

Frances Ford Interview 15 July 2019
Perry County Health Department

This impromptu interview took place in the offices of the Perry County Health Department in Perry County, Alabama. Throughout the interview, background noise from ongoing office work is audible.

Beth McGinnis: This is Beth McGinnis. I am here with Mrs. Frances Ford at the Perry County Health Department, and she's telling me about Provewell Baptist Church in Sprott, Alabama.

Frances Ford: Well, Provewell, we aren't sure exactly how old Provewell is. In the cemetery there are some graves that have 1800s, as far as on the headstone. But we also know, but we have, our deed, the deed that the church purchased the property from the Sprott family in 1901. In July of 1901 they purchased the property. Before that they had been having church there, but they didn't own the property. But they actually purchased the one-acre property from the Sprott family in July 2000...July 1901. And so we have had, that property has been there since then.

And we realize that with the older, with the church, because it used to be the church and the school were the same. They would use the church for school Monday through Friday, and then you had your church services there on Sunday. And they had the cemetery. The cemetery was part of the, was also donated. They donated two acres of property for to be used for the cemetery. And so, but then after, in the 1900s they ended up separating the school and the church. And the state actually built a school. And it was a little two-room block building. And they built it, and those children would go to school there from first grade to sixth grade. And first through third grade would be in one room and then fourth, fifth, and sixth grade would be in the other room. And that would be, and I actually went to that school until I went to the third grade. When I went to the third grade then I went to, I came to Marion when my parents moved, then we left and we came to Marion. But the school continued to operate and stayed open for a number of years after that.

Beth: What was the school called?

Mrs. Ford: Provewell Baptist...it was called Provewell School. It was Provewell School, and it had Provewell Baptist Church, and we were all in our little community. And when the kids got to seventh grade they would go to Lincoln School. And the bus would pick them up, and the bus would carry them to Lincoln School. But we had, and we would use the church yard; the church and the school kind-of shared a playground. The churchyard was kind-of common area for both the school and the church.

But the church started, it was, the deacons that they had, one of the interesting things was when my brothers and them, my brothers and my brother-in-law built, my brother-in-law was the one that had the experience and did some building in Atlanta. And so he and my brothers and my brother-in-law and nephews, and just community, we built the church. We built the church because they had told us the old church, the insurance company wouldn't insure it because it had gotten so old that they wouldn't insure it unless we could make a lot of repairs, and they felt that it was hard to make those repairs, and so many safety issues. So we ended up building the church. And so then we built it, and everybody kind-of came on Saturdays and donated their time. And they would build, they would build it out of blocks, and everybody got a chance, we all got a chance to work and do

something that was there. But when they tore the old church down, a lot, there were certain portions of it, they didn't have nails, they had wooden pegs. And my grandmother said that her father and grandfather helped to build the church. And they were Locketts. And they helped to build the church. In that day we used wooden pegs because nails were so expensive back then, and it was so costly. So they would take and build the wooden pegs and put the church, hold the boards together.

Beth: Wow.

Mrs. Ford: And so I told them I wish they had kept some of those wooden pegs, you know, but they didn't keep any of them. We would see back then how people would come together and build churches, and you know, I think that's kind-of what we did. And so it's a church we built, and even with the part we added on, the Fellowship Hall, we extended it. We worked on it as a church to paint, and to sand, and to sheetrock, and to help with getting everything done. There were some that would help with putting the commodes and things in, and doing the lights and all. It was all done by members of the church. And we all just kind-of came together and worked on that.

But I think we have a, as we look, I can remember, Oh Lord, this makes me feel old, though, but I can remember when we would go to church when we were little, and my dad was a deacon, and we had a pot-bellied stove. And my dad would get there early in the morning so he could make a fire before everybody else came to church. And we would sit around the fire until the church, until it got warmer, you know. But he would go, and so it was just, and we would go and get a bucket of water from, we didn't have, there was a, the Overflowing Boat Well. And we would get a bucket of water from the Overflowing Boat Well, or either we would go up to Mrs. Dez's house behind the church and draw from the well. We would draw a bucket of water and then bring it so there would be water at the church. And those were the kind of things we would have to do in the morning before everybody got there, because my dad was a deacon.

And so it just, you know, you don't think about those things, but it helps you to have a love for that building, and a love for that property, and for that ground because it's just such a part of you, and helping with Sunday School, and just helping with the choir, and singing.

And then our old pastor, Reverend W. D. Craig, he was from Briarfield, Alabama. And he was just such, he was more like a grandfather than he was a pastor. Because he stayed there 37 years. And so he would know all the people. He helped us through birth, he knew us through birth, he knew us through our marriages, through our sicknesses and everything, he was just, he was there, and so it was just, we're more a family in the church because everybody in the community were family. And so we would all be at the church, and if something happened, when it affected one person it affected everybody. And I think that's the beauty of it, because we are so much like family, and such a small, close-knit group of individuals, then it helps you to have a different special relationship. And it's a special environment for individuals as they come. And you get a chance to see when someone dies, everybody, you feel that loss. But when someone has a child graduate from college to do something, get a job, everybody feels a sense of pride. Because we say "that's our child." And we joke and tell Reverend Kirk and we tell [his daughter] "you're our baby." And she was 10 when he came and now she's 20. And so we look to say, you know, we've just seen you grow up. I know that we've had some impact on her life, and so when you think about that and I look at other children that are in the community, that have come through the church, and families, and you take a sense of pride

when they're doing well. But when they do something that you're not pleased with, you also have a sense of, you're hurting, you're disappointed.

Beth: Sure.

Mrs. Ford: So I think that's the thing with churches. But our choirs have grown. We have, my brother was talking, we have one young man, he was our musician. He was our pianist at the time. His name is Michael Thompson. He's in Pensacola, Florida. He pastors in Pensacola. But he actually recorded records. And he's a pastor, and he, but he would play the piano for us when he was 15 years old. And then while he was playing for us he got called into the ministry. And when he got called into the ministry, then our pastor told him that the work for the Lord was so important, so much more important than him playing the piano for us. And that he needed to study and devote his time, and be prepared so that he could share the Word. And now he is an outstanding minister. But you look and you can see how, the impact of the church on lives of people that have gone through there.

And we have Homecoming. When we have, you should come to Homecoming because it's amazing to see how a lot of our older members that come back talk about how they learned, how they were there and they went to church and how they learned in Sunday School and BTU [Baptist Training Union] and prayer circle, and all those things. But they have gone on to other churches, and they have gone away, and they have become leaders in their church. And they continue to serve and everything. And they come back. And we were, last year, we actually had one of our, Mr. Ferdinand Rutledge. He has a nephew that played professional football. And he brought him with him to Homecoming because he said his grandmother would not be satisfied until he had been to one of Provewell's Homecomings. And that would just make Mrs. Agee's day. He said that would make his grandmamma so proud to know that her grandson had come to Provewell to Homecoming, and seen where she had gotten her start from and her faith. And so it was just, and that's the kind of thing that, you know you have that family and that pride and that sense of belonging, and you know, that go along with the church. And that's why I think that it's so different, and I hope that every church has it, but I know that Provewell has it, and it has been such a wonderful thing.

And like, Pilar [Murphy], we kind-of took her in as a member, because she was away from home, so we kind-of took her in, to say that, make sure she had family and had friends and someone to take care of her. So now for that reason we ended up, and now she's, her mom has even come under Watchcare at our church. So when she'll come to stay with Pilar, she'll come to stay for a couple of months or three months, and she is a part of our church family.

Beth: Oh, that's wonderful.

Mrs. Ford: And so that's why I say it's because, it's just that people become a part of the family, and it's not like you're a member. You are part of a church family. You are part of the Body. And so I think that that's what's so unique when you do that.

Beth: I agree, and I can definitely see it in your church family. I can see that and feel that. Have you always sung in the choir?

Mrs. Ford: I have, and I have no voice. If I was a Pilar, I would be singing from the rooftop.

Beth: Well she's a beautiful singer.

Mrs. Ford: Woo! She has a gift, and it, ooh yesterday she was just singing, and it was that, you could just feel she was just anointed. And she was just singing out of her heart, and singing praises to God, and worshiping Him through her gift of singing. And that was just a wonderful experience. And so I think that that's what, I think that's what we have. As I say with Pilar, and with us in the choir, we're a smaller group, but we go to choir practice and we can sing, the Spirit will come in, and we will just, tears will be flowing and we'll be just shouting, just in choir practice. And I think it's because the Spirit is there and I think it's because people are truly singing to give God praise and worship. They're not trying to out-sing each other or worry about it, but we are there truly to give Him praise, and we do it through song, and offer all that we have, we give back to Him. So I think that that's one of the good things about being in a small church.

Beth: Sure. Has the music changed very much over the years?

Mrs. Ford: We have. See, we've been without music, we've had piano, we've had Gaynell who would play and sing, so we had her for a long time. When I was a little girl we had a little lady, we called her Mrs. Ada Johnson. And we always laughed, because, you know, our vernacular was not always the best. And so I can remember as a child I would hear her say, and she probably was saying "when the Lord gets ready, you have to move." But it always sounded like she was saying "when the Laaaaad git ready you git to move." And we would just joke about that. When Mrs. Ada Johnson would be playing that piano she would be singing that. And we would laugh, because I can remember when I was a child hearing her, and she would be playing the piano and she would be singing "when the Laaaaad git ready you git to move." And so we would joke about it.

And then we had Mrs. Quilly, and Mrs. Quilly was an older, one of our older members, and she was the choir president for a long time, and she would sing songs like "Now Lord," and "Precious Lord, Take My Hand," and so I told them, I said you wouldn't think about that but I remember she got sick, and she had Alzheimer's. And I would go see her at the nursing home. And she wouldn't remember who I was. She didn't know me. But I would start quoting the 23rd Psalm and she'd take it from me. If I started singing a song she'd take it from me. And then I thought, it is so good. You don't even remember what day it is. But you still remember Jesus. And that is, well then I thought, you know a lot of times that's good. What you have for Christ, those things, it will last. That love for Him. Your commitment to Him will last through dementia, it will last through mental illness, whatever your problems. And other things you might forget. But you won't forget Him. And so I saw that through her life and through her, and she always would come to church and she might be a little late. My daddy would say, "Quilly you're going to be late for your funeral." And she would say "y'all will just be there on time waiting on me." And she would say, you know, "if I can just touch the steps I'll be all right because God knows where my heart is." And so now, and we would laugh about it.

And now we have another older member, Isabella King, and Isabella would say, "I don't know what the preacher was talking about, but now I know if I can just get to church before they say the benediction," she says "y'all might have done did the benediction, but if I can come and just walk up on the steps, I feel good because I have acknowledged God and given Him this time, given Him some time this day."

And so I think that those are the times that I just remember from the older members that was in our church, and that we had, like Mr. Cagey Lee and Mr. Phillip Ramsey that was superintendents of the church and everything, and how they would study and they were so committed to teaching us and telling us about how we should live and what we should do, and studying the Word of God and encouraging us to study the Word of God and be sincere and honest. So I think that those are, it's things that I just learned from, you know, being just a part of the church. And it was always me, that I could trust God, and that He would take care of me. And so when I have, so let's see, I'm 63, 62, so I'm going to be 63 years old, and I have taken that to heart and it hasn't failed me yet. And I have just continued to trust in Him and He will take care of me.

Beth: And that's what you're teaching the younger members.

Mrs. Ford: And that's what we have to teach our children, and I have my grands with me, and they wanted to go to church, and so we went to church on Sunday, but I was reading them a book on Saturday night. And it was a book about the Golden Rule. And it was sharing with them about the Little Bear, and the Little Bears going to school. And Sister Bear, she went to school but she had some friends, and she was playing with her friends. And there was a new girl come to the school and she was kind-of isolated and sad. So Sister Bear's friends called her and she ran over and she played with them. And then her mom was talking to her and asking about what did she do that day and how did everything go. And she told her about she had a little girl that was at school, and everybody, that she seemed sad and nobody was playing with her. And they asked her how would she like to be treated like that. And she said "I don't understand." And they said "remember the Golden Rule." She said I never really realized what the Golden Rule meant. And then she said you wouldn't want anybody to treat you and leave you by yourself, so why would you want her by herself? And so you should treat people the way that you want to be treated. She said, "Oh, I get it. I didn't understand that as being the Golden Rule but I knew we always had that here in the house." And so she ended up the next day having an opportunity to tell the little girl that was new, "Come on and go with us." And her friends said "we don't have time to wait for her." And she said "you all go ahead. I'm coming, but I'm going to bring her with me." And so she began to realize that she knew she wouldn't want to be left out, because her mom had talked to her about it.

So I think that we have to start by teaching our children when they're young about giving and paying their tithes, you know their offerings, but not just their tithes but their time and their talents and gifts. All those we have to share. We share with our friends, we certainly share it with God, we give back to Him what He has given to us. And so as I said I was sharing with her, and then went to church on Sunday and she said, well I want to see Mrs. Curtain and Mrs. Curtain's not here. I don't know if I want to see the rest of y'all. I said well, the rest of us is here so you'll have to have a visit with the rest of us today. So then Pilar's little boy was there, Zion, so then she said Zion is there? I'll go play with cousin Zion. And so, but you know I think we help our children to understand about the Word of God about how they ought to enjoy it. That life should be something we enjoy and we can be happen about.

Yeah, but Provell is just very precious to me. There's just something that, you know I was going to say I just remember all those little things that we did. We used to cook under the, and fix, we would cook food and put it in boxes and carry it outside and we'd eat under the trees. Everybody would go from box to box, and get a piece of chicken, get some beans or cornbread or And they

would go from box to box and get some food under the tree and outside. It was fun. We just thought nothing about it. All of us cooked our best and put it in a box and carried it all over the church so everybody could eat.

Beth: Are there a lot of people in the church that grew up in the church? Are there extended families like that?

Frances Ford: There's most, a lot of us are people that grew up in the church. We do have some now that have transplanted there, but most of them have transitioned in from other churches, and from our church.

Beth: You said the cemetery is old, back to the 1800s?

Frances Ford: It is. We have graves in there as early as the 1800s. The we have some that, I want to say Aunt Bet died, and I want to say she was born in the 18, in the 1850s or '60s and she died like in nineteen-three or nineteen-four. There are a lot of them that's dated in the 1800s, they were born and died in the 1800s. They're there, you know it's a lot of things, you know the church was active, it just wasn't, it was not owned by us, it was still owned by the landowners, and they had, you know, hadn't given it to us yet.

Beth: You know the musical style when the leader will sing a phrase and then the congregation sings back to the leader? You were, when I was in the church service you were singing like that some. You know what I'm talking about? That you'll do a phrase, usually, I think it was a man who was leading the singing, he would do a phrase, and then the whole congregation would join?

Frances Ford: Oh, that was when we do a hymn.

Beth: Do you always do a hymn that way?

Frances Ford: We do a hymn like that. We'll start out like, "A Charge," the choir, then the church come in and sing, and that is, now that's, they usually call what they'll call them Dr. Watts. But they are old hymns and they, yeah. That's what deacons do and that's a tradition done in devotion.

Beth: Oh, wow. So you've been doing it that way, hymns that way...

Frances Ford: Always. We've always done hymns like that.

Beth: Tell me about that phrase, "a tradition done in devotion." That's a beautiful way to think about it. [At this point I did not understand that devotion was an early part of the Sunday service, before the worship service proper.]

Frances Ford: It is. It's the way we always say about that. But the deacons are all, they lead devotion, they would have, they would do a hymn, do a regular song, they might do a prayer and scripture, but when they did it then they would have, they would lead out with some song that we would sing, like "A Charge to Keep I Have," "Bread of Heaven," and those are the ones that we would just sing as a hymn. And then they would take off on that first verse and then we would follow on. But then we would moan during the hymn, as people are praying. We have a tendency to moan, and then I go to other churches like at, like Vestavia Hills, and those churches when I go to, and the First Presbyterian Church, that we say the prayer but we don't talk or say anything, whereas

with us we kind-of moan and sing the hymn and everything when people are praying. It's kind-of the African-American tradition.

Beth: It's very meaningful, and a very powerful tradition. Vestavia Hills is my church and so that's, I'm the organist there, actually.

Frances Ford: Oh really?

Beth: So that's, I'm back behind the organ console when you're there, so you probably can't see me, but.

Frances Ford: I was in the, I've been in the pastor's, I've been in the pulpit last time I was there, I'm trying to think when that was, it must have been in like, November.

Beth: Yeah, hasn't been too long.

Frances Ford: November I was there, and I was sitting there with Dr. Furr, but I couldn't, I could see the choir and everything, but the musician I couldn't really see her face and all, but it was good.

Beth: It's a different tradition, though, and I wonder, how do you think it changes the experience of the prayer or the service to do the moaning or the singing back?

Frances Ford: Well you know, I don't think it really, let me tell you for us, and I guess it's, for us, that's our way of saying, "we agree with you." "We want, you know, what you're saying, it applies to me too." Whereas, so I think that with that it's very emotional. But there's a lot you, and sometimes you don't, you'll listen and people are praying, you'll say, you'll have that motion, you'll have a, you'll have kind-of the want-to to sing or to moan, and then other times when people are praying you, and it's just like you agree with them, you just feel what they're feeling, and because you agree with them, then you sing, and you may sing with them and moan during that, or you might say "Amen," or something while they're praying, just to give them confirmation on what they're doing.

Beth: Do you ever find yourself wanting to respond that way in a different church?

Frances Ford: I'm a real free spirit, now, that's the only thing that I can be. I went to a church one time, and it was, and they were, we were there and a group was singing, it was a group from Selma University and they were singing "Mary Don't You Weep, Martha Don't You Moan," and they were singing so good. And all the people just sitting there. And so I was, I stood up and started clapping, and everybody was looking at me and all. So then I had a little lady that was sitting right in front of me, and I said, "you get up and encourage those children. Don't you know those children are singing their heart out?" Don't sit there like a knot on a log; get up and tell them thank you. I said all of us done been through something. And so, you know, and so I was at the edge and folks all around me, so by the time folks got to singing and so half the church was standing.

Beth: Good for you.

Frances Ford: But I think that it is, you're really just saying, I agree with you. I agree with the song. It is expressing what I feel. And so I think that that's what you, when people are praying and they're talking about, you know, praying for God to bless their children, Amen, because I want You to bless mine too. And so I'm not praying, but I agree with you, and so yes I think that. And sometimes

when I'm at other churches I will, I may stand or I may say "Amen," or clap my hands, and it's not what they're accustomed to, but it's my expression of saying I agree with you. And, you know, and that, what you're saying, it's the minister, or someone that's just praying, we do that.

Beth: It was such a moving experience to me to be at Provewell, and I, you know, Vestavia is my church, and it's very different. Our traditions are very different. But it's so emotionally meaningful. And I remember that day, I was just, I was so moved and I couldn't stop crying, you know, after we left the service. It was just so moving.

Frances Ford: And it was a time, you know, especially when we're, it was the pastor's anniversary. The Reverend has been at our church ten years. He has seen, we've seen his family grow. But he's seen us grow. He has encouraged us to grow spiritually, the church to grow physically, the church itself to be improved, to do things. He's given us, and so you just wanted to say, God, this is a day I just want to worship You and say thank you for sending us a pastor like this, because we've had other pastors. And every person has their time and their season. Everybody has their gifts. And so God has sent us a pastor that was a, that he has the gifts where he talks about love, sharing, and encouraging others.

And he has, I feel that he has a spiritual gift of healing, because he prays for individuals. And when he prays, you can just tell people, they feel like they're going to get better. And so I know that, there were a lot of times, my son has had some sickness, and my sister and my brother and all, even myself I've had some health issues. And so I just feel a peace, a sense of peace. And like my sister, in her last day, in her time of transition, and Reverend came when she was sick and she was in pain and everything, and so he came, and he prayed with her and he talked to her when she and she looked up and saw him, and so everything, when he talked to her something about that just gave her peace for him, and confidence for him to be there, he and Mrs. Kirk. But Mrs. Kirk held her hand, and she would always say, Frances, folks will always want me to hold their hand. We were kind of raised by her, me and my brother when my mom died, they had always been with me. And when my dad died, they've always just been there with me. And she was, so she was special. And so she was special and had special needs and all. And so we've always just kind-of taken care of her. And she told me, move Frances over. Let Mrs. Kirk come in here. And so it was just amazing, so, when she was in so much pain, and when she was in pain the Reverend began to read the 23rd psalm, and then he began to explain it to her. And he began to kind-of just talking about the 23rd psalm, just kind-of preached right there to her. She went into a sense of peace. She stopped groaning, she stopped groaning, it was just like she went into a deep sleep. And after that she never really, she never really woke up. Anything after was just that, she had been, and she went into that and then like I say, she just slept on away. But it, then she, you know, and she looked, you know I was there and was talking to her, and they told her she needed to have a surgery. And she said she didn't want to have the surgery. And I said, how come you won't have the surgery? You might not make it. She said, that's ok. I said you'll be going home with Mom and Dad in an institution, is that what you want? She said, u-huh, that's ok. I, you know, she said, I don't want to have surgery. And so, you know, like I say, she was just very in, you know she was in pain, and, but when he began to read that 23rd psalm, and he stood before the bed and just looked right in her face, and she looked at him, and as he did that she just got peaceful, and just dropped on off to sleep. And she stopped groaning, she stopped everything. And I thought, you know this is what, you know having a transition like that and having a person

that, a man of faith, a minister that you have that kind of confidence in, and when he began to, you, and so it was, so those are the kind of things that I see that, have seen for those ten years. To see that he has had such a love for the church, and for the people and everything. And he's been there for us during those good times and the bad times. And he's, you know, shared those with us. And so I think that, yeah, we just wanted him to realize and know how much we really do love him and Mrs. Kirk and appreciate him and his family for all they've done for us over the last ten years.

Beth: Well I think you definitely did that.

Frances Ford: Yeah, so I think that's why we were singing, and just, we were showing him just how much we really did. And we won't do it all the time but just. I told him he'd been spoiled, but we, as I say, [laughter]

Beth: When you started your work with Sowing Seeds of Hope, was the church involved with that?

Frances Ford: Our church actually was not. To me, and to them, people still see it as my job. And I see it as more of a mission. That's my *mission*, and not my job. Because I felt like, I had wanted to do mission work, and I never had a chance to go to, I wanted to go do foreign missions. And I never had a chance to do that. And I kept asking God to let me do foreign missions because I wanted to do that, go overseas, and go and do some things like Dr. Murphy's done and all, but at the hospital they always talked about, they'd be going to do foreign missions, and they'd come back and they'd be so hyped and so excited about the work that they'd done for God, and how. And I wanted to do that. But when I got the chance to work for Sowing Seeds of Hope, God told me this was where He wanted, this was my mission field. And He said, Frances, I have people in Perry County that have needs that are not being met. And this is what I want you to do. He said there are places you've never gone. There are things that go on, there are needs that are not being met, and there are people there that you have never seen and places you have never gone. And I want you to work in this mission field. And I, and He spoke to me just as if I'm talking to you, he talked to me. And I thought, I said God, ain't nobody in Perry County, everybody in Perry County.... And He said there are people, I have people in Perry County. And since then I have had an opportunity. And every now and then He will show me and remind me of what He said to me that night.

And I was coming back from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, I had been to a CBF [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship] meeting there. And then we had rain, and then so I was talking because it was raining, and so I had to have a conversation with Him, because the thunder and lightning, it just, and I was on the road coming back. And as I was, you know, and I thought, when I think about when I went to a house where a woman had a dirt floor. When a hurricane happened I went to the homes where people didn't have inside plumbing. And they had a pot-bellied stove and they were still heat, cooking on the stove, open stove in September and it was 90 degrees, and the doors were open because it was so hot on the inside. And I thought, those were, and so I had children who had screenings and they were saying that they and their grandmama used the same toothbrush. And yeah. There are things for me to, you know, and so every time, things like that remind me that there is still, there's work to be done here. And this is what God wants me to work at. And He is so awesomely good. I wanted to do foreign missions, but guess what? He has brought so many countries to Frances.

And I thought, oh, about last year, it was during that spring, I had a group to come from Vanderbilt University. They were from, like seven different countries. And it was people from Africa, people from, they were from Africa, Canada, from Arizona, from New York, it was some of them from Sweden, and all these different countries that was there. And we were talking about Sowing Seeds of Hope and the work we do, and how you can help people by doing blood pressure, diabetes, and all of that. Was talking about all of that. And when I was, they started talking about all the different countries they were from, and they were saying, I'll go back and tell our people about what you're doing here in America, and we can do this. We can go back. And I can do some of the same things in my country. And I thought, well, you know and then He said did I not tell you? He said you were worried about going to Africa. He said I can bring Africa to you. And I promise you, I have never, my heart was just so full because I had meant to do foreign missions. But God showed me, you don't have to go to Africa, but I will bring Africa to you.

We were in Tennessee at the [?] and we were up there. And there were some guys that were standing in the hallway. And they were telling me, and they were talking and one of them got to be really emotional, he was full of the Holy Spirit, he was just crying, and he said you're not supposed to be crying, and I said it's all right to cry for God. Yeah, and I was sharing, I was telling him feeling the Holy Spirit everybody doesn't have that. I said everybody has not had the blessing of feeling the Holy Spirit. And we were crying, and I said, the [?] of God has just blessed you to feel His anointing. And he said, oh, ok. He said I didn't realize. And the next night we were there. And they were talking to me, and I thought, oh my goodness, I said, my husband said, He said it. God will bring, and so He has. He's brought, and so even though I've not gone to, across the water, I thought I have had a chance to speak to people from probably ten or twenty different countries. And God has given me the opportunity to share with them about the work that I do here, and how God can use you. He will find a place for you. It doesn't have to be in a foreign country; it can be right in your own home community, because there are still people that need to hear about Jesus. And so, that's just, oh yeah. So that, I just saw that God is so awesome, and we can't understand Him, and how He works, but if we trust Him, He'll do everything that He promised and so much more. So yeah.

Beth: That's a wonderful witness. Thank you for telling me those stories.

Frances Ford: My husband, I would always talk to him about what God has told me, what God has said, and then now it's where we're looking twenty years down the road and seeing how just being faithful, and staying here and doing, and I think it's just the love of God that actually brought those people to me and had a lot of opportunity to share. And so if you'll just be faithful and do what He said.

Beth: So wonderful. Thank you so much.