

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

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*"The gentle creatures of the earth were the first to bow down before Him. Yet since that time He has brought great men to their knees. Mighty nations have surrendered to His will. With humility, He has conquered the universe. With the humbleness of His birth, He has humbled us all. For nothing has ever shaken—or awakened—the world so much as the birth of that one little child. . . ." —Jean Andrews*

### The Real Message of Christmas

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." II Corinthians 8:9.

The coming of the Saviour—that's what the "season" is all about. How the thoughtless crowd has tinselled and glamoured the sacredness of this special time! How the simplicity, the holiness is gone, ravished by the celebrations of men! Where is the meaning? How shall we "observe" it? Let us let our minds and spirits sink into contemplation and observe with deep wonder and gratitude the miracle of our Saviour's birth . . . for it was real. There was a mother—a girl—a woman. She was human. There was her earthly, promised husband. There was romance, joy, anticipation and human emotions. Then came the unprecedented, unearthly angel visit, the unheard-of announcement. There were tears, fears, wonderments, human feelings; the embarrassing public knowledge, the ridicule and the human shame. There was also the deep spiritual awakening, the secret gladness and the humbling unworthiness of having been chosen to bear this bitter-joy, the deep pondering, the whispered prayer, the upward look and the heaved sigh. There were nine months of waiting, of blind trust, utter resignation. It was human, yet divine—the great mystery of it all!

Then came the long weary journey; strangers, crowds and noise; no room and no comfort. There was pain and the time of bringing forth—human pain, human sweat, human tears. Then—

oh, then—the cry of the tiny newborn and the unspeakable gladness and relief at the sound; the wonder of angels, a star, wise men, shepherds. Then there was childhood, teenage, young manhood. It was all marked with that mystery, that secret awareness, that divine touch—all marked with a cross.

Then came His ministry, teaching, healing, His temptations, tears, sighs, prayers, pain, loss and grief. He had His final resignation, intense suffering, deep agony and lonely death. Then, oh joy, after darkness came light! After death came life! His resurrection was triumphant and glorious! It held hope for all men!

The message is that He came! He is real. He is yet alive. He is present to bear our tears, our humanity and our pain. He knows how we feel and He has power to do something about it. He is God, yes, but He was also man. And He did it for us.

Let us view the "special day" with new awareness. Let our hearts rejoice, yet be quiet and serious. If we get involved so much with complicated activities, the precious purpose of His event will be lost. Let this be a time of enriched family devotions, of renewed love and dedication to giving. Let this be a time of patience and forgiveness, of mending breaches and severed ties, of settling hurts and grievances, of new zeal to tell the poor lost sinners about the gospel message—the message that He came. He conquered sin, relieving us of its oppressive bondage and guilt, pardoning us from its de-

structive end and giving us the cleansing power of His blood to reign above it every day of our lives. And that is the message of Christmas.

—Angela Gellenbeck

## His Name, "Jesus"

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS. . . ." Matthew 1:21.

One of the most important decisions upon the expectation of a new baby is, "What shall the name be?" When strangers meet, one of the first things that takes place is an exchange of names. Every person, place, animal and item has a name. A name identifies and marks distinction. There are many names of renown throughout history that have made impressions on us. However, there has never been or ever will be a name like the name of "Jesus." "Wherefore God . . . hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name. . . ." Phillipians 2:9.

**There is deliverance in His name.** Jesus, (which means Saviour) is "exclusive." "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

**There is power in His name.** "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do. . . ." John 14:13.

**There is protection in His name.** "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Proverbs 18:10.

**There is healing, comfort and victory in Jesus' name.**

Whatever our need is we can find it in Jesus, for His name is all-encompassing. ". . . and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6.

Surely it should make our hearts rejoice when we think of the sweetest name. "And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee." Psalm 9:10. May each of us hold His name in reverence, speak it with praise and call upon it with confidence. —Altina L. Cox

"Tis such a very little while  
We have to love each other;  
To pave the way for weary feet,  
And help a fallen brother.

Then let us every moment seek  
To cheer the broken-hearted  
Bestow on all our deeds of love  
Before they have departed.

—Selected

## In The Changing Seasons, What Do We Portray?

I want us to think of the word portray in relation to a study of nature and its comparisons to our life. Let us put the seasons of the year on a canvas and see just what we will find. Let us start in the beginning with springtime. That should bring a smile as we flash spring on the canvas of time. What would it portray? We see new life breaking out. There are flowers blooming, little leaves on the trees, and it seems at this time that everything has a fresh new start. It seems everyone feels refreshed and spirits are renewed.

Now let us look from spring to life. Remember the joy and love of a newborn baby? Everyone wants to get their turn to hold the little bundle of love. Oh, there is rejoicing over a new life born into this world. Now we turn our thoughts toward the soul of a man, woman, boy or girl that has found Jesus. All things have passed away and behold all things have become new. There is a fresh clean look on all of life—a brand new start. All of this portrays beauty doesn't it? A verse of God's Word which fits well in the beginning of life is "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." Ecclesiastes 12:1.

Now let's move into summertime. We look and see now that the leaves are full grown, the hot sun has beat upon the earth and the rains have fallen. From this we can see crops growing and fruits coming on for our good. There is no need for coats or sweaters. We are warm, happy and carefree in the summer's sun. It is also vacation time and the family has their joys together.

Now we turn our eyes to life. The little baby is now full grown and taking on the duties of life. The hot sun and rains have brought forth a strong young man or woman and others can see the fruits of their lives. They are warm in heart, for life is theirs. They are happy for there is nothing to beset them. The family is all together enjoying life.

What do we now see in the Christian life? It is growing through sun and rain. The fruits of the Spirit are showing forth for the world to see. The warmth of God's Spirit is blessing and keeping. There is great joy in being a part of God's Family, and once again the picture that is portrayed by summertime is beauty. The growth of all things has now brought forth fruit for the happiness of others; in nature, in life and in our Christian walk. A special verse to portray

summertime is, "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." Hebrews 5:14.

Yes, time makes changes, and next comes fall. Some say it is sad and lonely to think of fall, but in my eyes it has a special beauty; the cool breeze and all the different colors. It just seems as if God has spent time painting all His creation just for us to enjoy.

The young man or woman has now become much older and wiser. The battles of life have left a few wrinkles, and frost is found in the hair. Casting our eyes over to the spiritual field of life we find that the many battles have built a very strong faith in God. That alone brings a real beauty to shine into the lives of others. Do our lives still portray rich beauty in their fall season? Let us not make others feel sad or lonely as they view our life in this period of time. Here is a little nugget from God's Word for the fall. "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Psalm 37:25.

In closing out our study of nature we will take a good look at winter. Many draw back from this season, but let us keep our minds open to its real beauty. Yes, winter is very cold, the leaves and flowers are all gone and things look bare and dead. (Note that the same dead looking tree will again be beautiful in spring.) Sickness also comes with winter. Things are still and restful, just waiting to bloom again. The trees and ground is warmed with a thick blanket of snow. The icicles are hanging long and thick, and just listen, there is a lot of fun and laughter as the little ones enjoy the snow. In spite of conditions, winter has a still deep beauty all its very own.

Let's view life matched with winter. Things have slowed down. It is cold and things look dead around us. We can't be as active now. We just rest in the stillness alone with God, but many precious memories of seasons gone by keep us warm inside. The snow "on our roof" has the deep beauty of saying, "I'm older now, but much wiser." The grandchildren bring in joy and laughter as they play around our feet, reaching up for that special hug and kiss. Grandchildren are just special blessings of the years added up in our seasons of time—fruits of our life that have been canned for more use someday.

Now our final view of our spiritual end. The spiritual being has now weathered the storms of each season. Many are the precious lessons learned and some were learned the hard way. So now, in all godly wisdom, we can share the deep and rich lessons with others along the way,

adding grace and courage to the lives of others. The Christian life lived daily for many years is saying to the whole world, "Yes, we can live our whole lives for Jesus and rejoice in doing so." God's Word is proof of this. "They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing." Psalm 92:14.

May we see that throughout each changing season we can be useful and portray real beauty from our life, just as each season portrays beauty!

I would like to ask a sobering question. How does our life compare with nature's beauty? We are also part of God's great creation! Can the world really see beauty when they look at what our lives portray? The only way real beauty can be seen in us is when others can see Jesus in us—in all the seasons of our life. If He is seen in the fall of our lives when we die here, we will bloom again in heaven's forever springtime!

—Sis. Elaine Dunn

## Those Who Have Gone Astray

(Especially to the young people)

The Psalmist David once said, "I have been young, and now am old. . . ." Psalm 37:25. If time permits, this is a saying everyone will be able to say—"Once I was young, now I am old." None of us can forget our youth. We all have memories—some good and some we would like to forget.

I have seen some young people that at one time were sweetly saved. The joy of salvation was shining on their faces. They were a blessing to us older saints and how we loved them and would ask God to help them to be able to face the temptations that are in the world.

I am old enough now to see how time has made a change in those I called young people back then. Some are now in their fifties and some have gone on to their reward. Some were true to God from their youth to the end, and what joy that gives us to have good memories of their lives. Some are still pressing on and being a real light to the world. How we thank God for those that have stood true and are fighting a good fight.

However, I am thinking of some that started out, and got caught up in traps of the enemy. They got tired of crucifying self and denying the flesh. We all have to fight as long as we are in this life. Self is our number one enemy.

There are some who are now middle-aged who can say, "I once was young and remember when I enjoyed the blessings of God when I read my Bible and had my secret prayers. How

(continued on page 11)

## FAITH AND VICTORY

### 16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Maybelle Pruitt, Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660).

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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ—the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14, 15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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## EDITORIALS

We close out 1988 with this December issue, trusting that the past 12 months hold many precious memories for you, and that there is bright hope in your heart for the approaching year of 1989.

We want those who have supported this printing work throughout the year to know that we are grateful. It will take God to properly reward you. We are glad for every piece of literature that God has enabled us to print and mail, yet we feel there is much more to be done in reaching souls for Christ and trust that you share the vision with us. We would appreciate the benefits of your prayers.

We are attempting a small outreach with the subscription envelopes which are enclosed in this issue. People the world over need to come in contact with the gospel message for "it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." If you know of ten people, to whom you wish to send the paper, return the self-addressed envelope with their names and addresses. Be sure to print or write legibly as we must pay the post office for returning incorrectly addressed mail. The \$5.00 you enclose will send the *Faith and Victory* paper to the ten addresses for one year. If you would like more special subscription envelopes, write this office and we will send as many as you desire.

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We will soon begin reprinting *Evening Light* songbooks as our supply is almost completely out. We have sold over 3,000 of the songbooks in the last year and a half. We are gratified to think that the truths of God's Word are being shared in song in so many places. The reprinting and binding of the book will be quite costly. Please pray that God will meet this need.

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It was a blessing to be with the saints in Neosho, MO for several nights of meeting during the first part of November. It was rewarding to share their fellowship and to feel their determination and zeal in living for the Lord.

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My mother, Frances Murphey, and Aunt Maybelle Pruitt are spending the week of Thanksgiving in Loranger, LA. They are attending the Assembly Meeting there and Aunt Maybelle will also be able to spend Thanksgiving with her daughter-in-law, Sis. Clarice Harmon. We extend congratulations to Sis. Clarice and Bro. Gerald Harmon on their recent marriage.

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"The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was

not ashamed of my chain." II Timothy 1:16. There are several men and women in the Bible that it would be interesting to know more about. Onesiphorus is one of them. He sounds like the comfortable type of person one would be glad to know. He had a quality that, sad to say, does not seem to be too prevalent. It isn't of everyone that it can be said, "They are a refreshing person. It is good just to be with them." Cruden's concordance says that the name Onesiphorus means "profit bearing." He lived up to his name for he proved profitable to the saints of God.

If anyone has a reason to be recognized in this category, it is the children of God. Our very demeanor, manner and bearing should be like a breath of fresh air to those who come in contact with us. If the Holy Spirit is dwelling within us, this Comforter will not be hid to others, but will work through our every action by being a comfort to others.

No matter what condition of life we find ourselves in, by God's grace, we can still offer refreshment to others. History records that the hymn, "Take The Name Of Jesus With You" was written by Lydia Baxter, who, confined to her room as an invalid for many years, knew a joy and cheerfulness which was constant and contagious. This is a testimony that is worth having said about us.

The same thought can also apply to the Church as a body. At some restaurants one may see the sign posted stating, "All you can eat," and then quoting a set price. Due to the poor quality of food that is sometimes served, it almost seems that such an offer is given more in the vein of a challenge than an invitation. It is possible for a church to portray a religion that, due to the lack of the refreshing Spirit of God, has an undercurrent of "take all you can stand." The Church of God should offer a haven of refreshment that is not found anywhere else. Onesiphorus' life can be a mark for us to strive for as individuals and as a body of believers.

—Wayne Murphey

### Prayer Requests

VA—Sis. L. W. Dunman, Sr. desires prayer for herself, her husband and children.

TX—Please remember Sis. Nellie Lovell in prayer; she needs complete healing.

MO—"I need prayer for healing; also my sister."

—Sis. Anna Blanchard

NC—"I desire prayer for my body."

—Sis. Bunice Hope

OK—Word has been received that Sis. Lorene Payne has a serious health problem in which the healing power of God is needed.

There are many that need prayer which are not on this list; some who have been enduring

for some time. Though we cannot list them all, we can bring them to the Lord as an unspoken request. He sees every heart that is longing for His blessings.

In our prayers, let us remember our nation. There is a lot of evil prevalent in it. Let us not forget the Lord's request (Matthew 9:38) which includes all nations. There is much darkness that needs to be dispelled by the hope and knowledge of salvation.

—Editor

## MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

### HOLLY HILL, SC MEETING REPORT

The dear Lord really blessed our meeting at Holly Hill. Souls were blessed and inspired to come closer to God. He said in His Word, "Come unto me and I will give you rest." We are thankful for that rest.

May God continue to bless His work in the earth. Pray for us at Holly Hill.

—Bro. Utson Platt

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### OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 82nd Annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, Oklahoma, on December 23, 1988 to January 1, 1989, inclusive, during the Christmas holidays. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S.A.

The chapel is located on the corner of 6th Street and West Warner Avenue. The dining hall and dormitories are located in the same block for your convenience. All who come will be cared for. The expense of the meeting will be met by free-will offerings.

We are praying that the Lord will send spirit-filled ministers to preach the Word under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. We are in the last days and need you to come praying with a burden for God to save souls, sanctify believers and heal the sick. There are urgent needs in each of these areas.

Please send all contributions for the coming meeting directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, Rt. 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Carl Shaffer, P.O. Box 21343, Oklahoma City, OK 73156, phone, (405) 771-4522. The chapel phone is (405) 282-5499.

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### CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting will convene, Lord willing, on the campground, at

12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California, on December 23rd and continue through January 1st, 1989.

Accommodations will be provided for all who attend. If possible please bring your own bedding. The expense of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

For further information, please contact Bro. Robert Sherman, 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, CA 91331, phone (818) 896-7593, or Bro. James Pierro, 11316 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima, CA 91331, phone, (818) 896-5331.

### From the Mailbox . . .

KS—Greetings to all, at the Faith Publishing House: I thank God for our many blessings. We are having fine weather and nice rains.

How I enjoy and treasure your letters and the *Faith and Victory*. They are so precious to me.

I want to tell you, I believe the article, "Going Home," was one of the finest yet. It gave me peace and comfort and tears of joy. Several read it and thought it was great. . . .

Remember me in your prayers, please.

Love,

—C. M. Waller

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

AR—Dear Ones in the Lord: We are so thankful for a little band of true worshippers like you people.

We surely do enjoy all the good reading, all the encouragement and good thoughts we get from reading all the good literature we get from you. We know it is encouraging to so many—most of all to us older people that don't have a church near enough to attend.

May the good Lord bless and keep you encouraged.

Please remember us in your prayers,

—Alvis and Bertha Dickey

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

CA—Dear Bro. Murphey and all the workers in the Print Shop: I send greetings of Christian love in our dear Saviour's name.

Today is more like summer than the last month of fall.

My vision is very poor and it is hard for me to see how to write. Please pray for me that I will not lose my vision as I will not be able to read or write. I do love to read God's Word and other good literature.

Our dear Sister Amelia Smith is still a bed patient, but trusting God for her healing. Please pray for her, too.

With Christian love, —Sis. Agnes Huskey

LA—Dear Saints of God: Greetings of love in Jesus Christ.

The Lord has been so good to us here and I trust He has been good to you all. There are no better people in the world than the Church of God people. We want you all to pray for us and we are praying for you all.

Yours in Christ,

—N. P. Futch and family

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

AR—Dear Brother Wayne, family and others there: "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits. . . ." These benefits are so precious and valuable to us.

I love His truth and the wonderful family of God. It all becomes dearer and dearer. I do trust all are doing real good.

Most of us here are okay. Sister Harmon needs prayer and also Sis. Ethel Worrall's grandson isn't doing well. He had two surgeries for brain tumors and needs much prayer; so does Sis. Ethel. How she holds out is only the mercy of the Lord.

I truly enjoy the *Faith and Victory*. It seems so interesting.

We appreciate you dear ones. I know your work isn't all that easy, and you have sacrifices to make, but aren't we happy we have a great and mighty God that nothing is too hard for?

My desire is to walk with Him and be a light to anyone in need. If I can only show others the way to heaven, then my efforts won't be in vain. . . .

Love,

—Sis. Lou Bray

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IA—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. It has turned a little colder this morning. It has been nice.

Charles and I both need prayer. He is having stomach trouble and I have what seems to be a cold in my throat. I know the dear Lord is able to touch and heal us.

Christian love,

—Bro. Charles and Sis. Dorothy Mason

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CA—Dear Ones at the Print Shop: This is a rainy, cloudy morning, but I have really been thanking the Lord for the nice rain He has been sending us for ten days now, here in northern California. It was our first rain for so many months and we needed it so bad.

I am much encouraged to live for the Lord. As we see the things of this world getting worse, it is so wonderful to just be able to draw closer to God and have His love, peace and joy within us.

I am praying for all of His children everywhere. The devil is surely working hard to deceive God's true children. I surely mean to make heaven my home when I leave this world. . . .

May God bless and keep each of you in His care,  
—Sis. Hazel Savage

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MS—Dear workers there at the Print Shop and saints everywhere: Greetings in Jesus' sweet name. I am praising our dear Lord for His blessings to me. I still live alone. I will soon be 81 years old. I am not well, but happy in the Lord. Praise His name. I was saved when I was eighteen. Now I am ripening for heaven.

I pray a lot. I am so burdened for the unsaved. Sometimes I cry when I think about my loved ones and others who are not saved. So many are deceived. "If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

Pray for me, my unsaved loved ones, and friends. Also, I have a special unspoken request that I am so burdened about. I will be praying for you all.

Christian love, —Novella Pugh

—————o—————

### Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

VA—Dear Brethren: I send greetings of love in the name of our precious Lord and Saviour.

It has been awhile since I have written to you. I feel that the Lord would have me to take time from my busy schedule and testify of His goodness to me.

For the past 10 months I have been in a hard trial. I nearly had a nervous breakdown. The Lord has allowed me to pass through this valley of testing and trial, but has been faithful to supply all the needed grace. There were times when I felt like I would go under, but then I felt the grace of God holding me up. When I felt like I could not go on, the Lord carried me. He truly is a present help in every time of need. My faith and determination to live for the Lord was greatly tested, but our God is giving the victory. I am doing much better, but still have some problems. Only the Lord could have brought me through the valley I passed through. I love God with all my heart. . . .

Christian love, —Sis. Nancy Wagoner

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IL—Dear Ones at the Print Shop: Greetings again to you, and may the blessings of the Lord be upon you. We appreciate your dedicated service and I'm sure the Lord takes note.

The Lord has been our "present help" during our time of distress. After about 9 weeks Andrew began to mend and is improving without much discomfort. We appreciate the many who prayed with us.

Christian regards,

—Andrew and Thelma Reineking

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OK—Dear Saints: The Lord has been so gracious to us in so many ways that we wish to express it in a testimony to His glory.

October 10th started as any other school day at our Church school in Oklahoma City. It was a holiday for the postal workers, therefore Bro. Johnny Williams was spending the day at the school. Being a Monday, which is our fast day, Sis. Patsy Cain and I were fasting, and little did we know how we would need the Lord that day!

During the morning break, little Sarah Wisner fell and hurt herself. She was crying, so I went to her and had prayer for her injury and she stopped crying during prayer. Sarah has a real love for the Lord and even though she is only seven, she loves to call songs in our regular services. One of her favorite songs is, "Jesus Is Good To Me." When I finished praying, I sang the first verse of that song to her. "Jesus has been so good to me, No other friend so kind could be; Safely keeps me every day, Free from sin and in the way. Ne'er can I such love repay, He's so good to me." I told her that Sis. Patsy and I were her friends, but we couldn't do for her what Jesus could. Two hours later this fact was a reality.

The students were eating lunch when one student accidentally spilled boiling water down Sarah's right arm and that side of her back. By the time we got to her she was shaking all over and quietly crying. We didn't realize how bad it was, but upon examination we saw it was a severe burn. Bro. Johnny anointed her and we had prayer for her, then Bro. Johnny went into the chapel to pray. Sis. Patsy and I were trying to keep cool water on the burn and call on the Lord at the same time. In a very few minutes Sarah stopped shaking and crying, and said, "It doesn't hurt anymore." Praise God! We fed her the remainder of her lunch and Sis. Patsy took her home. The wound was healed completely in less than ten days.

I want to say for myself that it was a wonderful experience to witness how quickly the Lord touched Sarah. I, and no doubt many of you, have had small burns of a much lesser degree and it would hurt for hours. How precious is God's mercy! I feel this description is feeble compared to the actual incident.



The following is Sis. Velda Wisner's testimony of what happened after Sarah got home.

—Sis. Maxine Busbee

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OK—Dear Saints: I would like to tell how the Lord blessed and worked in our behalf when my daughter (Sarah) got home from school. It had been approximately one hour since the accident happened and she was not in any pain. The wound was raw so I broke open an aloe vera leaf and spread the gel over the burn. She had little discomfort even from this.

I then tried to get her to lie down and take a nap, but she was full of "talk." She told nearly every detail and also expressed concern for the one who had caused the accident. She didn't want her to feel badly.

The wound looked real bad. One of the saints came to help me clean and dress it. On Wednesday morning when I removed the bandage from Sarah's arm it had developed some infection. The Lord gave Sarah and me this verse of song: "When you have done your best, let Jesus do the rest." It was a witness that the Lord was going to heal and take care of the infection. I had confidence when the bandage was changed in the evening the wound would be clear of infection, and it was! Praise God! I was so happy I called during prayer meeting to share the victory. The burn continued to improve from that day on. Sarah returned to school on Tuesday, the following week. Oh! how we thank God for all He has done.

I want to thank all the saints for their prayers during this time.

Christian love,

—Sis. Velda Wisner

—————o—————

## FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From India . . .

Oct. 24—Our dear Brother Wayne Murphey, Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, and each dear one scattered abroad in America: Our loving greetings to you all in the glorious name of Jesus.

We don't have much rain now and the weather is very clear. The Church activities are fine. During the second week of October I visited all our congregations in north Kerala and preached in the meetings there. I am quite satisfied with the progress of these congregations. Yesterday we conducted a street meeting at Phappally. A good crowd heard the Word of God and the response was good.

Lord willing, our 24th general convention will be held at Karikkom, Bethel ground, on the 18th of January and continue for five days. I

invite the saints in America to attend our convention for our encouragement. We will have local conventions also. Again your prayers are requested for the support of the ministers in India.

With love and prayers,

—John Varghese

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From Mexico . . .

Nov. 12—I salute you all in the holy and precious name of our loving Saviour. I trust that this finds you in good health and giving honor and glory to God for it.

Brethren, I write this letter with much courage and comfort in the Spirit. It is wonderful what the Lord has done in the work here. He is good to us in all things. Daily we feel that He is interested in us, His children, and that we know His blessings and will not turn again unto sin. He only wants us to do our part and everything else He will do. How precious it is. He knows no defeat, only triumph.

The brethren here are much encouraged in serving the Lord. The work is growing and we ask God to guide us. I am feeling a call to visit all those that have been with the truth before. Pray that the Lord will bless in everything and that all will be done in His will.

Pray for a son of Brother Fernandez who was in the hospital unconscious for 5 days after having 40 seizures. We went to the hospital to pray for him and this last Sunday he came to church glorifying God. He still has some problems for which we ask the saints to pray.

I am also visiting the jail. One young man from southern Mexico is there serving time for something he didn't do. His mother has come here to be close to her son. She is in the congregation with us and she is very poor. Please pray for them.

There are many things that the Lord is doing here in our growing congregation. I wish for your prayers that the Lord will use me to be a blessing to all. I always remember all of you in my prayers.

Your brother in Christ,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

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From the Philippines . . .

Oct. 24—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and Sis. Maybelle Pruitt: Greetings of Christian love in the name of Jesus, our Lord. I thank our Lord for keeping us healthy, spiritually and physically.

As to my work to the Lord, I am doing fine. Even into October it is still raining, but I



still go out for my gospel work. I know very much that the Lord is always with me. I visit our sisters and brothers in the remote barrios to strengthen their hearts and minds. I am praying hard that the words of God might be spread all over the world. . . .

Your brother, —Nonilon Capuyan

## *In Memoriam*

**Murray Don Williamson**, was born to Ruby Doolittle and Merrill Williamson on January 7, 1945 in Loranger, LA and passed from this life on November 7, 1988 at the age of 43 years and 10 months. His father, Bro. Merrill, was a minister of the Church of God; his paternal grandfather, Bro. Oscar Williamson, a spiritual leader and pillar in the Oak Grove Church of God of Loranger, LA; and his great-grandfather, F. M. Williamson, a pioneer minister of the Church of God. His maternal grandfather, Bro. Francis Doolittle, was also a minister of the Church of God. Bro. Don, coming to a knowledge of Christ as his own personal Saviour at a very young age, followed in their footsteps and maintained a strong and conscientious steadfast faith all his life, and died a victorious death leaving behind a testimony of having fought a good fight and having kept the faith.

Bro. Don was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents, also by his first wife, Juanita Sallee to whom he was married on October 1, 1967. To them was born one son, Keith, who lives in the Williamson home. On March 1, 1975, he was married to Anneta Luehring, of Oregon, and to them were born three children, Cynthia, Todd and Loren.

Bro. Don, Sis. Anneta and children lived in the Jefferson, Oregon area for several years, having moved there from Jena, LA where they had lived for awhile. They moved back to Louisiana and settled in the Loranger community so as to be in the Oak Grove Church of God congregation and have their children in the Church school. He brought his family back where he was born and so completed the circle of his life. He made a statement that he hoped this would be his last move on earth, and that when he moved again he hoped that it would be to glory.

He died in his home, where he had been confined for the past few months due to illness, and leaves behind his wife and children who miss him greatly, and a large number of relatives, saints and friends who miss him also.

Funeral arrangements were handled by the Geisler Funeral Home of Hammond, LA. The services were held in the Oak Grove Church of God chapel, with burial in the cemetery next to the chapel. Services were conducted by Brothers Charles Smith, Ed Wilson and Bob Forbes.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

**Roy "Bob" Johnson** was born January 18, 1917 to Ida B. and Jenkin Johnson in Boley, OK. He was a loving cheerful child. He attended Rosenwald and Boley High School. Bob worked as a construction worker and a farmer.

Bob was a kind person, always ready to help whomever he could. He was never married, however he was a loving father figure to all his brothers and sisters as well as to the nieces and nephews.

As a youth Bob became a member of the New Hope Baptist Church where he and his family attended services for many years. In 1942 several of the family members took their stand with the Church of God in Boley with Bro. Moses Phillips as their pastor. Although Bob made no profession of salvation, he attended services there with his family.

On September 11, 1988, while in the hospital, Bob told a relative that he had been looking for Sis. Katherine Williams, the pastor of the Boley congregation. Neither of them knew that at that time Sis. Katherine was preparing to visit Bob.

As the wise man built his house upon the rock, so did Bob. Shortly after the minister arrived, Bob surrendered to God and was saved. Bob was a witness for Christ while hospitalized. On October 3, 1988, Bob remarked to his brother, Milton, "It's time to move up higher." October 6, 1988 at approximately 9:00 p.m., Bob was blessed to move up higher.

Cherishing his memory are his sister and her husband, Ida Lucille and Felix Francisco; one brother of the home, Willie Johnson; six other brothers and their wives, Menser and Gladys Johnson, Boley, OK, Leo and Lucille Johnson, Muskogee, OK, A. C. and Betty J. Johnson, Oklahoma City, OK, Milton and Johnnye Lee Johnson, Jones, OK, Mansfield and Rachel Johnson, Oakland, CA, Jewel and Odessa Johnson, Oakland, CA; one uncle, Israel Johnson, Bakersfield, CA, and a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

### APPRECIATION

The family of Brother Johnson is thankful to each of you for all your expressions of kindness shown to our loved one and us during his illness. We also acknowledge with gratitude all your expressions of sympathy during these hours of sorrow. May God bless you all.

## Question and Answer Column

by  
Ostis B. Wilson

**Question:** Please comment on Matthew 5:47.

**Answer:** Matthew 5:47 reads thus: "And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so?" Now let us break this verse up a little. The first phrase is "if ye salute your brethren only." The 20th Century New Testament says "if ye show courtesy to your brethren only." Goodspeed's translation says "and if you are polite to your brothers and no one else." Phillip's translation says "and if you exchange greetings only with your own circle." All of these together—"salute," "show courtesy," "you are polite," "exchange greetings"—cover the whole scope of our general association with our fellows. Adam Clarke comments at this place that "brethren in this text could be properly rendered "friends." Then the whole scope of our association and attitude with our immediate circle of friends is comprehended here and it is altogether congenial

The second phrase is, "What do ye more than others?" Rotheram's translation renders this "What more than common are you doing?" Waymouth's translation says "Are you doing anything remarkable?" Olaf Norlie's translation says, "Does that give you any special distinction?"

The last phrase says, "Do not even the publicans so?" Rotheram's translation uses the term "the nations" instead of "the publicans." The James Moffatt translation says, "Do not the very pagans do as much?" The Centenary translation by Helen Montgomery says, "Even the Gentiles do that, do they not?" Beck's translation inserts "the people of the world" in place of "the publicans."

This seems to me to cover the whole scope of the direct meaning of this text. If we are courteous, polite, exchange greetings, and are congenial and friendly with our friends and brethren only, that in no way distinguishes us from the worldly crowd, because they all do the same. Matthew 5:47 is in a context with a number of verses which begin with verse 43 and continue through verse 48. So let us backtrack a little and consider the whole context and see how verse 47 fits in with the overall discussion of these verses.

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate

you, and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? **and if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?** Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:43-48.

In these verses is described the attitude of God, our heavenly Father, and His generous mercies toward all mankind, both the good and the evil, and how He gives rain and causes the sun to shine on all of them alike. Paul referred to this same disposition of the living God (Acts 14:15) when speaking to the heathens at Lystra in Acts 14:17 where he said that "He did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." This, then, is the attitude and disposition of God toward humankind—generous and merciful. He has certain mercies that He dispenses to both the good and the evil. Of course, we understand that He has a special package of mercies which He reserves for His own (the righteous children of God). He enjoins upon us, His children, to be the same. In Galatians 6:10 we read, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." The law standard said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemy." However, Jesus came to offer the sacrifice of Himself for sin and to save us from our sins and establish the New Covenant with mankind that demanded a much higher standard of life than the law of Moses afforded. Jesus requires that we love our enemies, bless them that curse us, do good to them that hate us, and pray for those who despitefully use us and persecute us. (Matthew 5:44). He said we would have to be like this in order to be the children of our Father in heaven (verse 45). The salvation which Jesus established and provided is to make us partakers of the divine nature of God (II Peter 1:4) which makes us a partaker of the attitude and disposition toward humankind as is described to us in this group of verses (Matthew 5:43-48). Verse 47 has its setting in this context and teaches us that we must have a generous, kind, benevolent, considerate and courteous attitude and disposition toward all humankind, friend or foe. It forever obliterates clannishness from the hearts and lives of the children of God. To be perfect before God, we must be like this.

The exact same thing is taught in the group

of verses immediately preceding this group of verses we have just been studying (Matthew 5:39-42) where it says, "But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever will compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away."

Now let us realize that all Scripture must be interpreted in its proper context. Therefore, the last verse of this group of verses (verse 42) which says, "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away," must be interpreted in context with the entire group of verses with which it is connected. These verses (38-41) teach us what attitude we should have toward our adversaries of whatever dimension they are and how we should respond to those who would oppress us, treat us unjustly and persecute us. We should go all out, even beyond reasonable and required bounds, to give satisfaction to the claims of anyone with whom we become involved. Then the general thought concludes with this 42nd verse which says, "Give to him that asketh thee, etc." In other words; if one of your adversaries—one who has smitten you on your cheek, sued you in the court and gained a judgment against you (justly or unjustly) or has taken undue advantage of you and compelled you to do something he had no right to require of you—needs help and comes to you and asks a gift or help or asks you to loan him something to enable him to meet an emergency, grant him the favor just as you would a friend. Never refuse him a favor just because he has mistreated you. This is exactly the same truth that is taught in Matthew 5:47 and its related verses. God is looking for people who can meet their problems in a different way than the man of the world meets his.

## Those Who Have Gone Astray

(continued from page 3)

I loved to go to Sunday school and hear my teacher instruct us in the Word and hear the minister preach the Word of God anointed by the Holy Spirit. I remember the Wednesday night meetings when I heard the good testimonies of both the old and the young saints. I remember how it blessed my soul when the Lord gave me a testimony, too." Then they can remember when they began to lose interest in going to meetings, how they lost interest in reading and praying and began to not enjoy the

company of other saved young people. They can remember when they missed services and went out with a different group and how that although their ways at first were strange and left them feeling empty and crushed, yet the flesh persuaded them to try it again. Little by little, and step by step, they found themselves enjoying the pleasures of sin. Now they are doing things they thought they would never do. Someone offered them a cigarette and to be with the bunch they smoked it and now find themselves a slave to it. The same thing happened with alcoholic drinks or drugs. Now with mind and body a wreck they can say, "Oh, I once was young and happy, but look at me now; sad memories.

Many young men have become thieves and robbers. Some are in prison. Some have raped and some have murdered. There is no end to sin.

Some young girls thought that "it could never happen to them." They can remember their first date with an unsaved boy. Nothing happened at first. He respected her modest life, but not for long. He began to impose on her rights more and more—first a kiss, then a little petting and at last her modesty was broken down to the point that she lost her virtue. Oh, the remorse she suffered. Her virtue was gone. Her self-respect was gone. She thought the worst wouldn't happen, but it did, and then there is a little innocent baby to consider. There is the temptation to abort the baby. Think of the awful remorse through the years from murdering your baby. In the dark hours of the night she begins to think, "I once was young and my life was beautiful. But what have I done? What can I do?"

Many young men take a wife and vow to love her and be true to her until death. But then sin takes occasion and he falls to lusting after other women, leaves his wife and children broken-hearted, and lives in adultery. No doubt the Spirit of God reminds them of the times they enjoyed with their wife and children and had a happy life. Oh, the shame and reproach they feel today. Likewise, many young women forsake their marriage vows to pursue a life of adultery. They feel they can never turn their steps back and make amends for their ways. Friends, there is hope in Jesus.

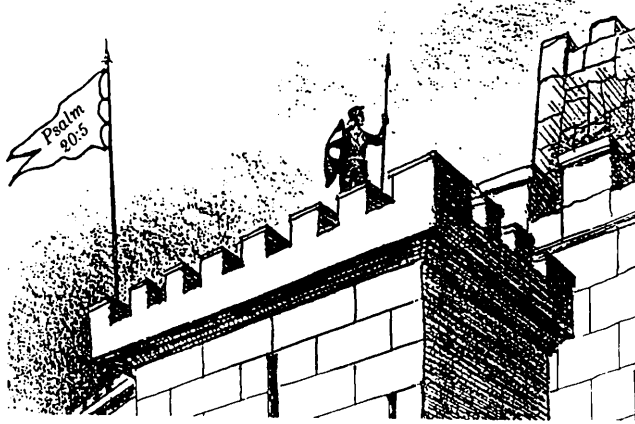
Let me invite every person that has loved the Lord at one time and has now gone astray to come to Jesus. He will save you. We are praying for you to return. You will find the children of God so happy to receive you again. Come, there is peace for you.

From one who cares,

—Sis. Margaret Eck

## The Watchman On The Wall

By Wayne Murphey



### Part 5

The next morning it seemed that the sun was unusually bright. Redeemed had much trouble focusing on the plains and wondered if something was wrong with his eyes. He would really rather be watching Persecuted's house anyway, so the day was spent with his back to the wall, his eyes on Persecuted's house and his mind on the troubles of the city.

Desire became a regular visitor to Redeemed's house, and much time was spent in discussing Persecuted: the influence that his unkept house was having on the morale of the city and what could be done about it.

Since the night of Desire's first visit when Redeemed had spoken unkindly to Conscience, she had been very quiet and had little to say about what was taking place. In one way this brought peace to Redeemed and yet in his heart he knew it was not peace, but silence.

Redeemed realized that he was not as happy as he used to be. His interest in watching for the enemy was nearly gone and he was constantly in a turmoil over what could be done about the problems of the city. He didn't feel as innocent as before and the pleasure that he once had in thinking about the Commander had diminished. However, he decided that perhaps this misery was just a disadvantage of his job and he would have to bear all this for the common benefit of the city.

After many days of dwelling upon his troubles, Redeemed felt he could contain them no longer. One morning, after the pre-watch meeting when everyone else had gone on to their post of duty, Redeemed sidled over to the Commander and inquired, "Commander, why is it that Persecuted has the west wall all the time and I have to face the sun on the east wall?"

The Commander gazed at Redeemed with a look of sadness in His eyes and replied, "Redeemed, why do you question and concern your-

self with what your fellowservant is doing. Just follow my commands for you. Have you not considered that Persecuted must face the sun in the west when it goes down?" Redeemed really hadn't thought of that and he wondered why Desire had failed to mention it, but still he was not satisfied.

Then came the night when a third visitor was introduced into Redeemed's life. Desire appeared and with him a companion whom he introduced as Aversion. From what Redeemed could determine he thought that Aversion looked like he was kin to Desire. Well he might have thought this, for Envy and Hate are not very distant in relationship.

As time progressed Aversion and Redeemed had some heart-to-heart talks. The day came when Redeemed had very little use for Persecuted. It seemed that something rankled inside of him every time he saw Persecuted, his family, his house or anything belonging to him. If Redeemed had consulted the Commander, he would have been informed that his rankling was caused by a canker in his breast. Sad to say, Redeemed did not spend much time anymore talking with the Commander, unless he was trying to ferret out information that he could use against Persecuted.

Redeemed's mind was often focused on Persecuted rather than the Commander at the pre-watch meetings. However, one morning something that the Commander said caught his attention. This is the exhortation that the Commander gave: "Men, in order to be good soldiers, you must be calm in the midst of the battle and have confidence in my leadership. One time I had a soldier who when just a boy, killed a bear and a lion. That was quite a feat for such a youth but it was a type of training and preparation that I was putting him through.

"Then one day a real test came. An enemy soldier who was a towering giant challenged my soldiers. All of my troops cowered back except this youth. He felt confident that my Spirit would be with him and that he would be victorious. As my soldier walked forth to the battlefield, the enemy made many abusive comments and mockingly described the harm he purposed to do. Neither was it idle boasting, for the giant was very capable of accomplishing everything he said. My soldier replied, 'Let all know that the true Commander does not save by the sword and spear: for the battle is His and He will give you into my hands.' This knowledge is what sustained him in the conflict. He knew that with my training and help he was ably prepared and he went forth in confidence and killed the enemy soldier. (Redeemed wondered at the Commander's purpose in telling this. It surely must be for Persecuted's benefit, he thought. Persecuted

doesn't seem to possess much courage. He would probably defect to the enemy at the first sign of battle.)

"This is a battle that all of you have enlisted in," said the Commander, "but remember, you are not in this battle just for the sake of fighting. If you are, you might as well return to your homes. You are in this battle because you have a cause at heart; you seek a good retirement and wish to see righteousness prevail here and now. It is not hard for me to tell which of you have joined just for the fight, because you are constantly at odds with someone else. I will not have anyone in my army who is a free lance fighter. You are not fighting your own little battle but we are all in this together. I will not keep anyone in my employ who is fighting for the approval of men. These kind of people will fight for the enemy if they think it will bring the most praise.

"Above all, watch, stand fast in your confidence and belief in me, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with love. Now go out and face the day at your post of duty with calmness. Don't let the drudgery of the daily watch deceive you, for the enemy is there and we must be alert."

(To be continued in next issue)

### God's Will

It is God's will that all men walk holy before Him, and keep His commandments. II Peter 3:9 tells us He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. If we repent of our sins, give our hearts to Him, and let His will be done in our lives, He will lead us all the way to heaven.

"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication." I Thessalonians 4:3. We must be pure and clean in order to please God. "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord, is." Ephesians 5:17. We should not render excuses to God, but we should study to know and understand what He wants us to do, and do it willingly.

It is very precious to our souls when we forget our own will, and strive to please God by doing His will. Sometimes it may seem easier to do our will, but may we always keep in mind how necessary it is to stay in the will of God. David said in Psalms 40:8, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." It is much easier to obey God and keep His commandments when they are within our hearts. If we love the Lord, let us obey Him in everything we do.

—Sis. Cynthia Lennon

### HOME LIFE



### Through Thick or Thin

We have record of a man who lost everything that he had: 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 donkeys, servants, three daughters and seven sons. Besides, this man was afflicted with boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. Yes, we are talking about Job. In Job 2:9, we read what Job's wife said to him: "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God and die." Job told her that she spoke foolishly. At any rate, Job's wife was angry about the disasters which came their way and we have no more record of her in the Bible or in any reference books. She may have left him or died.

Suppose Job and his wife were living in our day and time. Would they be one among the hundreds in the divorce statistics we see in the newspapers? Much less financial stress has happened to some couples who end their marriage with divorce. It is only in fairy tales where a rich, handsome prince marries a wealthy, beautiful lady, but sincere, God-ordained marriages can last "happily ever after." The price of such a marriage is more than rubies or precious jewels, pure gold or tried silver.

My husband and I have not been married as long as some, but really a couple doesn't have to be married very long before they start feeling the pinch of meeting bills. Therefore, I would like to share with you a story and a saying we have in our household that reminds us of our first year of marriage.

My husband carried his new bride away to a beautiful 200 acre farm in the heart of the rolling Ozark Hills. On the farm, there were a couple of tall, stately barns, several big shade trees and under one hung a tire swing. There were other buildings and plenty of woven and barbed wire fencing. In the hollow of three hills

was a blue pond and to the east of it ran a clear stream over a smooth rocky bed. The two-story house was constructed of white and yellow hewn stone and in pictures it looked like a mini castle. This was the picture and description I gave my friends.

However, there were many untold flaws in this perfect setting. We were married in October and before Thanksgiving the well water was too low for the pump and the propane tank went empty. We didn't have any water nor any heat nor did we have the money that it would take to lengthen the well pipes and to refill the propane tank. That meant that we pumped all water from a small hand pump in the yard and we kept warm before the open fireplace in the living room.

Twice a day we pumped water for 100 odd head of hogs and feeder pigs. By staying up nights with mother sows and attending newborn baby pigs, we were able to keep a high pig average and eventually met our debts. The hogs did take their greedy share of income for feed and we were often looking at the empty bottom of the barrel.

One particular week we were really struggling. I hadn't gone to the grocery store because I wasn't feeling too well and because we really didn't have the money to spend. After Dwane went to do the chores, I went to look in the freezer and all the meat we had left was an opossum that Dwane and the boys had caught with their coon dogs. I set it out to thaw. I had never fixed 'possum before, but I was going to try. First, I boiled the meat, draining off the grease as much as possible. Then I took the meat off the bones and baked it in barbeque sauce. It took me all day to fix that 'possum so that by supper time I was sick of the smell and looks of it.

When Dwane came in for supper, I served him barbequed 'possum on bread. He ate two helpings and since I was still looking at it, I gave him mine also. I didn't bother to tell him what it was—he was enjoying it so much.

The next morning, Mother called to see how we were. I mentioned to her that I had fixed 'possum for supper the night before. Dwane heard me say that and he zipped right out to the freezer to check on the 'possum. Sure enough, he saw that it was gone! He had thought he was eating barbequed beef!

A few years later and five children down the line, we still find ourselves sometimes "looking at the empty bottom of the barrel." Then one of us will say to the other, "It's time for 'possum!"

We live in town now, but bills come to a town address as well as to a rural route number.

Debts and obligations are a monotonous humdrum and then there are financial blows that really shake us up. If a couple treasures financial gain more than married happiness, then financial blows may be fatal to that marriage. It doesn't have to be.

When any problems arise, together kneel at the feet of Jesus and together pour out the burdens to Him. He may say to wait, or He may say to move forward, but one thing is certain, He cares and all His promises are true. Our Lord can work where no one else can and He can still perform financial miracles. Also, there is a sweetness in contentment (Philippians 4:11, 12).

On our wedding day when the bells were ringing, we made a precious vow to each other before God and witnesses. We promised to stay together "... for richer, for poorer ... for better, for worse ... in sickness, in health ... until death do us part." Our marriage is a jewel too costly to lose—whether it is time for steak or 'possum.

—Connie Sorrell

## A Life Long Honeymoon

The Bible commands, "Husbands, love your wives" (Ephesians 5:25), and of the woman it declares, "Teach the young women to love their husbands." (Titus 2:4). Whenever the Lord commands, He delegates strength to perform, and I am a firm believer that the warm, tender love young people have for each other can be maintained and thoroughly enjoyed all through life. If the same method employed before marriage to gain respect, confidence and love were employed afterwards, the divorce mills would soon cease to grind.

When first married the young man perhaps thinks that he has married an angel, but by the time the honeymoon trip is over, he has discovered he has married a woman with flesh and blood, with likes and dislikes; and he comes to the conclusion that what is needed now, besides love, is its auxiliaries—food, clothes, and a shouldering of responsibilities scarcely dreamed of before. Now begins what we might call a time of adjustments, which includes learning each other's ways, temperaments, and in fact the real testing of our powers of forbearance, patience, and true manhood or womanhood.

### Elevation Of The Married Relation

Preparedness is a great word today in political circles, and it also has its place in the marriage relation. Until we understand and recognize the sanctity of the marriage vow, rocks will

still be ahead of the home, and also ahead of the ship of state. The reformers were justified, no doubt, in dropping marriage from the category of sacraments as preached by the Roman Church, but we should cease not to believe in the sacred character of marriage, for we cannot have too high an ideal of this relationship. The permanency of the nation does not rest altogether upon preparedness of great battleships, and standing armies, but in preparedness in keeping the home pure, for upon it the nation stands or falls.

A high ideal of marriage is a mighty incentive to purity of heart. In anticipation of a pure marriage, every step toward it should be in the path of pure mindedness. In entering into the holy covenant, the affections should be thoroughly tested. Something is needed more than a passing fancy, more than merely admiration of a beautiful person; a deep regard for true character and heart purity is essential.

Such thought as: "I may not have another chance"; "I am growing old and had better accept this one; it may be now or never," etc., should not be entertained. Most people desire marriage, and although such thoughts as these may seem to be heaven-born and beckoning to a happy life, yet they are more liable to be misguided desires for companionship. Home where love reigns is the vestibule to heaven; without it, the vestibule to hell. The relation between parent and child is holy and sacred, all will admit. Then the change warranted by marriage should be no less holy and sacred. Paul said, "Marriage is honorable," and it must be held sacred.

### CONDITIONS OF TRUE LOVE

One of the conditions of a pure marriage and holy love is a lofty ideal in character. That is one of the qualities a woman is entitled to find in the man to whom she gives herself to be a life companion, because it is the pivot on which all things humanly desirable are balanced. Marriage is a failure when manhood is a failure. A home that is builded on the concrete foundation of a Christlike character will never collapse so long as it remains on that foundation. A woman joyfully anticipates being her beloved companion's helpmeet, but she recoils at the thought of a life of slavery.

The husband is entitled to find in the one whom he offers to protect and defend through life a virtuous character. He is right in looking to her for sympathy and affection. About the worst thing that can be said about a wife is that her affections are unsteady and that she has little sympathy. A man is exhorted to love his wife "as Christ loved the church," and surely there was a holy sacred love and sympathy

between Christ and his bride. Love towards the wife and reverence towards the husband is the basis of sacred sympathy and confidence. When the husband looks upon his wife as his property, and takes no interest in the things that interest her, she will fade and grow cold. When the wife locks herself in her room, does not interest herself in what interests her husband, he will, or may, carry himself and his interests elsewhere, and go to the place where she least desires to have him go.

If single persons would go slow and study carefully their own thoughts, if they would ask themselves the questions, "Why am I getting married? What have I uppermost in my mind? Am I ready to govern myself and to enter into that relation like a man?" there would be less trouble. If the penalties of God are graded, then I pity the viper who, impelled by lust and honey-combed disease, with the pretense of virtue seduces a pure girl to become his harlot and slave by a man-made marriage law. If vengeance is also graded, woe to be the one who with glittering eye and deceptive pretext, crawls into the home and fascinates a cherished wife or husband to the ruin of pure affection. The lightning of God's wrath will flash through his or her heart forever, for the reproach will not be wholly wiped away. And still more wretched will be the condition of the man who leaves a loving, confiding wife, betrays her trust and love, proves false to his marriage vow, and revels in the things that destroy character, love and home.

—J. Grant Anderson

### Have You Considered Your Cross?

Today we are living in a comfortable, modern and at-ease age. There is a greater current working against anything that is righteous, upward or Christ-centered. The flesh wishes to be in a relaxed state.

Jesus, our Saviour, bore His cross; so must we. There are different areas of our cross. First, we must **accept** our cross. To accept is to take or receive with approval. In Matthew 10:38 we read, "And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me." Imagine Christ standing before you handing you a cross. It may be a different size than someone elses. We all have a cross—our own individual cross! If someone gives us something and we accept it, we must take it into our hands to receive it.

Second, we need to **carry** our cross. To carry means to support, bear, to reach a distance. Christ carried His cross. It was a heavy load and though He was tired, He carried it.



Third, we need to endure our cross. To endure means to continue unchanged, to bear, as pain or suffering, persevere. There is no way for us to get around enduring the cross. If we try to avoid going through something hard, God will send it another way. In Hebrews 12:2 we read, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Take note of a verse of the song, "Bearing The Cross,"

"Must Jesus bear the cross and let us go free  
Until the evening sun goes down?  
No there's a cross for you and there's one for me,  
Bearing a cross to wear a crown."

Fourth, we must love or take pleasure in our cross. To take pleasure means to have agreeable emotions, delight, enjoyment. Paul in following after Christ's sufferings learned to take pleasure in his cross. In II Corinthians 12:10 we read, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." Christ went all the way through with His cross. He could have called heaven's angels, but He took pleasure in doing God's will. Do you take pleasure in doing the will of God?

Life is not spent on flowery beds of ease. We must press to gain a crown in glory. God will disturb our comforts; He will trouble our waters. Let us end with the Scripture in I Peter 2:21. "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."

—Maxine Browne

A man applied to a banker for a job. He told the banker he was ready to do anything to make an honest living. The banker said, "You take that pile of stones that you see at the end of the lot and carry them over to the other side and pile them up in the same manner." The man did his job and received his pay. The next morning he appeared and was sent by his strange employer to replace the pile of stones, and when he finished, he was given his pay. The laborer worked for a week without murmuring, complaining, or asking any questions, carrying the stones from place to place. On Saturday night the eccentric banker said to him, "I like you; there is no nonsense about you; you do what you are told to do. Many men would have objected to doing the work over and over. You shall have work as long as I have anything for anybody to do." The Lord wants such servants. Implicit obedience is required of every soldier of the cross. Instant obedience without murmuring, on the battlefield, or wherever it is manifested, will bring great rewards.

—Sister A. Marie Miles



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"The heart is the most important thing about our body, both physically and spiritually. Our spiritual heart determines our destiny. In what condition is your heart or soul today? It will pay you to go to the Word of God and have a thorough examination. You may have a heart condition (spiritually) and not know it. Go to the great Physician, take His counsel and advice. His X-ray (the Word and Spirit) will make no mistakes. Obey His commands and you will have a healthy heart, one that will stand the judgment shock. Dear reader, it will take this to make it into heaven."

—Ruby E. Stover

"Christ died not because He was old, sick, or tired of the world, but having seen the great gap that existed between us and God, He offered to give up His life to be that only bridge linking us and God. What have you done to merit this great love?"

—Bro. B. U. Etuk

"I just arrived home from Mexicali, Mexico where the Lord wonderfully blessed in a service and contacts with many people along the way. It is truly glorious to have such a wonderful message to give out to a needy, lost world. We have the best thing this side of heaven and all need to hear it; all need to receive it. One poet said, 'I'll sing it, I'll shout it wherever I go. I want all to hear it, I want all to know.' Dear ones, that is the desire of my heart and life—to point the lost to Christ, the Lamb of God."

—Bro. Harland Smith