

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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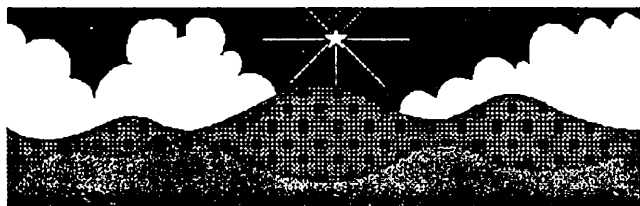
Guthrie, Oklahoma

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Dec., 1993

Stars

By Connie Sorrell



Like twinkling diamonds set in blue velvet, the stars spread above Abram's gray hair. "Can you count these stars?" the Lord asked the Hebrew, who shook his head in despair. There was the Big Dipper with the North Star on its handle; the morning star and hundreds of millions of others that Abram could not even see with his natural eye.

"Your descendents will be as many as the stars," the Lord promised, "for I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur." Abram believed in the Lord and His righteousness, and to seal the covenant, the Lord sent a smoking furnace and a burning lamp that consumed Abram's waiting sacrifices. (Gen. 15).

Again, on mount Moriah, when this Patriarch offered unto the Lord, Isaac, his only begotten son, the covenant was renewed: "...I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven,... And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." Gen. 22:17.

Our Worship

Tis not an infant that we worship,
But the Incarnate Word.
Not a baby in a manger,
But a risen, living Lord.

Not His maiden mother, Mary,
Nor the heavenly angel throng,
But the Christ, the Lord of Glory;
Do we worship with our song.

Not a child we seek to honor,
But a King, the Anointed One.
Not just earthly gold we bring Him,
But our hearts, which are His own.

Not a lullaby we sing Him,
But the highest praise we give.
Not just a room, for just a season,
But in our lives we let Him live.

Our Emmanuel, God with us,
His law, His love we daily learn.
And our hearts are ever waiting,
Eagerly, for His return.

—Angela Gellenbeck



Fourteen generations later in the same hills of the promised land, a shepherd boy attended his father's flock of sheep. With harp in hand, he sang praises that rose higher than the stars in heaven. His praises reached the ears of the Lord.

"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars,

which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (Psa. 8:3-4.)

The Lord was pleased with the praise of David, a man after His own heart. He saw trust in David bigger than a giant, loyalty stronger than life, obedience valued above honor, and honesty sought with humility. He saw in David a king worthy to share in the covenant. So the Lord promised him, "...thy throne shall be established for ever." II Sam. 7:16. Through the following twenty-eight generations, the Star of David shone out to the Lord for He is a God Who remembers from generation to generation. (Psa. 105:8.)

Then in the East a new star appeared. It attracted shepherds guarding their sheep, and it guided wise men from the ancient land of Ur. It drew them to a humble place to worship where the promised seed of Abraham was born. Jesus Christ, the Son of David, He was named.

In Jesus, God sent healing for the afflicted, hope for the downcast, and redemption for all who seek it. For thirty-three years, Jesus lived as a man honest and pure, divinely obedient even unto death on the cross. Through His shed blood, Jesus redeems brothers and sisters unto the Father.

Today Christ sits on the right hand of God, interceding for the needs of all who believe, though they be as many as the stars in the heaven. (Eph. 1:19-23.) Some day He will return in the clouds to draw unto Himself every redeemed child of God. We believe in the Lord and His righteousness because His testimony is true, and His light is pure, as He said, "I Jesus...I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star." Rev. 22:16.



The Birth of Jesus Christ

By C. J. Alcantara

Why is the birth of Jesus Christ most glorious and profound, notably revered and sublime? How could such immortal birth as His stand the test of time? Several hundred years before His birth, Isaiah, the prophet, made this remarkable prophetic announcement: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince

of Peace." Isaiah 9:6. As long as Christianity exists, the birth of Christ stands to be honored and will forever endure. He left His heavenly abode to live with, and to redeem the transgressions of this sinful world.

The Son of God incarnate was born to a virgin mother, for He was conceived by Mary through the Holy Ghost. However, to the perverted, unregenerate human mind and thinking, it is seemingly impossible to happen. But Jeremiah, the prophet, said of God: "...I am the Lord the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" He came to earth in the form of a human being, true God and man.

The Lord and Savior of mankind, Jesus Christ, the Messiah, as revealed in the scriptures, has neither a beginning nor an ending. The Holy Writ further says that He is the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the only beloved begotten Son of the Almighty God. This is marvelously the spiritual side of Christ's life. What about His corporeal side?

The Son of Man, as Jesus called Himself, while here on earth suffered the most excruciating, painful bleeding heart and intolerable, dismal agony of soul. He came to his own creation but the people did not receive Him. His unspeakable bitter trials and temptations coming as they did from His arch enemy, Satan, were incredibly ignominious and inhuman. He was reviled and mocked, humiliated and blasphemed in the most unprintable curse of men, yet He remained silent, meek and humble until death, amidst those ominous, contemptible, and unfounded virulent accusations. He was like a lamb brought to the slaughter but He opened not His mouth. He was thrust into the dark abyss of human hate and malice by His disgraceful, wicked countrymen. However, from His wonderful love and abiding, bountiful mercy toward His enemies, even in His last fleeting breath at Calvary's cross, came these heartening, gracious, placable words of life: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34. What impressive, exceptional humility and immortal, divine forgiveness coming as it were from the lips of the only loving, eternal Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, with Whom is our everlasting peace and salvation. Peter, the apostle, said of Him, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." I Peter 2:21-22.

Filling The Vacuum

(Transcribed and edited from a message by Bro. James Bell,
preached at Guthrie, OK, on October 29, 1993.)

Tonight I am thinking about the vacuums created in our society that are causing some of the problems that we are facing in the Church, in our homes, and in all areas of our lives. You and I are going to have to be careful that we are not sucked into it. There are a lot of forces that can pull the spiritual life right out of us. We are going to have to keep the fires burning hot in our hearts and lives. We are going to have to make strong the love of God in our lives. We are going to have to be careful that we not be pulled into the vacuums of the world.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:4-13, "...Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

Let's notice the 12th verse, "...Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." We are going to be drawn into things that will distract us, that will keep the real fire of God from burning in our hearts and lives. I have watched and seen how it comes in little ways and by small degrees.

There are so many homes that are disintegrating. I have wondered, "Why is that?" There is something that I believe is common to every one of them. Somewhere, some way, a vacuum has formed in the home, because something is absent.

It is just like a bank account. If we keep drawing out and drawing out, there will be a vacuum there. If you keep drawing out of your account at the bank, you are going to get one of those letters that say, "You have overdrawn." It

is just like that in a marriage relationship. You enter that relationship, and both of you are putting things into it. You love one another. The husband puts his part into the marriage. He takes care of the wife and does his job in fulfilling her needs. The wife does her part in keeping the home, loving and honoring her husband. But you let there be a time when both of them begin to look at what the other one is doing, and begin to pull back, and pretty soon there is going to be nothing but a vacuum.

I find today that many homes are operating in a vacuum. They are operating in an area where everything is being pulled out and nothing being put back in. There are no hugs; there are no "I love yous," or anything to keep the home fires burning. That is a dangerous thing. To let the home life run down to that degree is only asking for trouble.

I don't know if you know much about a vacuum, but when you pull a vacuum, no longer is the boiling point at two hundred and twelve degrees. You can boil water at room temperature by pulling the vacuum lower. You see what happens when the vacuum becomes so great in a home, and things that were once normal and healthy have been altered? It is lop-sided and the home is no longer operating under the normal pressures. It is operating in a vacuum; therefore, tempers tend to fly, and things tend to happen, because that boiling point has been lowered. It has gotten down now where just about anything ticks them off. It's "You have done it again," and "You're the cause of these problems." We have been pulling out so long, and taking things for granted for so long, that now just anything sets it off. Folks, this is real. We don't have to go around the block; we don't have to look far to see the homes that are being ravaged because of this very thing.

May the Lord help us tonight, to recognize that, "Hey, I've been pulling out of this thing too long." It will happen in a home; it will happen in any relationship. May the Lord help us to start putting something back in.

Jesus said, "...Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." There are a lot of distractions, a lot of things out there to take away the real home fires, and this goes closer

(Continued on page 14)

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 Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

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Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 35¢ to notify us of each change of address.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year\$1.00
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 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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.

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 Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II 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. All donations are tax deductible.

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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CORRECTION

In last month's *Faith and Victory* a notice was printed of a radio broadcast by Bros. Emmanuel Gracey and Leslie Busbee, in which a wrong time was stated. The broadcast airs each Sunday morning on KGGF, 690 on the a.m. dial, at 8:15.

Editorials

We could not let this opportunity pass without glorifying our God for the gift of His Son; our Saviour. Christ's condescending love should turn loose the praise within the soul of every man, woman and child who has heard the story proclaimed by the angel to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Our attempts seem feeble when we try to comprehend what Christ endured in order to bring us this peace.

A thought-provoking passage is in the book, *When Iron Gates Yield*, by Geoffrey Bull. He tells of spending Christmas Eve in a Tibetan inn, enroute to a Communist prison. He went into a stable to feed the horses and mules. He says, "My boots squashed in the manure and straw. The fetid smell of the animals was nauseating. I thought, 'To think Christ came all the way from heaven to some wretched eastern stable, and what is more, to think He came for me!' How men beautify the cross and crib as if to hide the fact that at birth we resigned Him to the stench of beasts and at death exposed Him to the shame of rogues! God forgive us!"

What would the consequences have been if Christ had not come? Everyone who has accepted Christ into his heart has an answer to that question, but let me voice some of my thoughts. At first thought we would say that the law would not have been fulfilled; that we would still be in bondage to the law given to Moses. Galatians 3:24 says, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." The plan of giving Christ as a ransom for our souls was conceived before the law. (I Peter 1:20). Therefore, if Christ was unwilling to come, the law would have been worthless.

Without Christ there would have been no universal invitation, (Matt. 11:28) and we would all continue to bear the burden of sin and a separation from God. Neither would there have been the Golden Rule to elevate men's thoughts to a higher plane of living than an eye for an eye, nor the sending of the Holy Spirit (John 16:7) to give grace for this code of life.

Unregenerate man does not like to acknowledge God as having any part in his life, but it was Christ's birth that made two great divisions in time, and by which we count the years of history and chart our present life. There is a saying that, "Christmas is the joyous celebration of

eternity's intersection with time." The time of Christ's birth was more than an earthly happening. It was a heavenly planning and decision. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law." Galatians 4:4.

If Christ had not come into the world there would be no heavenly place in preparation for us. (John 14:2). The serenity of peace surrounding the shepherds as the angels sang, is but a small glimpse into what heaven will be. The brightness of the star that guided the wise men will be dim compared to that which lights the heavenly city. What will heaven really be like? It will be more of everything that we have already seen and appreciated of Christ in this life.

The Guthrie congregation valued the Revival Meeting which was held here the last part of October. Much good was accomplished, and the sacrifice Bro. James and Sis. Patricia Bell made in allowing the Holy Spirit to work through them was appreciated.

Income tax time is right around the corner. Those who have made a contribution during 1993 to this work and would like a receipt for the purpose of deductions, may notify us and we will be glad to send it.

In order to avoid missing an issue of the *Faith and Victory* publication, please look on the address label and notice what your subscription's expiration date is, and keep it in mind!

We have ordered paper, and are getting ready to begin reprinting the book *What the Bible Teaches*. This book has been out of stock for awhile, and we have quite a number of back-orders for it. We are sorry for the length of time it has taken to get to this book, but hope to have it in stock again within a couple of months. *The Revelation Explained* is another book that has been out of stock for some time, and is in line for reprinting. We have just sold the last of our supply of *Bible Readings* and the hymn book *Evening Light Songs* is close to being out. You may continue to order these books, but we ask for your understanding in the delay of shipping them.

We have in stock and ready for sale, 1994 calendars for the price of \$3.00 each. This

includes handling and shipping. Each month on the calendar features a colorful nature scene and Bible verse. Order now to receive the calendars in plenty of time for the New Year, or to give as Christmas presents. If you prefer, send us the names and addresses of those you wish to receive calendars, and we will mail them, stating who is having the gift sent.

This issue will close out the year of 1993. We feel it has been a good year. Although the great opposer of truth has not been silent, we can look back and see strides made for God. We give credit to God for the strength and channels through which it has taken place, and our faithful supporters who did not fail us. Thanks for your prayers and offerings, and we will look forward to coming to you again in the January issue of 1994.

—Wayne Murphey

Prayer Requests

LA—"I am in much pain. Please pray for me."

—Sis. Ivey Brooks

OK—Pray for Suzette Rogers who is terminally ill.

MA—"Please pray for me and my household."

—Eva Green

IN—"Please pray for Ruth Denton. She has cancer and doesn't have long to live."

—Dessie Wilson

IL—Sis. Lavena Cole has an urgent unspoken request.

OH—"Pray for a conditon in my body."

—Jessie Turner

IL—"Pray for us as we are going through a very trying and difficult time." —Sherry Hendricks

CA—"I have an unspoken request for my son and myself."

—Helen Carson

OH—Pray for Danny Craig who has an enlarged heart.

BIBLE QUESTIONS FOR JUNIORS BOOKLET

Booklets I, II, and III, Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, are available for \$2.50 each. These booklets will make good, wholesome, inexpensive Christmas gifts for readers. The book of Luke, somewhat larger than the others, contains more features, puzzles, etc., with diversified questions. **Send orders to:** Olive A. Davenport, 1406 W. Trenton St., San Bernardino, CA 92411.

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

HOLLY HILL, SC MEETING REPORT

Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' name. This is my testimony and our meeting report. I thank God for His care for me. He has helped me with my knees which have arthritis. I can go on them better, and I thank God for His mercy.

Our recent meeting was a blessing to the saints. They enjoyed it very much, but in some ways there wasn't the response we would like to have seen. Pray for the saints here at Holly Hill. A mighty work is needed.

We have almost completed our project at the chapel, and we do covet your prayers because we have much sickness and we desire the helping hand of God. —Bro. Utson Platt

GREEN PASTURES, OK MEETING REPORT

We are thankful to report that God blessed us with a glorious revival meeting, which included a singspiration. Truly it was a time of refreshing for Green Pastures. Each message was very anointed of God and right on target. Likewise the singspiration was blessed with much rejoicing.

We thank the Lord for every minister, saint and friend who attended the services, realizing some came from quite a distance. For those who couldn't attend, but supported us with your prayers, we are indeed grateful.

God blessed Bro. Richard Madden to be with us and we really appreciated his exhortation following a soul-searching message on Sunday morning. Bro. Madden related some of his many experiences in the prison ministry. These were a real blessing to us, and we trust that all the youth that heard it will be inspired to stay out of trouble.

Thanks for everyone's support. May God bless you all. —Sis. Frances Chandler

JEFFERSON, OR REVIVAL MEETING REPORT

The Lord blessed our congregation with a wonderful week's revival meeting the second week of November. Bro. Leslie Busbee from Enid, OK brought us stirring, anointed messages of truth that both challenged and encouraged us. We felt the Lord's spirit working in every service.

Bro. Leslie and Sis. Sylvia also spent time visiting in the homes of different saints.

Lord willing, we plan to have an annual revival meeting in November instead of a winter assembly meeting. We will still continue to have the annual Oregon state camp meeting in the summer. Our congregation is encouraged to press on for the Lord, and we are still trusting Him to send us a pastor. Please continue to pray for us. —Bro. Clifford Smith

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly meeting will convene, Lord willing, December 24, 1993 through January 2, 1994, on the campground at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA. We are praying and expecting a blessed meeting. All are invited and welcome.

There will be all day services throughout the meeting. Lodging and meals are provided. Please come praying and expecting to labor and receive a blessing. We are confident that all who come expecting a blessing and are in humble readiness for it, will not be disappointed. We urge every saint of God to make a special effort to support the meeting in attendance and particularly in prayer. For further information call the Sunset Guest Home, (818) 899-2022. The chapel (818) 899-9021. —Bro. Robert Sherman

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 87th annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, OK, on December 24, 1993 to January 2, 1994, inclusive, during the Christmas holidays. The local and state trustees have decided that it would be profitable to forego the morning and afternoon services of the first Friday of this meeting. **The first service will be the evening service, Dec. 24.** 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 expenses of the meeting will be met as usual by free-will offering.

All hungry souls seeking light or spiritual help, come, and God will meet you here. If you are sick in body, come and be healed by faith in the Great Physician. Saints, come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all who need help in soul and body. These are perilous times,

and we need to be about our Father's business, doing what we can for lost souls.

Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, Rt. 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044. For more information concerning the meeting, contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Elwell, 5308 Meadow Lake Dr., Guthrie, Ok 73044. Phone: (405) 282-0743.

DAVENPORT, FL REVIVAL

Bro. Louis Kimble, Sis. Mary Hargrave, myself and others involved with the work in Davenport, Florida, have been praying about a meeting there for quite some time. We had discussed with Bro. Mart Samons about having a tent meeting, but it was decided that we would have a meeting in the little chapel instead. There has been a revival meeting planned at Goulds, FL, to begin on Friday, December 10th through Tuesday, December 14th, and then going up to Davenport, FL, for a meeting starting on Wednesday, December 15th through Sunday, December 19th.

Anyone desiring to attend either or both of these meetings, or needing more information concerning the meetings, may contact Sis. Mary Hargrave, 22345 S.W. 117th Place, Goulds, FL 33170. Phone: (305) 258-4102.

Please pray for these meetings, that the Lord will be able to work in the hearts of the people in both areas, and that there could be a work established in Davenport, FL.

Yours in Christ, —Bob Forbes

SHAWNEE, OK REVIVAL

Lord willing, Bro. Mart Samons will hold a five day meeting in Shawnee, OK, starting Wednesday, December 1 through Sunday, December 5.

A sincere and warm welcome is extended to all. Please pray that God will bless, souls will be saved and all will be encouraged to stay faithful to God's will.

For further information call either: Bro. Bill McMakin, (405) 275-2575, Bro. Don Butler, (405) 273-0984, or Bro. Louie Marler, (405) 275-9002.

Making good use of what we already know, and having a firm trust in God will bring to our understanding all that we need in order to make our experience a complete success. —J. W. B.

From:
The Readers



To:
Faith Publishing House
P. O. Box 518
Guthrie, OK 73044

PA—Dear friends in Christ: I am the summer director at Camp Men-O-Lan, a small Christian youth camp in southeast Pennsylvania. One of our summer counselors has been using your book, *Touching Incidents*, to help minister to the campers. He reads the stories to the campers for devotionals, and at night after the lights are out. He found that the campers beg him to keep reading, no matter what the age. It has been such a powerful tool for him in aiding the spread of the gospel that I purchased enough books for each one of our summer counselors.

I have been told that along with *Touching Incidents*, you also have other inspirational books and materials. I am writing to thank you for *Touching Incidents*, and to ask for a materials list and ordering form. Thank you very much. Please keep up the great work.

With love in Christ, —Bob Laubach

[Editors note: *Touching Incidents* is a very inspirational book and interesting to people of all ages. We do have a book catalog listing all the books we sell, along with an order blank. For a free copy of the book catalog, send your request to: Faith Publishing House, P.O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.]

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and saints: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I am always praying for you, and thanking the Lord for the encouragement I receive from the *Faith and Victory* paper.

Here is a prayer request for my friend's little grandson, Quincy Pitts. He is only 2 1/2 years old, and was born deaf. His grandmother has visited the church with me. She is not saved, but is a good person with faith in God. I had a cloth anointed by the ministers at the Pacoima, CA Camp Meeting last month, and laid it on Quincy. We are all still praying for the Lord to open his ears. Please join in prayer with us....

In Christian love, —Ruth Donnelly

MS—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings of love in Jesus' name. I sure enjoy getting the *Faith and*

Victory paper each month. I don't have any saints here in Prentiss, MS to keep me encouraged. I still get preaching tapes from the Loranger, LA services. I do miss being in service with the saints. I think the saints are the most precious people that ever lived on the face of the whole earth.

May God bless all the workers at the Print Shop. I wish all a very happy Thanksgiving.

Christian love, —LaFairry Mooney

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MO—Dear saints, my dear loved ones: I am so thankful to know the Lord. "The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows." My desire is for God to be glorified. I don't want to praise God simply because He touched my body and took the suffering away, but I want to praise God because I want Him to be glorified. "...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever." Rev. 1:5-6. Jesus prayed, "Father, glorify thy name," and that is the desire of my heart.

I have had a problem for which I opened my heart to the Lord, seeking to be healed. If God didn't see fit to heal me, I knew He could deliver me in the situation. I went to the Monark Springs, MO Camp Meeting with my heart open. As I attended the services, the Word of God went forth with anointing and convicting power. I don't believe I ever felt the Spirit of God any closer. God supplied my spiritual and physical need. He touched the pain I have suffered with for five years in my back resulting from an injury, and I want to offer praise and thanksgiving to Him.

How often when prayer is answered there is a lack of praise in our life, so that God can be glorified. Meditation on the goodness of God will give abundant reasons for praises. I feel so little and unworthy, but I love the Lord, and desire always to be faithful. —Sis. Myrtle Sorrell

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OK—Dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings of Christian love to each one in the precious name of Jesus, the One that "...loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father;..." Rev. 1:5-6. My heart is encouraged to press the battle on, for indeed we are in a spiritual battle.

Yesterday morning the Lord helped me in a battle which might seem small, yet it meant

much to me. A letter had arrived the day before from an isolated sister and I had felt burdened to answer it. My day had started early and by that time I was feeling tired, but felt the urge to press to write the letter anyway. With difficulty the first paragraph was written. I stopped, realizing there was more than tiredness. There was a cloud, a heaviness or an oppression over my mind hindering me from thinking clearly. As I began looking to the Lord it flashed into my mind of some similar experiences that I had read of in the booklet, *How to Resist the Devil* by F. J. Perryman. I began resisting the devil in the name of Jesus, pleading His blood over my mind, spirit and body; also claiming the promise, "As thy days, so shall thy strength be." Deut. 33:25b. In a few minutes my mind became fully clear and strength was given to write the letter. Once again the Lord had given victory over the devil in weakness of body and oppression of mind.

I know that there are times when our bodies need rest, but I have come to realize that there are times that we need to take a stand against the devil. He will impose upon us a spirit of weakness and an oppression over our minds to hinder us from doing God's work.

Jesus said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4. Satan knows our time is short and he wants to hinder us in any way he can from doing the little things the Lord would have us do while we have life. "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Cor. 15:57.

In His service, —Sis. Fern Stubblefield

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AR—Dear Christian friends: Friends are a gift from God. We need them; we love, appreciate and thank God for them. We each have a place in the body of Christ and I trust we are all doing all we can to please Him.

Each day is a gift from God and He has them planned for us. He will not lead us into a day in which His grace cannot keep us. Let us love and trust Him more. For—"Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." Psalms 24:8.

Could we begin to number the battles the Lord has won for us? He said we would be more than conquerors. (Rom. 8:37.) I like that. Let us all strive to be on the winning side with Jesus.

Well, at last all the colorful Fall has turned to gold. The golden leaves nestle under our feet

as we walk about. God's goodness is everywhere, and His presence is in our hearts and bringing peace and joy. Oh! what a Friend He is to us. Who could wish for more?

Please, let's continually be agreed in prayer for those that don't know our Lord. Lost souls are calling out for help.

Yours in Christ, —Sister Lou Bray

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KS—Dear Bro. Wayne:...Many thanks for the prayers on behalf of my family, which I requested several weeks ago. Please continue the prayers. I'm looking forward to God healing, blessing, saving and directing us, and keeping us in His will.

I pray the Lord will continue to bless His work and each of the workers.

Christian love, —Naomi Dickerson Hiebert

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WA—Dear saints: Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus. We surely thank and praise Him for His goodness to us. I hope all are well at the Print Shop. We surely appreciate the saint's prayers. I was recently very sick for two weeks or more, with a very painful ulcer, but the Lord has healed me except for a few side effects. We love the Lord and His people. May God bless all there.

—Sis. Violet Thomas

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MI—Dear Bro. Wayne and all you dear workers: Greetings in the blessed name of Jesus. I want to thank all of you dear ones that prayed for my healing. Praise God, He touched me and healed my infection as soon as I called in to request prayer. I could feel that you were praying for me when I hung up my phone! That morning when I got up I felt very badly, like this was my end. I called upon the Lord. He did give me the strength to call for prayer. I had this infection for quite a few weeks, and it sure drained me. I could hardly do anything.

This was in the month of September, and my lady friend that lived with me was in the hospital. I couldn't go to see her very much because I felt so sick. She passed away the 15th of October. I miss her very much. It is lonely without her, but the dear Lord does what is best. She suffered long enough, so He took her home.

I give the Lord all the glory for healing me many times when I was sick. I could never praise Him enough for His love to me. He is my strength and refuge in every need. How I thank my dear Jesus for my precious mother that taught me about Him.

I thank each and every one of you dear ones who prayed for me. May God richly bless all of you in body and soul. I pray for all of you and all the prayer requests in the *Faith and Victory* paper. Keep looking up, God is still on His throne!

Love and prayers, —Sis. Olive Gettersen

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KS—Dear Faith Publishing House: I have recently been reading booklets that were obtained from your Publishing House. These books have helped me in many different ways. It is very useful and inspiring to read what the saints of God have to say.

I was sick and in the hospital, and many saints of the Church of God prayed for me and talked with me. Sister Williams here in Wichita gave me a book to read called *Divine Physical Healing*. This book encouraged me a great deal. I trusted in God to help me and heal me, and He did. My aunt, Sister Lola Payne, who has been saved for many years, has many books from Faith Publishing House that she lets me read. I think it is important to get the foundation of values, standards and other lessons that God has instilled in the Church throughout the years....

I am 27 years old and unsaved, but God has dealt with me in so many ways, and your readings are certainly one. Thank you for your time. May God bless you. Please pray for me.

Sincerely, —Greg Paulk

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OR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' name. We trust this finds all there in the best of health and happy in the Lord. We are thankful for the Print Shop and the work you are doing. The articles and testimonies in the *Faith and Victory* each month are blessings that we truly appreciate.

We are having some problems with our health, but are still trusting God for all of our needs. Doris seems to be getting more feeble all the time. Remember us in your prayers and we will do the same for you....

With Christian love, —Bill and Doris Busch

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CA—Christian greetings in the name of the Lord: I thank the Lord for full salvation and all its benefits. We have been blessed in so many ways. "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." *Psa. 103:1-2*. His benefits are manifold.

Some time ago I was experiencing a weakness and pain in my right arm. This lasted for some time, and I would favor it in lifting or carrying objects, even of light weight. I looked to the Lord in prayer, but still continued to favor it. I was impressed to stop favoring it. This I did, and thank the Lord, I can now use it in a normal manner. Also I was suffering with my head. While being prayed for I thought, "If the Lord comes to my rescue, I will testify through the paper." Thank the Lord, He did. He is faithful to all who trust Him. Our desire is to please Him each day.

I thank the Lord for the *Faith and Victory*. May He continue to bless the work there.

—Olive A. Davenport

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CA—I'm so thankful to be saved and am very much encouraged to live for the Lord. We have just had a very profitable fall meeting. God blessed our souls. We are rejoicing in the God on high. I am glad He loved me enough to reach down in this old sinful world, and bring me up and out of the miry clay. I can say like the song, "I have left all the world to follow Jesus."

I thank God for blessing me this year to be able to attend our camp meeting at Fresno, CA, also Monark Springs, MO, Bakersfield, CA, and Pacoima, CA. I received so many blessings in each meeting. God is answering prayer. Some say the devil is working, which is true, but God is working in a marvelous way.

God answered prayer for me in the Monark Springs meeting. For months I had been unable to sleep because my nerves were so bad. On Wednesday night they had a special healing service. God inspired my faith that He was ready to heal me. The devil said, "Wait until tomorrow when it is healing day." I didn't listen to Satan. I made my way to the altar of prayer and have been sleeping well since. Thank God for His healing power....

Christian love, —Naomi Jennings

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OK—Dear saints everywhere: I feel the Lord would be pleased for me to send in my testimony of how He has blessed me.

On July 17th, while attending the Monark Springs camp meeting, I started having double vision in my right eye during the night service, then it cleared up. The next morning the vision wasn't clear so I was anointed and prayed for. The vision continued being affected. I stayed in Kansas for a few days after the camp meeting.

My son, Randel, brought me home to Shawnee on July 29th. My eye continued hurting. An appointment was made to get my eyes checked for glasses on August 4th. On the 3rd, I went blind in my right eye. The optometrist told me I had glaucoma. The pressure was 46 and it should not be over 19. The left eye was on the border line. The doctor told me the seriousness of the condition, and that I would have unbearable pain. I did have the things he told me. I would call someone for prayer and they would call others. The saints came to my apartment when I needed prayer. The Lord always answered and relieved the pain. The saints here were so good to help me. I knew others were also holding me up in prayer. The Lord showed me one day while praying, "My grace is sufficient." I am thankful how my eye is improved. Even though I can't see out of it, I don't have the severe pain.

In September I went back to Kansas for a few weeks. I was bitten by a poisonous spider on my right arm which caused a lot of suffering. The Lord showed me, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." The Lord did not fail me. It has healed up. I feel that I have received lessons through these trials.

I want to thank all the saints for their concern, prayers, letters, cards, visits and phone calls. They were much encouragement to me.

My desire is to live for the Lord.

Pray for me, —Sis. Opal Bradley

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LA—Dear saints: We are so thankful for the wonderful plan of salvation, and for all of God's wonderful love and dealings with our lives. We are thankful to be numbered with His saints and for the truth, and how He has kept us in it.

Space won't allow me to tell a lot of answers to prayer, and how God worked and led me in helping care for my mother at her home in Kentucky. She was 84 years old, and wasn't able to be left alone since the last part of May, 1992. My youngest sister, Anna, is the only one out of eight children that lived close to her. She couldn't keep the responsibility of her care any longer. Out of about five months, I was there about four of them, and I want the saints to know that the Lord was real to me.

I believe God's dealings and long-suffering prepared my mother to be ready to go. I begged the Lord, "Please don't take her unprepared." The saints were praying for us all, and for her salvation. The Lord brought about several

changes in different situations, and helped her so much that my sister, Anna, was planning to come back and stay in November.

On September 24th, a beautiful, sunny, warm, fall day, around 1:20 p.m., my mother slipped away. She couldn't have gone anymore calm and peacefully. I miss her in knowing she is gone. The Lord comforts me with thoughts of the changes He brought about. The rays of hope in the things I saw eases the pain and grief.

We do appreciate every prayer, and all the concern shown to our family. The Lord told me He rewarded the saints by answering their prayers. This was a blessing and comfort to me.

We need your prayers that we will be faithful to the end. —Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Lois Abbott

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CA—Dear saints everywhere: Greetings to all of you this morning. I just finished reading the 34th chapter of Ezekiel. It sure does fit our world today. There are so many false prophets.

I lost my mother July 16th. She was raised in the Evening Light Church of God in Oklahoma. I used to go with Grandpa and Grandma when they lived at Paden, Oklahoma. My brother and I were the only children at the time. We rode in a wagon. Oh, how I remember those days. Later in life, as I grew up, I wondered what happened to that church.

When I was sixteen we moved to Hendrick, Oklahoma. I went to another church there, and later on I visited more of them, but I never heard anything that interested me, so I quit going. We moved to California years later, and I started to find out more about the Church of God.

My husband was in the same situation. He was raised in another church, and he knew little about the Bible. He said he didn't understand why they even made him go to church.

I always had that Church in my mind, and that some day, if the Lord willed, I would find it. And I did, praise the Lord. The Lord has been so good to us and our family. I don't feel worthy of the miracles He has done for our family.

Lots of love to all the saints everywhere,
—Bro. and Sis. Underwood

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OK—Dear saints: Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I am thankful to be able to say I am saved and encouraged to go all the way with Jesus.

I have been going through some trials and tribulations, but the Lord has richly blessed me and my family.

In January of this year, my husband passed away suddenly from a heart attack. I had a seven year old son, and was expecting another child at the time. The Lord brought me through this victoriously, and I had the baby in May.

I have had a lot of difficulties since the birth of my daughter, but the Lord has so wondrously blessed me. He promised never to leave me nor forsake me, and He has definitely been with me each step of the way.

In June a blood clot was found on one of my lungs, and in October a hernia was found in my esophagus. Both have caused a great deal of pain and suffering. The Lord has touched my body time and time again, and I thank Him and give God all the praise and the glory. I still need prayer for the complete healing of my body.

I appreciate all the saint's prayers, and I ask that you will continue to pray for me that I will be true and faithful, and be able to raise my children in the fear and love of God.

Yours in Christ, —Linda C. Montgomery

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OK—Dear *Faith and Victory*: I enjoy your paper very much. I do not want to miss a copy.

I am thanking the dear Lord for His goodness and mercy to me every day and night. He is my Shield and Buckler. I also thank the Lord for blessing your work and workers.

With Christian love, —Margaret Jeffreys

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FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS



Honduras Report

Greetings from West Virginia. I hope this finds everyone encouraged to press on for the Lord. This letter is to update you on the developments and plans of the work in Honduras. Bro. Louis Kimble and Bro. Keith Fuller just finished a revival here in Green Bank. While here we solidified some plans for our next trip to Honduras, and we want to make the saints aware of these plans.

Lord willing, we plan to go to Honduras on Feb. 25 - March 11. The time will be divided among the mainland and the islands. There are two islands we plan to visit beside Roatan. Bro. Kimble, Bro. Fuller and myself, and our wives are planning to go on this trip. Bro. Mart Samons

may go also. Thickets for this trip will cost approximately \$4500. About one-half of that amount is already available.

Also, on this trip we would like to do some work on the chapel in Roatan. Under the building is a space used for Sunday School classes. It is mostly dirt and mud. We would like to pour a floor and lay blocks to divide the area into separate rooms. The approximate cost of this project is \$8000. We will proceed with this as the Lord provides.

Please pray with us about the mission work in Honduras as well as other missionary efforts across the world.

For the Honduras company,

—Bro. Toney Samons
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From the Philippines...

November 13, 1993—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name, together with the precious workers in the Print Shop, and all saints elsewhere in the U. S.

I am thankful to the Lord for His love and kindness toward us everyday. I surely praise His goodness and faithfulness to us. We truly love our Lord. We love the saints of God. We also love the service of God. God has worked a mighty work in our midst.

The gospel work in the Philippines is moving forward in spite of some ill happenings in our country; typhoons, kidnappings and killings here and there. I have been praying that our Lord would bestow His love over our country in the Philippines, especially in this city of Manila where lots of different people are seeking for livelihood. There are so many lost souls who are thirsty because of spiritual needs. So it is really a high time for all of us to push through in our Lord's work to save lost souls.

May the Lord bless all there and continue to prosper His work.

Your brother, —Nonilon Capuyan
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From India...

October 15, 1993—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear brothers and sisters in America: Greetings of love to you all in the gracious name of Jesus Christ.

The earthquake in India swallowed the lives of more than 40,000 souls and numberless animals. It did not affect our area. Relief activities are going on there. Matthew chapter 24 is the main theme for our meditation in these days.

After a long time of prayers, (several months) and searching, God helped us to find a suitable place for the gathering of the congregation at Trichur. The area of the land is a little less than 1/10th of an acre. There is a hall on it, 40 feet long and 20 feet wide, attached with four side rooms and kitchen. The pastor and family can stay in it. It is quite convenient for the congregation at Trichur. The total price is \$6,000.00. We made an agreement with the owner of the land and paid \$3,000.00 which we had with us. The other \$3,000.00 is due within three months. We need your prayers.

Three days of minister's conference will be held at Karikkon from October 21-23, 1993. All our church ministers will gather at Karikkon for this conference for the edification of the Church. Please continue to remember us in your prayers as we do for you every day.

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese
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IN MEMORIAM

Vealr Kliever of Salem, OR was born December 25, 1911, in Moniter, OR. He grew up in Woodburn, OR, and lived in OR most of his life. He was saved many years ago and endeavored to hold fast to the Lord through the tests and trials of life. He felt a call to the ministry and preached the Word for a number of years. He also worked as a plumber. He worshipped with the saints of the Church of God at Jefferson, OR.

He was united in marriage to Margaret Franklin and to this union was born a son and a daughter.

Brother Kliever passed away September 28, 1993, at the age of 81 years, 9 months, and 3 days. A memorial service for him was held on Sunday, October 3, at the Jefferson Church of God Chapel. Burial was at Lebanon, OR, IOOF Cemetery.
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Patricia Mae (Shirrell) Martin was born March 13, 1958 in Pomona, CA, and went to be with the Lord October 25, 1993. She was 35 years old. Patty moved with her family to Oregon in 1971. She attended private schools. Most of her adult life, Patty was employed as a caregiver for the elderly. She was well gifted with love and ability to do this work.

Patty had worked at the Golden Rule Home in Shawnee, OK, and the Sunset Guest Home in

Pacoima, CA. The last few years Patty has managed adult foster care homes.

On June 19, 1993, Patty was united in marriage to Richard Martin.

Patty loved the Lord and worshipped with the saints at the Church of God in Gladstone, OR.

Survivors include her husband, Richard Martin; parents, John and Carolyn Shirrell of Eagle Creek, OR; three brothers, John Jr. and Sherri Shirrell of Oregon City, OR, Ron Shirrell of Portland, OR, Don and Lynn Shirrell of Milwaukie, OR; one sister, Teresa Shirrell of Woodland, CA; four nieces, Tara, Tracie, Tonya and Tiffany Shirrell of Oregon City, OR and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Charles Elwell.

Paul Edward Chrisman was born February 28, 1936 in Enid, OK, to Nova Lee and Ethel Husted Chrisman. After growing up in Enid he was united in marriage on January 11, 1958, to Beverly Brannon. To this union three children were born; two sons and one daughter.

He moved from Enid to Tonganoxie, KS in 1970. He worked for Chrisman-Wyatt Construction Co. of Lawrence, KS.

Paul had a tender heart toward the Lord in many ways through the years. A few weeks ago, after a severe sick spell, he repented of his sins and gave his heart to the Lord, and rejoiced in finding peace with Him. He exhorted others to do the same. His decision was that, regardless of the cost, he was purposed to live for God.

He is survived by his wife, Beverly, of the home; two sons, Paul Edward Chrisman, of Tonganoxie, KS, and Ronnie Lee Chrisman, of Ozawkie, KS; one daughter, Karen Sue Chrisman, of Tonganoxie, KS; four brothers, Sam Chrisman and Robert D. Chrisman, both of Enid, OK, L. D. Chrisman, of Delaware, OK and Bill Chrisman of Lawrence, KS; five sisters, Marella Arnold, Zula Pellow, Ernesteen Henderson and Florence Sisk, all of Enid, OK, and Opal Calder, of Baker, OR; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted in Enid, OK by Bros. Carl Shaffer and Leslie Busbee. Burial was in Memorial Park Cemetery, Enid, OK.



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Where's the Balance?



By Wayne Murphy

Question: Recently I have been hearing the remark that God hates a repetitious prayer. Could you explain that to me?

Answer: Possibly what you have been hearing referred to specific situations, and not knowing any more details than what is stated in the question, this answer may not completely satisfy your wonderments, but I will try to deal with the subject in the context of the Bible.

It is in Matt. 6:7 that Jesus said, "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." One of the most illustrative examples of how the heathen prayed is found in the 18th chapter of I Kings. Elijah had a contest with the prophets of Baal to see whose God would accept their sacrifice by sending fire to consume it. The prophets of Baal were given the first chance, and they prayed from morning to noon. The prophets of Baal became so frenzied in their praying that they leaped upon the altar and cut themselves until the blood flowed. This is irrational praying. When Elijah prayed, he said, "...Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again." I Kings 18:36, 37. When Jesus said not to use vain repetitions, He didn't mean that you were forbidden to say the same words twice, for we notice Elijah repeated the phrase "Hear me." Jesus was teaching that prayer should be uttered with a simple faith in God. The writer, Phillip Brooks expressed it very well when he wrote, "Prayer is not the overcoming of God's reluctance; it is the taking hold of God's willingness."

Our prayers should not be in an over-bearing, cajoling spirit. This is neither glorifying God to those looking on, nor acceptable to God. Coming before God with a full understanding of His sovereignty will safeguard against this. Ecclesiastes 5:2 says, "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few." Realizing the power God possesses will eradicate the feeling for needing to act unseemly in order to get God to answer, and will cause but a few words to be sufficient.

These principles do not preclude the need for praying often, and even for importuning for a particular need. Christ's example of the widow and the unjust judge verifies this. One mother constantly prayed that her son might turn from his waywardness. Once when she was particularly discouraged, she was consoled by someone who said, "The child of so many prayers can never be lost." There are times that God wants to know that we are serious about our requests for Him to work.

I think it is important to realize that there is a difference in public and private prayer. In public we should pray for the requests that are given in. It is not appropriate to vocalize those things that are private, or to use that means to get personal help. As a general rule, we should be prayed up in our personal life before we offer a public prayer. Our private prayers should be like talking with a friend; we shouldn't cut it short. Our thoughts, fears, hopes, joys and

disappointments can all be articulated. It should be like it was said of one person, "All his thoughts of people gradually turned to prayers." Yet even in our private prayers we must not let our emotions become predominate in trying to get a satisfactory hearing before God, or we will violate the admonition of God by using vain repetitions, and be no better than the heathen.

Another facet of "vain repetitions" was voiced by Christ in Matt. 23:14. "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater condemnation." In the eyes of God, it is nothing more than vain rhetoric to make a long prayer just for the sound of it. It has been said that, "A man may offer a prayer, beautiful in diction and perfect in the number of its petitions, but if it gives him gratification afterward, that prayer cannot have been truly prayed." A prayer that is worded perfectly, without the repeating of phrases, can be nothing more than vain repetition if it is done for outward ceremony and doesn't come from the heart.

The important thing to remember is, pray with an understanding of Who you are praying to; pour out your heart in humility, and then rise with courage and confidence. "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16b. If the heart and life are right, the prayer will be right. This should be our emphasis. God, by His Holy Spirit, will teach us how to pray the effectual fervent prayer, and it will be acceptable to all concerned.

Filling the Vacuum

(Continued from page 3)

than just the home circles. It comes right into the Church. It is hard to separate the two. How you act in your home is a reflection of what you are in the Church. Folks, God would have our relationship in the Church to be strong and flourishing. He would have our home to be a home that is full of the love of God.

Do we really appreciate what real true love is? Oh folks, God doesn't want us to have just an empty shell. He doesn't want us to go around in a relationship with our companion that is empty and void. That is not the way God designed it at all, and shame on us if we have been pulling out so long, and so selfishly that our home has gotten into that situation.

I am ashamed to tell you that there are

things my wife has wanted me to do for years. There was a doorknob in our upstairs bedroom that was off for a long time. "Honey, would you put that up?" "Yes, I will one of these days." That went on for years. This is my own home. I don't know what you've neglected in your home, but I'm going to tell you brethren, you probably have something that your wife wants you to do.

We have got to take care of the wife that God has entrusted us with. If you don't take care of her, and you say, "Well, she's a real good person, she'll always be there...." No, she runs down and her cup needs to be filled up. One day I thought, "I want to do something special for her." I was thinking, "I'll take her out to eat." But I stopped and thought, "What does she really want?" I remembered the doorknob. These little things

(Continued on page 16)

We want to thank everyone who responded to the page of sayings that were printed in last month's *Faith and Victory*. The following are some of the responses. Quite a few more sayings were sent in, so we are printing them as well, and trust they will be inspiring to you.

"I do not fear tomorrow, for I remember yesterday, and I love today." Doesn't this sound like a *Mission Trail* item? It was, and I like it. I have a plaque with it on it, and folks like it. It coincides so well with the saying in the paper, "If you want to be happy, I'll tell you the way. Don't live tomorrow until you've lived today." I appreciate the added page of thoughts and the truth in them. I especially like this one, "A smile is a gentle curved line that sets a lot of things straight." This works wonders if the smile comes from the inside.

—Sis. Lou Bray

The saying about forgiveness stands out in my mind. It truly changed my future. True forgiveness is the only way to receive God's complete blessings. God gave me a vision of His Son hanging on the cross, shedding His blood for me, then said, "Shame on you for not forgiving." Since then I have had a complete future of happiness.

God never put a "but" on His forgiveness. One person said, "I forgave him, but..." True forgiveness is just like it never happened. I thank God for it. I can say like Job, "God has made my heart soft."

—Naomi Jennings

I respond to the sayings on page 15 of the November *Faith and Victory* paper. I like the one that states, and I quote, "There is much unfairness everywhere, but our relationship to God should be the key to how we react to those who mistreat us." I have encountered many obstacles in organizing an outreach ministry. Your paper, and tracts have encouraged me very much. They are as precious as gold. To me it is like the Spirit comes to say, "I know what you are going through, and here are the answers to all of your problems." The *Faith and Victory* paper teaches in many of the areas where I am battling or need instruction.

—Doris Rice

"When you have a dream, don't let anyone dim it; keep hoping, keep trying, the sky is the limit."

"A wise man lays a foundation with the bricks others throw at him."

"You can't very well stumble when you are on your knees."

"Where will we be when we get where we are going?"

"I asked the Lord how much He loved me, and He said, 'This much' and then He stretched out His arms and died."

"Reach up as far as you can and God will reach down the rest of the way."

Clair Bauth at death—"The water is rising but I'm not sinking."

"He who cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which he himself must cross."

"If you would lift others up you must be on higher ground yourself."

"Some folks hope for golden streets on high. I hope for trees and grass and neighbors passing by."

"Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer, except that which lies outside the will of God."

"Money is not required to buy one necessity of the soul."

"The atheist cannot find God for the same reason a thief cannot find a policeman."

"Soft soap from the pulpit will not cleanse the sinner in the pew."

"The devil is never too busy to rock the cradle of a sleeping saint."

"Is your passport for eternity in order? Do not neglect. You may need it sooner than you think."

"Find Christ before death finds you."

Filling the Vacuum

(Continued from page 14)

are what amount to a lot. I went upstairs and put that doorknob on. I am ashamed to say it only took me fifteen to thirty minutes to do it. You probably have some of these things in your house too. You have some little project that she wants you to do, and you can fill her cup by doing it.

You may think, "Oh, preach one of those great messages." I hate to disappoint you. This is just the down home stuff that we need, and it is stuff like this that is causing people a lot of problems. It is unbelievable what is happening in married lives, but it starts over things like the doorknob. "Well, he never fixes anything around the home." One way to get on her good side, and one way to fill her cup, is to do some little things that she wants you to do.

It is the little chafing points where people get irritated at one another, and therefore a distance is created between them. That is not the way the Lord designed a marriage. "Well, we're still together." That is not so wonderful, if you're living in a vacuum. The Lord would have us to have warm togetherness and love in our relationships.

(To be continued next month.)

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Issue 58

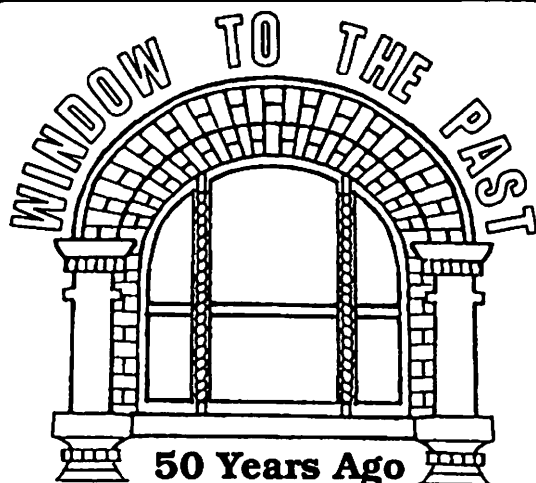
Guthrie, Oklahoma

Sept./Oct. 1993

Dear Young People:

We enjoy printing the Lamp of Youth paper. Do you enjoy reading it? If you do, please let us know. We need your written contributions to keep this paper going out. If the Lord has given you something special lately, why not share it with others? God will bless you for it.

Sincerely, —The Editors



Excerpts Taken From Dec., 1943 Faith and Victory

"We might escape many things. I have been kicked by horses and mules so hard that I was knocked six or eight feet, but I escaped death. I have had teams to run away with me but I escaped being killed. Not long back my wife, my dad, and I almost met sudden death. We started over a railroad grade when I saw a train coming, almost on us. I just released the clutch and let the car run back down the grade. We escaped being killed but how can we escape if we neglect salvation?"

—John W. Wilson

"This finds me saved and encouraged to press. The Lord has been a present help in every time of need. He has favored me much since I have been in the army. Things look pretty dark around an army camp, but by His grace we can stand true to Him."

—Alton Stubblefield

"A few months ago I became interested in the paper [Faith & Victory] and the book, God's Gracious Dealings which mother had given me. I was changed to a new job as substation tender in the mines. I did not have much to do on my new job so told my wife I thought I would carry a Faith and Victory paper and the book to the mines and read them.... On the 12th of last month I had just about finished reading the book. I was on the job. God told me that I had better get saved. After I made up my mind that I was ready to give up my life and my all for Him, I went around near the switch board to a bench and got down on my knees and asked God to save me.... Thank God, He did save me."

—Austin McMillin