

CHAPTER 5

ELDER THEADORE FARLEY'S FAITH

I was employed by A.C.M.I. who were doing a wholesale and retail business at Holbrook, Arizona for eight years. During this time I was chosen to act as one of the Seven Presidents in the Snowflake Stake. My wife and I had been saving up money to build us a brick house in Snowflake. I got permission to go and visit my family and make plans for the house. While there I received a letter from Box B, Salt Lake City, stating I was selected to fill a mission in Europe. I talked it over with the family and all said I should go.

I left January 10, 1891. When I got on the train at Holbrook a good Brother handed me a quart of brandy, saying it would help make the trip more pleasant. I thanked him, but when I got a chance threw it out of the window. We were thirteen days crossing the Atlantic Ocean. While on the way over our lives were endangered when the ship caught fire and was listing badly on its side. The passengers panicked and called me to come up on board before the ship sank. Before leaving Salt Lake, I had been promised in a blessing, I would have a safe journey over and back, so I knew all would be well. I remained in my bunk, and soon the fire was extinguished, and we resumed our journey.



Elder Theodore Farley

Note on back of photo: "Theodore Farley Sr. Dec. 25. Beard is 1 year old."

I was assigned to labor in the Scottish Mission. I labored here several months with good success, holding street meetings, and baptizing several people. I saw in night vision four persons I would baptize, who were residents of Pitts Ligo, but up to this time only two had applied.

I was transferred to Aberdeen. Here I visited a large woolen factory where Ministers of many churches were given the privilege of preaching to the workers at the noon hour. I applied to the man in charge for the same privilege but he refused me, saying, there were two classes of people that were barred from speaking in the house, Mormons and Mohamedans.

I visited the public library and discovered they had none of our Church works listed. I went to the man in charge and offered to give him a set of our church works free if he would give them a place in the library. He said he would report to the Library Committee and let me know later. After weeks of wrangling with officer they said they would not accept them as reading matter for the public but would take them as reference books. I gave them the books, which were of good binding. These were the second set of books I placed in a library in Scotland.

I labored in Aberdeen almost two months and baptized six; two were from Pitts Ligo who had come to Aberdeen to work, so my dream came true. I had a great desire to baptize someone in the sea before returning home and prayed for this privilege. At the close of one Sunday meeting a young man and his wife came to me and applied for baptism. I remarked that my companion had not baptized any one yet, and would they let him do it? They said they would rather I did it, as they wished to be baptized in the sea. I was very happy at this, went to the sea, found a place on the beach, learned when the tide would be out and told them to be ready on a certain day at 10:00 p.m. so as to avoid being seen by guards who were stationed along the sea shore. The night was quite dark, which was in our favor. I took the man first. We were obliged to wade out in the water for about one hundred yards before the water got deep enough. When we returned to the shore the wife and my companion were getting a little nervous, as they could not see us. I then took his wife, but before we got far the waves got to coming in quite hard, so I asked, "Aren't you a little frightened?" She replied, "Are you?" I said, "No, this is the Lord's work, and all will go well." She said, "Then I am not afraid." I baptized her and we returned safely.

I was called to labor in various branches, preside over conferences, and open new areas. I labored in Birmingham seven months and in checking discovered I had baptized thirty two persons, given away over seven thousand tracts, and more than thirty church works, all free. But I received from the Lord blessings that far surpassed the value of my time and the money I spent. One blessing I received was that of being shown in dreams people I would baptize long

before they applied. Another blessing was receiving answers to my prayers. I will relate just one such experience.

When I had been in the mission field some time, I noticed that my only pair of shoes were rapidly wearing out due to so much walking. I was expecting some money from home soon and thought I could make the shoes last until the money came. However, in those days it took a letter a month to reach Scotland, and before this one arrived my shoes gave out completely, and my feet were right on the ground.

I knew I must have shoes in order to carry on my work, so I set about trying to borrow sufficient money to purchase a pair. My requests were met everywhere by flat refusals, and disappointed and discouraged I returned to my room. I could not wear my shoes another day and knew that somehow, I must find a way to obtain money. In desperation I knelt and prayed, asking for help. I had barely finished when I heard a voice, as plain as if someone were right by my side saying, "Go to the postmasters." A wonderful feeling came over me and I was thrilled throughout my body.

I immediately made my way to the post office. On the steps I met an acquaintance coming out who asked what I wanted. I told him I was coming to try and borrow some money. He replied, "It won't do you any good, because that is what I have been trying to do, and he nearly threw me out" Never-the-less, I decided to obey the voice and try. The post master's stern expression softened when he saw me and he pleasantly handed out the money.

A few days later I received my letter from home and went at once to see the postmaster. When I had repaid the money I asked him how it was he had loaned me money after just refusing the same favor to another man. He replied, "Because I was impressed to do it. On that day just a little while before you came something told me that you would come and that I should not refuse you."

I received my release to return home and sailed on the White Star Line, S.S. Majestic. I was only six days on the ocean and reached home in safety. While away I kept a diary. Five volumes of books tell of these experiences. The Superintendent of the A.C.M.I said I could come back to work in the store, which I did. I was chosen a home missionary and served in this calling for two years

Letter from John Murray

. . . You wrote asking about the vision of my Grandfather which was given to me in New Pitsligh, before I left my home. I asked my grandmother if she could give me my grandfather's genealogy and she said "no" she did not know the day, month and year of his birth. She thought he was about ten years older than she was. I did all in my power to find his genealogy

but was unable to do so. At last I made up my mind to inquire of the Lord. So I asked that it might be made know to me in a dream or vision of the night. So that night the Lord heard and answered my prayer. My grandfather appeared to me and told me the day, month and year of his birth. He said, "I was born on the 15th day of November, 1815 and I looked around to see what happened that year and the first thing which came to my mind. I said to him, "then you were born the year in which the battle of Waterloo was fought." He said, "Yes," that was the year I was born." He repeated the same thing over so I would remember the dates. I wrote them down and promised my grandfather that when I came to Salt Lake City I would go to the Temple and do his work. He was very happy to know that . . .

I realized he was dead and so asked how he liked living in the spirit world. He said, "very well." Then I asked what was the difference over there from the world we live in. He said, "not so very much difference" and then added, "in order to be happy there we must be very careful how we live here on earth." He then disappeared. When I went to Salt Lake City I remember my promise and did his temple work. I sent my testimony to the Genealogical Society and it was published in the Deseret News over thirty years ago.

Theodore continues his history,

Our neighbor Ely Webb sold his home in Snowflake and was moving to Utah. He wanted us to join his family for company. My wife's parents were living on Provo Bench and she wanted to visit them. Also there were educational advantages in Utah not available in Arizona so we decided to move there. As August had been a very dry month John Hunt advised us to wait until September but we wanted to get our children in school so we did not heed his counsel. We had been on the road only one week when our drinking water in the barrels was all gone and the water in the Little Colorado was getting so green and full of bugs and wigglers we had to strain the water.

One night we made camp, got some water from the river, strained and boiled it but none of us could drink it, it was so foul with stench. The children were crying and begging us to go back home. The horses were nearly choked too, but refused to drink the foul water. I knew of a place about sixteen miles farther on at the foot of the Grand Falls where I had never failed to get some water that percolated through the rock. We took courage and the next morning got up early and not waiting for our breakfast traveled to the Falls, reaching there at 1:00 p.m. I left for the Falls with buckets of water and my small son Carl. Those left in camp were to take care of the teams and the cooking.

After winding around the walls of the canyon we reached the place where I expected to find water, but there was not a drop and the ground was bone dry. I looked at my son and will never forget the expression on his face. Tears were rolling down his cheeks as we stumbled

back to camp. Dinner was waiting but there was no water to go with it. Even the animals refused to eat.

The untouched food was being gathered up when my wife saw a small black cloud the size of a man's hat, making its way toward our camp. It grew in size as it came. It came swiftly and stopped when it was directly overhead. Rain started falling. It was so heavy that it ran off the wagon cover. We caught enough to fill a thirty gallon water barrel and all the horses drank enough to satisfy them. We ate our delayed lunch with thanks and much gratitude. When we moved on we discovered that rain did not extend beyond one fourth of a mile in every direction. We did not hear thunder nor see lightning during the rainfall. Later, when food became scarce, we found a lone sheep about five hundred yards from camp but did not discover any foot prints or evidence of a herd. The Lord provides.

We left Arizona with Brother Dell Webb's family and a married son's family on August 1, 1895. The Webbs stopped at Fillmore where they settled. We traveled on Provo Bench and arrived on the last day of August. We had been on the road for one month and had traveled a distance of seven hundred miles by wagon. We averaged twenty miles a day.

When we reached the place where my wife's parents lived, I bought twenty acres of land on the State road, four miles north of Provo City. This land was very rocky but I was informed that it was the best land for raising fruit. I bought two shares of water and rented two more. My boys and I went up North Fork in Provo canyon and got some house logs and dragged them two miles to the saw mill to get them sawed in half. We used the smooth side for the inside of the house. Our house was only twelve by sixteen feet. The loft was used as a bedroom for the children. Quilts divided the sleeping quarters; one side for boys and the other for girls. They used a ladder to climb up to the loft.

One day my boys and I were breaking a wild horse. We got it hitched to the wagon when it gave a lunge throwing me off my feet. Holding to the lines I was dragged on the ground until my left leg got caught in the spokes of the front wheel. I let go of the lines and the boys stopped the horses. I tried to get up but failed. I found my foot turned half around and the bones below the knee were badly broken. Doctor Taylor set the bones, but four weeks passed with no sign of healing. The doctors threatened by amputate my leg.

Brother Seymour Young, J. Golden Kimball, and Joseph McEwan came to see me. They said at a meeting of the Seventies Quorum I had been chosen to be one of the seven presidents of the 123rd quorum and they had come to set me apart for this calling. Brother Young gave me a wonderful blessing and said that from that moment the bones in my leg would begin to knit and heal in every respect. The blessing was given on Sunday. One week later the bones in my leg had knit sufficiently for me to attend Sunday School.

A little later I was mowing hay with the same horse. I was just getting strong enough to do a little light field work. I stopped the horses and was trying to get them to back up, but the wild one would not budge. I got off the mowing machine but forgot to throw it out of gear. I took the horse by the bit and tried to get it to back up. But it refused and gave a leap in the air. I was prompted to jump up on one, which I did, just in time to prevent my legs for being cut off by the mower. . .

My wife, who was always a model wife and mother, had been in poor health for several years and passed away on March 9, 1929. Sometime before she died I saw two men in a dream. One came to me and said: "We want you and your wife." I replied, "Well, if I have to die all right, but I dread it." He walked over and talked to the other man. In a few minutes he returned and said to me, "You may remain." Then I dreamed I was in Ogden walking down the side walk near my old home when father came up to me and putting his arm around my neck said, "I want you to work with me." Later I received a letter from my sister, Mary Freeman, stating that some of the family had appointed a meeting in Ogden for the purpose of organizing a Farley genealogy society and would I be there? I went and was chosen President. . .

I went to Salt Lake to do Temple work. I lived with my daughter Eva, for some time, going to the Temple four days a week. Later I roomed in several apartment houses, doing my own cooking. I spent some time at St. George and at Mesa doing Temple work. I have had endowments for more than four hundred persons. I was stricken with neuritis and arthritis and had to come back to Provo to live with first one daughter and then another I cannot do any more Temple work because I cannot walk without crutches, although I would love to do much more.

Letter to my grand, or great-grandchildren to be deposited in a vault for safe keeping for a period of fifty years, after which you will be given this Epistle as a token of my love.
Theodore Farley, January 10, 1931:

. . . I have been on a mission to Scotland and England. Baptized 32 people, presided over the Birmingham Conference 7 months. Have been active more or less in Church affairs most of my life. After Mother passed on I have been working in the Temple here in Salt Lake for about 20 months. . . Being the oldest living son of my father, I was chosen President of the Farley Family lines. Have been endowed for many of our own people and as many more for others. This labor of love began before the Church was organized.

It was reported to me that 15,000,000 have been received by the preaching of the Gospel. The time has come that Paul spoke of to the Thessalonians Saints to beware lest any man spoil you after the rudiments of the world; who say they cannot believe a thing to be true unless they can see, feel and hear. Men have been working with some of the great things in

Nature for many years, yet they know as little about electricity today as when they first began to manufacture it. The Lord gave men power over the whole earth and everything upon it. They could use it to give cheer and comfort the hearts of men; but he did not explain to them what these things were made of that we now see such as electricity, the radio, the Spirit or that which gives life. We see the results of these things if we go to the men who assemble the electricity. They can enlighten us on the matter. The radio man will instruct us which button to turn. If we do not have faith enough to follow his instructions we get no music, no sermons, nor electric lights unless properly wired up.

Faith is the great moving power. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, but not seen. I have heard men say if there is a God, why reveal Himself to a very few. For the same reason if we want music from our radio, we will have to comply with the builder's instruction, and should the Lord show Himself to everybody, we would be depending entirely on sight. We would serve him through a sense of fear, not love with all our heart, and our neighbor as ourselves.

If the Lord should reveal Himself to us, this knowledge would not be sufficient to save us in the Kingdom of Heaven. It's line upon line, precept upon precept, and all we learn from books will not save us. They are helps and will remain with us hereafter. They are not sufficient. We will have to civilize our hearts as well as our minds; then if we wish to know if the Gospel as taught by our Church be true, ask Him who made us in His own Image; ask Him in Faith believing, for we are informed by Moroni that angels appear only unto them of strong faith and firm mind.

Read the 10th chapter of Moroni, 4th verse, which will give you a knowledge of the truth of the Doctrine of Christ, and the Book of Mormon. "Then you would receive more light and knowledge than you would gain through seeing a score of angels."

I have never seen an angel, have never seen the plates from which I have quoted, but I have seen one of the witnesses of the Book, Martin Harris, and have heard him testify of its truth. But never was I so thrilled as I was while preaching the Gospel of Christ to the people in New Pitsligo, Scotland. I saw no personage, but I did hear the voice of the Holy Ghost that thrilled every fiber of my body, not my eyes nor ears, but my whole body was affected as much as it would have been had I been immersed in a pool of cold water. I obeyed the voice and received the very thing I was in need of.

This was and is a greater blessing and testimony than I would have received had I seen five hundred angels. The Savior said, "Do my will and you shall know of the Doctrine I teach you." He would send the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, to enlighten men when they obeyed the law upon which these blessings are predicated.

I will close this Epistle. When I started to write I did not know what to say. I came from Sunday School and did not take the time to eat dinner before writing. I would like to live to see the wonderful changes that will take place in the coming fifty years. May the Lord bless you, may your names never be erased from the records kept on earth nor those kept in Heaven. I bid you good-bye. Theodore Farley.

We Farley's are rooted in Theodore's deep faith and can draw strength from the spiritual experiences which he recorded. We look forward to greeting both he and Matilda in the spirit world when we pass too beyond the veil. These valiant ancestors will look as they did in this picture which was probably taken in 1879 on their wedding day.

