

Service to the Faith

Once upon a time there was a little boy called Bill. When he was about two years old he had a dream about a room full of a wonderful bright light where he was very happy and wanted to stay, but he woke up. His mother remembered that it was 20th Sept.1912 because of something significant that happened to her on the same day.

At the circus, when he was five, he saw people jumping through rings of fire and asked his father “is that what hell is like?” but father nearly swallowed his cigar, took him out of the tent and bought a rubber ball at a side show; giving it to Bill and saying “play ball like other boys, bounce the ball on the ground”, only to hear from Bill “God made the ground”, so Bill was taken home.

About a month later he had the dream again, with an extra message. His father was shaving when Bill asked him “Why did he call me Peter?” Father asked “Who?” Bill said “The man in my dream.” Father cut his chin and called for Bill’s Mother, who was very patient: “Are you sure he called you Peter, dear?” Bill nodded “He said ‘Fish like Peter’.” Mother asked “What else did he say?” and Bill replied, “Don’t follow in their footsteps.” Father went to work half-shaved and Bill started going to Sunday school.

Later he had many talks with his grandfather, who understood that Bill must search for the meaning of his dream.

He left school, got married, had 2 sons, his wife became ill and died, then he wrote some plays, and got a job as a radio announcer, which eventually led to being a TV presenter.

Then he met a Bahá’í who lent him a book to read; when he found that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá had been talking at a meeting on 20th Sept.1912, he started a thorough investigation which led to marrying the Bahá’í, and becoming a Bahá’í himself, for the meeting was just near the house where he had the first dream, on the same day, and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá warned people “not to follow in the footsteps of those who accepted all things blindly”, similar to the words in the later dream! Later that day ‘Abdu’l-Bahá spoke at another meeting and asked people to be like “fisherman Peter” and “fish energetically for the souls of men”, again similar to words in the later dream!

Eventually, just as Bill was offered a new TV job with a starting salary of \$50,000 p.a., the family decided to go abroad to teach the Faith, to ‘Fish like Peter’ in Africa and other countries. Bill travelled over a quarter of a million miles, only going home for long enough to earn money for another journey.