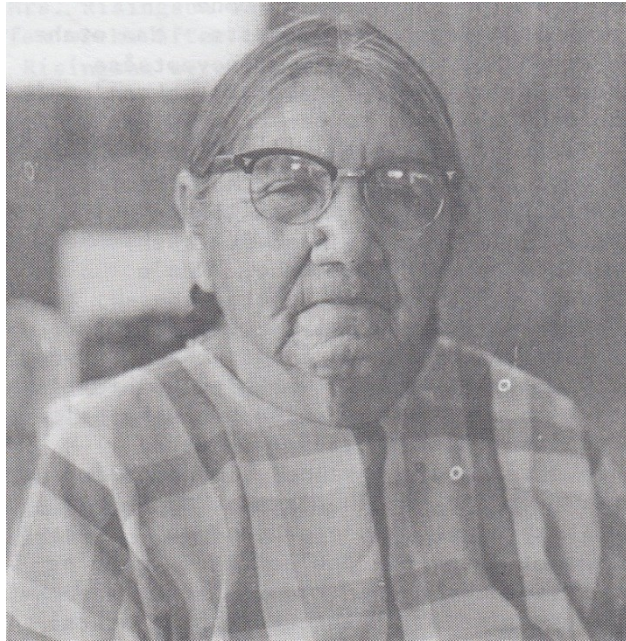


My Testimony¹
by Elizabeth Risingsun



[Click here](#) to listen to Mrs. Risingsun's testimony

When I was 14 years old ná'e'óestaāhe tséhéóhe Mr. Habegger
When I was 14 years old I was baptized, here² Mr. Habegger

ná'e'óestaāhe. Naa hēā'e náéšee'óestaāhe ná'òhkéhešētāno hótāhtse
baptized me. And maybe I used to think, "I am already baptized,"

móxho'nóxaepéhévenéé'tómo.
but I had not fully attained good standing.

Móxho'nóhene'enómo Christian life very good naa nēhe'se ta'e
I did not know the Christian life very well, and then until

tséstāho'eohé'tómo tsésáapéhéva'éhane.
when I came to something that was not good.

¹ This testimony was recorded June 29, 1981, by Elena Leman in Mrs. Risingsun's home in Busby, Montana. Also present during the recording were the narrator's husband, Oliver, to whom she refers in her testimony, in the Cheyenne way, as "tse'tohe", meaning "this one," and a close friend Mrs. Gladys Old Mouse. Mrs. Risingsun was born in 1907 and died in 1985, a few weeks after the death of her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Risingsun were longtime members of the White River Cheyenne Mennonite Church of Busby.

² She is referring to here in Busby.

Tséhee'hahétse tséssó'tšéhe'kéhaese 13 years old

Our son, when he was still young, 13 years old,

éstaévema'xeaséhótoanávomóhtáhéotse. Naa Ma'heo'o náhvóo'séhaene. No'ka
became critically ill. But God showed us. One

éšeeva tséhma'xeáhanaetàse he was swollen,
day when he (Orelup) was very big, he was swollen,

éhma'xeóhá'o.
he was really swollen (from dropsy).

Naa hó'ótóva no'ka éšeeva tá'tóhe
And then one day that one (Oliver)

é'éváhóseméotséhetanóho,
took care of him again in the morning,

éssó'néhesta. Naa ótahe nássáahéne'enovóhéne
he (Orelup) was still like that. But now we did not know

tsétáhešeevápéhéveotsése. Tá'tóhe éstaaséta'xe,
how he had gotten better. That one (Oliver) left,

ka'ěškóneho éstaohkenó'otséhóho. Naa é'éváho'eohe
he would transport (school) children. And he came back

tsé'énésétovoesenatsése hēā'e four o'clock. Tsé'tóhe
in the afternoon about 4 o'clock. This one (Orelup),

móstaéšéhová'àhanéheotséhanéhe, nássáahéne'enóhénóne tsétáhešéhová'àhanéheotse.
it had all disappeared. We did not know how it had disappeared.

naa náhtó'tšéšéhoo'e. Naa tá'tóhe é'éváho'eohe.
But I was right there. And that one (Oliver) came back.

tséstaévaéstá'xése, "Ného'e," móhnéxhetahevohe.
When he came back in, "Dad," he called to him.

Móstaxaehóovéhoháatanóotséhéhe, "Hēā'e
He must have panicked, "Maybe

éto'setónéstátotse," móstáhešetanóotséhéhe.
something is going to go wrong (with him)," he must have thought.

Móstaésta'xéhéhe tséššééšése. É'énovo'á'hamáhtseséstse hestoomo
He went in where he was lying. He (Orelup) threw off his blanket,

hénóhoomáxéstoto mósta'énovo'á'hamáhtséhéhe. Hótáhtse éstatšéšeahko'evaenáhtseséstse!
his blanket covers, he threw them off. Here, he rolled over!

Tséstavé'hóómóse éxxaehová'áhanéheneho hé'tóhe tséhméhae'óhá'óse
When (Oliver) looked at him where there used to be swelling,

éxxaehová'áhanéheneho!
it was all gone!

Néhe'še éxheto- éhnéstó'évoneohéhoo'o. Móhnéstó'évoneohéhéhe. Néhe'še
Then he sat up! He sat up. Then

éstséheséstse, "Naa náhko'ééhe?" éxheséstse, móxhehéhe.
he said, "Where's mother?" he said, he must have said.

Anóse náhtanéévo. "Náhtséhótótse néxhémetséstse náhtone'óonótse.
Outside I was standing. "My things, bring them to me, my clothes.

Náto'see'sésāne. Nátao'seévéhóéhne," éxheséstse,
I'm gonna dress. I'm gonna go outside," he said,

móxhehéhe.
he must have said.

Náhtaévaésta'xévo. "Náhtone'óonótse néstséhetanóhtse! Náto'see'sésāne."
I came back in. "Bring me my clothes! I'm gonna dress."

Tséoxaetšéškētāse. Nássáahéne'enóhénóne hé'tóhe
He looked small (shrunken) (and) we didn't know

tsétáhešéhová'áhanéheotse. Ma'heo'o móstaaséta'o'tséhéhe. Ma'heo'o
how this thing had disappeared. God took it away.

náhnéheševóoséhaene néhnéšétse. Nátó'tšéševé'hóóhtánóne
God showed it to us in that way, both of us. We right there saw

Ma'heo'o tséohkéheševéstáhémósénése tséohkéhešeévaéno'eestómánése.
how God helps, how he heals.

Náhnéhnéhešéhéne'enánóne tséstó'tšéheševé'hoome hová'éhe
That's how we found out you see right there

tséhvéstáhémósénése Ma'heo'o.

how God helps.

Naa tó'néhé'še nánéhmóne-ta'sé-héne'enáotsé'ta, nánéhmóne-ta'se-méseetse ta'se
And since then I have known it, like I came to,

náhváváhkeoesta'hamaehéhe Ma'heo'o tséhméhae'éšee'óestáhéto,
like God shook me up from when I had already been baptized,

tséssáapéhévéhéne'enóhéto. Naa nēhe'še
from when I did not understand well. And from then

nánéhmónepéhévéhéne'enáotsé'ta nánéhmónepéhéevóóhta
I have really come to know it, I have really seen it well

tséhešenééhóvèse Ma'heo'o, oha tséhešeno'kenéehovèse tséohkeéno'eéstómánése.
that God is the one, that he is the only one who can heal.

Naa na'éstse máto tsé'tóhe Louise táhéno éstáhoo'e Tacoma,
And another (thing) also, this Louise was at Tacoma,

Washington, hospital hánaháóhe máto móstséhetáxéhéhe.
Washington, at the hospital where she had surgery over there.

Náxóhtoohkého'eonóoesemaēne naa
She tried to send for us (told us to come) but

tsé'tóhe hetanáka'ěškóne. Móstséhetáxéhéhe náháóhe
(because of) this boy (we couldn't go). She had surgery there,

oha mámáhta Ma'heo'o náhtaohkéhóse-ta'se-nó'hováóohé'tovóne. Naa
all we could do was run to (God). And likewise

hápó'e tséhnéehovèse étaoméhéne'ēna. Máto é'évapéhévahe.
(Louise) herself knows (about God). She got better also.

Tsé'éšeeénetséhe'oesta'xése éssáháa'xóveotséhanéhetse
Right after she had surgery it wasn't very long after that,

a'e éxho'éhóo'oohe. Hená'hanetséhe Ma'heóneva mó'ohkenéhetóhevóhe naa hápó'e
soon she came home. That's how she told God and likewise

náhtaohkenéhetóne. Ta'se nēhe'xóvéna
how we told him (about her recovery). Like, at that time

náxhótoanávetanóme nanésonéhane'o. Naa tsé'tóhe Teddy
we had a difficult time (with) our children. And this Teddy

hoóma táhéno éxhoo'e. Náháohe máto móxho'nóepéhéveotséstse.
was overseas. He also wasn't doing very well over there.

naa oha mámáhta ná'òhkenéhešētāno. Náhtaohkenéhēto Ma'heo'o,
And I could only think that way. I would tell it to God,

náhtaohkeomómóená'tóvo. "Tseéváho'eohtseo'o Teddy and
I would pray weeping to him. "They will come back, Teddy

Louise, tsene'éváho'péhévomóhtáheo'o. Nae'ha tseévapéhévomóhtahe,"
and Louise, they will come back well. My son will get well,"

ná'òhkéhéto Ma'heo'o, ná'òhkea'xaame.
I would tell God, I used to cry.

Naa hená'hanehe náhnéheševéstáhémaene Ma'heo'o tséstotšěševé'hohtomátse
And that was the way God helped us, that we actually saw

tsé'tóhe nae'hahane tsé'évapéhéveotsése naa tsé'tóhe neše é'éváho'éhóo'òhtseo'o, tsé'tóhe
how our son got better and these two came back home,

vétséóhe éstaěševapéhévahe oóxésta éstaěševáhesta.
(Orelup) just then was better, he was all right.

É'éváho'éhóo'òhtseo'o, ná'évapéhévetanóme, náhpéhévetanóhaene Ma'heo'o.
They came back home, we were happy again, God made us happy.

Naa héne náohkéhe'konetoēna, náohkéhe'kéhéne'ēna,
And I hold on to this, I know it,

Ma'heo'o tséhešěšěeno'kaese tséhešema'heónevése tséhvé'eá'éno ametanénestótse.
that there is one God, that he is God, that he owns our life.

hová'éhe tósa'e tsénéta'e tséhešěsáama'heónevéhāne, nátáhéne'ēna, naa
There is no other thing that is God, I know it, and

náohkenéhešētāno. Ma'heo'o éno'kahe, éma'heóneve.
I think that way. There is only one God, he is God.

Naa máto vo'ěstane ho'neéveóxòhetā'ěstse,
And also when a person says things to me,

òhvé'netsé'eséstse náohkenèhešétāno.

when they are lying, I always think that way.

É'éekánomó'áne vo'èstane hápó'e

"The person is just talking (it doesn't count), likewise

momóxèhéne'enovótse Ma'heóneva, náohkéhešétāno ta'se

I wish he knew God," I think that way, like,

náohkev'éšèhe'konetāno náohkev'áše-ta'sé-hotoo-héestáha

it gives me confidence, it gives me, courage,

hó'eévèhósètónèsóotse hétsetseha há mó'òhtse násáa'éepèhévomóhtáhéhéme.

even when things go wrong, just like now we aren't feeling good.

Nonámé'tó'e náohkésáapèhévomóhtáhéotséhéme. Naa oha mámáhta

We take turns not feeling well. And all I do is just

nátaohkeéénèhēto Ma'heo'o, nátaohkeéévèestomēvo heéno'eéstomanestótse.

tell it to God, I ask him for his healing.

Hámó'òhtse tá'tóhe nexa éoseehót- ésáapèhéveotséhe taa'ēva

For example, this one (Oliver) twice he got sick at night,

hoháa'ése-taa'ēva. Náohkenèšenéšééme.

late at night. There's just the two of us (at home).

Éohkésáapèhéveotséhe, éohkésáatónéšeto'évonèhnéhe, éohketó'omeotse.

He gets sick, he can't even get up, he can't even move.

naa hovehno, hovehno náhtó'tšéše(?)éšeto'ēno no'ka taa'ē[va].

I barely got him up one night.

Naa oha mámáhta Ma'heo'o nátaohkemé'etanóotsé'tóvo nátaohkèhēto

And all I can do is remember God, I tell him (about it)

hótáhtse étaohkeévapèhéve-, nátaohkeévapèhéveotséme

and here, he gets better, we get better

hó'tatónéšèhótoanávomóhtáhéotsétse. Há mó'òhtse hétsetseha móxhétséháno

even if we are real sick. For instance, now just recently

tsé[h]vé'hoomá'ése hesééotséve'ho'e hé'tóhe náhtsesta tséssáapèhéveotséhane

when the doctor examined me when heart wasn't good

násáaxaehoháetanóotséhe, násáaxaehéhpöheotséhe. Tséstatséhe'oo'hé'too'évòse tãháóhe
I didn't get upset, I wasn't frightened. When they took me there

"hospital" ta'se násáaxaehová'èhevátséstóhe
to the hospital, like, I didn't even think anything of it, like,

ta'se násáatónèstáotséhe tséhešétanóotséto. Hótãhtse
nothing went wrong with me, that's what I thought. Here,

oóxésta nátaévãhesta, nátaévãpéhéveómotóme nãháóhe.
I got all right, I could breathe well again over there.

Naa náne'évapéhévéhóó'òhtse, névéé'èše nãháóhe náhoo'e.
And it was good that I came back home, four days I stayed there.

hená'hanehe nátãhósenéhešéhéne'ēna éháestoha Ma'heo'o
That is how I know again that there are many ways that God

tséheševéstãhémaéto. Hé'tó=hámó'òhtse tséstavo'èstanéhévétse
has helped me, like, now when (?) we are living,

tã'tóhe étãho'otse'óhe'tanótse "pension, retirement"
that one (Oliver) worked for a pension, retirement,

énèhmétaa'e Ma'heóneva, Ma'heo'o tséheševéstãhémaétsé,
God gave it to him, that's how God has helped us,

tséhe'òhtséhaétsé naa tséhvé'òhtsé máhtsétse ta'se
how he leads us and in our marriage like

héne étano'néhešéhóhtaméstã étãho'otse'óhe.
he reached it (his retirement), he arrived at it working (it).

Naa ta'se tséheševéstãhémaétsé Ma'heo'o náohkenéhešétãno.
And like how God has helped us, I think about it,

Mónãvéstãhémaehenéhe Ma'heo'o, mónãvéseóemaehenéhe,
"God must be helping us, he must be standing with us,"

nãohkéhešétãno. Ta'se tséhe'se nátãho'vo'èstanéhévéme,
I always think. Like, we have lived this long

naa hé'tóhe nátãno'hóseamãhénóne mãheo'o nãnéhno'hósemétãnenóné. "Ma'heo'o
and this we have also received it, (this) house. "God

mónánèheševéstàhémaehenéhe," náohkéhešetāno.
must be helping us this way," I always think.

"Sáavé'nèhešemá'totse'óhééstse sáavé'nè- táaxa'e náméstónèšévémánèse
"If (Oliver) had not finished working, I wonder what would we do

hétsetseha tséstaéená'hétse, tséstásáa'évatónèšèhotse'óhéése,"
Now at our old age, now that he can't work any more?"

náohkéhešetāno.
I always think.

Héne náohke-ta'se-vé'šéhe'konene'étamenótse Ma'heo'o
That's what really makes me depend on God

héva hó'nèšenétóhnéhé'tómo Ma'heo'o hesto'emanestótse. Oha mámáhta
even if I don't live up to God's law. I just keep

náohkéhósenéhēto, "Náme'tónèšéhénehnetame, náto'sésáatónèšenéhnetaméhéhe.
telling him. I won't give up, I won't ever give up.

Náohkéhēto Ma'heo'o, "Tóséé'e néne'étamé'tovatsemeno. Tóséé'e 'héhe'e',"
I tell God, "Truly we depend on you. Truly 'yes',"

néhetatsemeno, tséhvé'héne'enomátse, tséhvé'vóo'séhaétse Ma'heo'o
we say to you, because we know, because God has showed us

tséhešehkeovóhnèhešéstomānèse, tséohkéhešeéno'eéstómánèse, tséhešeno'keá'éno
how he takes care (of us), how he heals, how he alone owns

éno'eéstomanestótse ta'se náohkeéé-hotoo-hová'éhe-ho'eohé'tóénóne naa ta'se
the power to heal. Like sometimes something comes to us and

Ma'heo'o móhketó'hanòhéhe mó-ta'se- mónáohke-ta'se-hotoo-áahtse'hótooma'óehenéhe,
it's like God stops it. Like he protects us from it,

nátanèhešéhéne'ēna.
that's how I know.

Naa éháestoha náme'tàhetóseamenéheve
And there are so many ways, I could keep saying

tséheševéstàhémaétse Ma'heo'o.
how God has helped us.

Ho'háméto tsé'tó=Teddy tséhnéehovése
Most of all, this Teddy himself

éhméhaehoháe'ásene hápó'e. Naa tséhnéehovése hápó'e étataomenéhešeho'éhóhta
used to really drink also. But he himself likewise came to

tséstane'étameotsése Ma'heóneva hó'ótóva. Étaasetanomoo'e héne.
depend on God at one time. (God) took that (drink) away from him.

Héne náohkéseevé'šepéhévetāno máto. Teddy tséhméhaevésépéhévátséstó
From that I am made very happy also. Teddy used to like

héne naa tséhnoōhto. Héne náohkévé'šepéhévetāno.
that (drink) also and (now) he left it. That makes me happy.

"Hahoo," náohkévé'šéhéto Ma'heo'o oéšeeva totāa'eva.
"Thank you," I therefore say to God every day, every night.

Náohke-ta'se-oha-ne'étamenótse ta'se oha náohkevového.
Like I just depend on him, like I just praise him.

Héva náohtsé-hápó'e-nétòhnéhe'tòhéhe náohkésáanéhešétanóhe.
Even though I don't live up to it I don't think that way.

Naa máto "Néxháóénáhtse," óhtsévéheta'évoséstse vo'éstaneo'o,
And also, "Pray!" when people tell me (that)³,

náohkeótòsétanóotse, náohkenéševetanóotse.
I really try hard, I do my best.

Hená'hanéhe Ma'heo'o tséheševéstáhémaétse. Éháestoha tséme'heše-
That is how God has helped us. There are many ways how--.

Naa oha tséstsešenenéšétse tšhe'še tséstáho've'óhtsémáhtsétse
But now the two of us have lived together this long

nóhoné'eāā'e hóhtáhna'nóhtòhe-āā'e. Ta'se Ma'heo'o mónánéhe'otséhaehenéhe.
for 58 years. Like I guess God has brought us that way.

náhnésáa'éeno'-hoto-tónetomóhtáhéhéme naa hétsetseha náéšeéna'héme
We were never sick but now we are old,

³ In other words, "when people tell me to pray".

nátaéšéháomóhtáhéme.
we are sick.

Nátanéhetaa'ó'áne.
That's all I have to say.

"Hahoo," náhéto Ma'heo'o tséstaéetšéhešemé'éstómo hé'tóhe "my testimony".
"Thank you," I tell God, that I can tell this, my testimony.