standing with you as well. Thanks. In Him, B.P.

We received word about Steve Teneff passing away. Praise the Lord for his faithfulness to the end! Love and comfort in Christ, V.&R.S.

On the one hand we are mourning because of our brothers' departure and on the other hand we are strengthened and encouraged because of the life imparting testimonies about this godly man who was among us. Oh Lord, may your resurrection life super abound among the saints and may we not take your life in us in a light way. Keep resting in Him. Your brother, O.B.

Thank you for letting us know. He really was a treasure to the Lord's Recovery and to us personally. R.&E.S.

We had not heard that our brother Steve Teneff went to be with the Lord. Yes, he is an overcomer and a faithful follower of this unique New Testament Ministry. J.&L.B

I first became acquainted with Steve around 1972 when visiting the church in Spokane which we did frequently in the subsequent years. We received hospitality from the Teneff's numerous times. Through the years up to the weeks before Steve's passing, I was able to speak with him regularly by phone. I must say that Steve was an example and pattern to me of a brother who admonished us repeatedly to be in the Lord's ministry and to be saturated, permeated, and constituted with the enjoyment of Christ and to live by this enjoyment of Him. Steve would always admonish me and the brothers whenever we came together before conference meetings that the main thing is to stay in the enjoyment of Christ which is in this ministry of the age.

I was freshly impressed with this when I was considering the life and living of our brother as one who followed closely the ministry and was brought into the enjoyment of Christ. Using the word search feature on the Living Stream Ministry Books website (www.lsm.org) I typed in "enjoy." I highly recommend to everyone to go to this website and do a search on the word "enjoy" and then read on line the references. Brother

Lee himself in the book "The Revelation of the Mystery", testifies that in 1958 he had a turn in his ministry from doctrines and teachings to the ministry of the spirit emphasizing the enjoyment of Christ. On this website in searching the word "enjoy" there are 572 different book titles with multiple hits for each title for the word "enjoy."

Now regarding Brother Steve, I believe we would all agree and as I listened to your 2 1/2 hours of testimonies spoken last week in Spokane, that Steve was discipled by this ministry and brought into this precious enjoyment by the ministry. From numerous testimonies, whoever Steve contacted including saints, friends and businessmen and wherever he went, including regular outings with the saints, fishing trips, hiking trips, camping trips, meetings, and fellowships which happened often, Steve would always give the ministry the first place. Wherever the Teneffs would go, the ministry writings and ministry books accompanied them to read and fellowship over.

Often in the past when I called Steve he would be listening to a cassette tape of Brother Witness Lee ministering the word. Often whenever he ate a meal by himself he would have a cassette tape playing of brother Lee ministering the Word. By whatever means, be it cassette, video, individually or corporately he loved to hear Brother Lee minister the word which had this focus on the enjoyment of Christ. I believe it is fair and right to say Steve loved and was addicted to the ministry of the Word. His love for the ministry was imparted and shared by all the brothers and sisters and I believe produced a very healthy church.

I also must say that from my observation from the beginning there were tests of opposition and troubling from within and without and particularly challenging were the health issues Steve had, I remember him facing the health issues resulting in the loss of his voice which he had to live with for over thirty years and in spite of those difficulties which could have affected his daily life and church life, he was enabled to continue strongly and steadfastly and maintain his joy to the end in his participation in his service particularly related to Russia and church life. Steve was truly a tape recorder of the ministry the Lord made him and gave him as a pattern of enjoyment. His often repeated words of exhortation to maintain our joy and stay in the enjoyment will never be forgotten. Praise the Lord, J.K.

Dear Bro. Steve-

January 19th, 2012

Jimm and I would like to express our appreciation and enjoyment of all the ways you and June have supplied Christ to us for so many years.

From the beginning of our church life in Spokane, you and June have cared for us like parents. You and June took us under your wings and cared for our practical needs, our spiritual needs, and even our personal needs. You saw the "diamond" of the Lord's life in us and you didn't look at the "rough exterior".

It was as Paul spoke I Thessalonians 2:7-8, "But we were gentle in your midst, as a nursing mother (sister June) would cherish her own children. Yearning in this way over you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also your own souls, because you

became beloved to us." And vs.11-12,"Just as you know, how we were to each one of you, as a father (you Steve) to his own children, exhorting you and consoling you and testifying, So that you might walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory."

You and June were the ministry books to us, Steve, when we couldn't much feed ourselves and your speaking and the meetings carried us. Later, when we began to eat for ourselves, we were amazed to find the same speaking, word-for-word, in the ministry. As we read the ministry with you, you helped us to see God's Economy in all the writings. What a supply that has been to us for all these years!

You taught us all the basic truths, the most crucial it seems has been the matter of the sense of Life. You taught us to love the taste of God's Life, and to know and identify the sense of Life, and to live by this sense. You trusted life in us to do all that God wanted to do and you taught US to just trust Life!

For many summers and even in the winters, you took us with you on fishing trips, camping trips and had us in your home. You fed us numerous meals, both physically and spiritually. You took us to beautiful mountain lakes. We saw fabulous scenery, and we took many pictures. Thru these trips we were brought to love this beautiful God who put His Wonderful Life inside of us and wants spread this Life thru our whole being! Our memories are filled with looking at this beautiful scenery inside and outside of us.

You and June have been a pattern to us all in so many ways.

- in consecration
- in your love to the Lord and to the saints
- in your absoluteness for the Lord's purpose
- in your love for the ministry
- in your holding fast the way of life
- in your trusting and looking absolutely to the Lord for His Life to build the church

And Bro. Steve, you have faithfully "shepherded the flock of God among you, overseeing not under compulsion, but willingly, according to God.....not as lording it over your allotments but by becoming patterns of the flocks.

Thank you for shepherding us all these years in all these ways, dear brother.

From two of your "children"-

Jimm and Marilyn Repp

ABSOLUTE FOR THE GOSPEL

In the 1950's Steve Teneff, along with his wife June and some other Christian friends preached the gospel and spoke of the Lord in the open air on Howard and Main every Lord's Day morning. "We had to get a permit from the city to do that" he said, which they procured for several years. When asked of Steve if there were many people that listened he said, "Oh yes, we had many, and I always saw somebody that I knew."

After coming into the church in Spokane in September, 1970 Steve & June, George & Kay Walker, and other members of the church, marched downtown Spokane with gospel robes declaring that Jesus is Lord. Steve and June also marched in Seattle with Joel Kennon and other members of the church in Seattle. They even marched in downtown Los Angeles.

Steve and June were absolute for the Christ, Life, the Truth, the Gospel and the Church. Their gospel preaching was one example of how their consecration to the Lord and His eternal purpose was manifested.

Some quotes of Steve's during outings and visitations in his last year:

On 9/28/11 Steve said "The best wine is always last. The church life is good today, but eternity will be much better! We will all be together then. Isn't that wonderful?!"

12/21/11 "You have to admit the church life is the closest thing to heaven on this earth!"

4/7/11 "Without the ministry we go astray, it always leads us to life. It fills us, supplies us, and helps us to go forward. The goal is to come forward to the Lord's presence and remain in what He is doing today. He is building the church to bring in the kingdom."

7/28/11 "When we have Him we have everything we need. He is the unique blessing." "To know the Bible is a love affair."

6/23/11 "The best way to deal with the flesh is to walk by the Spirit. Our spirit is the key. When you are filled with the Life Giving Spirit you live Christ. If we have Him we have life and are filled with all the riches of Christ. He becomes our living, our walk, and our everything."

2/17/11 "It is vital that we love the Lord and increase in our love to Him all the time. He then can be everything to us and do everything for us." "The light is always shining." "The more that we enjoy the Lord as grace, the more we are one with Him. We become one spirit with the Lord."

Prayer – "Lord we can never tell you how much we love You."

1/25/12 "Our future is awesome."

"The Lord's testimony is of life. Life consists of two great and essential items: the inner life and the church life. The inner life is the enjoyment of Christ and the church life is the enlargement of Christ."

“If you really love the Lord everything is just fine. Our love for the Lord is something living, we need to nourish and cherish it.”

“All in all everything is fine in the Lord’s Recovery. For me to live is Christ and to die is gain. If we have this kind of attitude everything is fine.”

“Love really motivates you and keeps you on the track. Maintain the joy! This keeps us vital and loving the Lord. You are always happy if you love the Lord. When the unhappiness comes in you can tell the Lord “My goal is to live Christ” to love Him is everything.”

“If the sisters are living, the church is living. If the sisters are happy, the church is doing well. If the sisters have a problem the whole church is disturbed. The life level is on the shoulders of the sisters. It is vital that they stay happy in the Lord.”

“Treasure this beyond anything – life, love, and purpose.”

“If in doubt, throw it out.”

“The greatest discovery of the 20th century is our human spirit.”

"We must be violent to shut the door to the world and deal with everything that hinders the growth in life in us"

“Christ in you the hope of glory, we have no other interest. Increase our interest in You, Lord.”

“To die is not that bad – it is kind of a treasure.”

Galatians 4:19 – “My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you.”

Hebrews 12:1 - "Therefore let us also, having so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, put away every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us and run with endurance the race which is set before us."

1 Timothy 6:11-12 – “But you, O man of God, flee these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, meekness. Fight the good fight of the faith; lay hold on the eternal life, to which you were called and have confessed the good confession before many witnesses.”

2 Timothy 2:2 - "And the things which you have heard from me through many witnesses, these commit to faithful men, who will be competent to teach others also."

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 – “But we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning those who are sleeping, that you would not grieve even as also the rest who have no hope . . . the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who

are living, who are left remaining, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will be always with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain”

Philippians 1:21

Christ was not only Steve’s life but also his living. He lived Christ because Christ lived in him. He and Christ had one life and one living. They lived together as one person.

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God”

Revelation 2:7

Eating the tree of life, that is, enjoying Christ as our life supply, should be the primary matter in the church life. The content of the church life depends on the enjoyment of Christ. The more we enjoy Him, the richer the content will be. But to enjoy Christ requires us to love Him with the first love. If we leave our first love toward the Lord, we will miss the enjoyment of Christ and lose the testimony of Jesus. These three things – loving the Lord, enjoying the Lord, and being the testimony of the Lord – go together.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 – “But we were gentle in your midst, as a nursing mother would cherish her own children. Yearning in this way over you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own souls, because you became beloved to us . . . Just as you know how we were to each one of you, as a father to his own children, exhorting you and consoling you and testifying, So that you might walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

Isaiah 35:10 – “And the ransomed of the Lord will return and will come to Zion with a ringing shout, and eternal joy will be upon their heads. They will lay hold on gladness and joy and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”

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.”