

City Bible College, which later became Calvary Bible College, and he served as president and in other capacities when needed through the years.

At first Walter Wilson's ministry as a Bible teacher had only a limited scope. Then in the early 1930s Harry Ironside, pastor of the Moody Memorial Church in Chicago, invited him to speak from that platform. Although nervous at the momentous occasion, he was well-received, and, because of the exposure it gave him, invitations to speak began coming from around the country. In the following years he delivered messages at innumerable church services, Bible conferences, summer camps, school assemblies, and civic clubs, to name a few. He was a master at gaining the sympathy and attention of indifferent or even hostile audiences by means of ingenious illustrations. Sometimes humorous, sometimes startling, but always striking, down-to-earth, and to the point, they were his hallmark as a Bible teacher. With his training as a doctor, he found illustrations from the marvels of nature especially appealing. He had an inexhaustible fund of knowledge about the natural world and could on almost any occasion pull out some interesting fact to bring home a Bible truth to the listener.

It was Ironside who suggested to Dr. Wilson in 1935 that he record some of his soulwinning anecdotes for posterity. *The Romance of a Doctor's Visits* was the result, and it was followed by other books along the same line: *Miracles in a Doctor's Life* (1935), *Remarkable New Stories Told by the Doctor* (1940), *Strange Experiences of the Doctor* (1942), and *Doctor Wilson's Stories of Soulwinning* (1959). In addition he wrote a number of Bible study books, children's stories, devotional studies, and soulwinning helps. The most substantial volume was one entitled *Wilson's Dictionary of Bible Types*, an alphabetical listing of various people, objects, and events from the Bible with an explanation of their typological significance.

Marion Wilson died in 1962, having born eight children to the Doctor and faithfully helped him in his remarkable ministry. She was witnessing to a nurse at the moment of

her death. The next year, at the age of eighty-two, Wilson married Ruth Selders, graduate of Kansas City Bible College and longtime member of Central Bible Hall. Their time together was short, however, for in the spring of 1969 Wilson suffered a stroke, and he died on May 24.

The stories of Dr. Wilson hold a timeless interest. Although some of the situations are things of the past, his ceaseless concern for the souls of men and women of all ages and stations in life will be relevant as long as there are souls on earth to be won. What is more, he translated that concern into action by taking advantage of every available opportunity to present the gospel. On the other hand, he placed great emphasis on the leading of the Holy Spirit. Each morning he would earnestly pray for the Holy Spirit to guide him to the particular person whom He had prepared to receive the gospel. During the day, expecting God to answer his prayer, he would take advantage of each favorable occasion to speak a word for Christ. He was not one to wait for some strange, inner urging of the Spirit to move him, for the opening up of an opportunity was leading enough for him.

Always a gentleman and never intrusive or abrasive, it was evident that the love of God motivated him. He was not a salesman with a product to huckster onto some unsuspecting potential client. He was not looking for scalps to count. Each one with whom he came in contact was a person who perhaps needed the water of life. He was a man under orders, ready at every moment to follow the Spirit's leading and be the instrument by which God would bring a new-born babe into His kingdom.

—David Woehr