

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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Only A Branch

John 15

Only a branch, so bare and alone;
Lifeless without Thee, so dead on my own!
Vine of my life, Abide Thou in me!
While I am ever clinging to Thee.

Away from Thee, Vine, nevermore would I
turn;

Cast from Thy presence, fit only to burn;
Vine of my life, bind me to Thee!
For I am clinging, still clinging to Thee.

Without Thee, I'm nothing, and no strength
have I;

But nothing's too hard when on Thee I rely.
O Vine of my life, I'm depending on Thee,
And while I am clinging, Abide Thou in me!

Only a branch, yet fruit wouldst Thou seek
From me, though I am so useless and weak.
O Vine of my life, bear fruit through me!
I'm clinging to Thee, Lord, clinging to Thee.

Fruit, precious fruit, though the bitter winds
blow;

Long-suffering, meekness, faith, self-
control,

Gentleness, goodness, joy, peace, charity;
Vine of my life, my fruit is from Thee.

And when I feel the keen edge of Thy knife,
Help me remember, Lord, Thou art my life!
Chasten me, purge me, and shape me like
Thee,

I'm clinging to Thee, Lord, clinging to Thee.

—By Angela Gellenbeck

Jesus Was Missing

By Marvin Moles, Jr.

When I turned eighteen years old I considered myself very happy. It seemed as though everything was going great. I had all that I thought was important. I had a job, a girlfriend and a family that truly cared about me. To me, things seemed to be going really well. Then, all of a sudden everything started to fall apart. It was like a hedge had been taken away.

The thing that I recall happening first was that my girlfriend left me. She didn't say why or anything.

When she left it made a big opening in my heart, a space that needed to be filled. So then I went around trying to find something to fill that open space. First I tried to turn to friends, but all my friends were older and were going to bars. So I was left alone.

During this time I heard that my grandmother was sick. I heard that she was real bad, but I still wouldn't go to see her. When she died I could hardly believe it. It seemed impossible. After her death I was really disappointed with myself and my life: I believe that at this point and time in my life I started to go completely downhill. I believe it was only because of my grandmother's prayers that I lasted as long as I did.

By this time, I was doing drugs quite a bit, thinking that I was happy when high, which is a very big lie. I started spending a lot of time with some people I met and who I thought were my friends. The girl I was seeing had an ex-boyfriend and we ended up having problems. It turned into a group problem that involved more than him and me. The problem kept escalating

and the seriousness got way out of hand. The people that were on my side were trying to kill them and their side was trying to kill us.

As I said before, I was doing a lot of drugs at this time, and it made the reasoning in my mind distorted. I am not totally blaming the drugs because I still knew what I was doing. I just wasn't making sober decisions. Well, a friend and I decided that we would put an end to the whole situation by scaring the other people, and letting them know we meant business.

We decided to burn our enemy's car, but it ended up that we were going to burn his friend's house down instead. While we were at his house we were standing out back waiting. I held the bottle (cocktail) while we decided exactly how to do it. While standing there I had a warning from God. I truly believe God spoke to me or He had an angel do it. The voice told me before I even threw the cocktail, "What if someone dies?" I must say that the thought bothered me. It bothered me enough that I said the same thing to the guy that was with me. I asked him, "What if someone dies?" The thought didn't seem

to faze him in the least. He told me nothing like that would happen. The fire department would be there before that happened. Then he asked me, "Are you going to do it or not?" I was a very proud person and was one that would do things if dared. I felt dared, so I did it. After I did it we went home.

When I woke up the next morning there was a big commotion in the living room. I went in there and heard them say that someone had

died in the fire. The warning had become a reality. I couldn't believe it. I got all spaced out because of it. I had hit the worst. I really didn't know what to do. I thought for sure that I didn't want to get caught. About three days later the police called my house and asked me to come down for questioning, so I agreed. By the time I got to the police station all the talk about what had happened was really getting to me. Something in me couldn't lie about it anymore, so I

told them I was the one who did it. When I got to the cell I knew that I didn't have anything left. It seemed that everything I had had been torn to shreds. The emptiness within was complete now.

As I was sitting in jail I found out what it was that I was missing in my life. When I asked for the forgiveness of the Lord He mercifully answered me. But He gave me more than just forgiveness. He gave me the peace inside that I was missing. He also gave me the love that I so badly needed. God showed me that He cares about what happens to me. The thing I needed was right

there the whole time but I had never seen it. If I had only known it sooner, it would have been so much better for me and those who fell victim to my wicked life. I know there are a lot of people that will admit there is something missing in their lives, and by the grace of God they will come to the understanding that it is Jesus. May everyone come to the knowledge of the truth that Jesus is what is missing before it is too late.



Spiritual Contagion

By John Varghese

Christianity is catching, and if people are not catching it from us, perhaps we have not a sufficiently valid case of Christianity. Christianity is not merely a conception, it is also a contagion. And when the contagion is lost, then the conception too is lost, for we cannot long be evangelical if we are not evangelistic. It is a law of the mind that that which is not expressed dies. And if our Christianity is not expressed in evangelism, it soon dies within us. Nothing is really ours unless we share it. From the moment someone else shares our faith, then that faith means something more to us.

Evangelism is not then an encumbrance for a particular amount of days or weeks and periods; it is part and parcel of our Christian faith. Paul put it this way, "You have contributed to the gospel from the very first day down to this moment: of this I am confident, that he who has begun the good work in you will go on completing it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 1:5-6. KJV.) From the very day these Christians stepped into the Kingdom of God, they began to contribute to it—to spread it. It was not something they learned, it was instinctive. It was as natural as a baby's cry at birth.

The four words making up the Christian gospel are: "come—see—go—tell." (Matt. 28:6-7.) We get a firsthand knowledge—we "come and see." And then the instinctive impulse is to "go and tell." And if there is no "go and tell" impulse, then the "come and see" experience has never been ours.

Expression of the faith is of the essence of the faith. Jesus said, "Ye are my witnesses." What does that mean? It means that Jesus is on trial again before the world and every one of His disciples are called in as a defense witness. Suppose we refuse to say a word on His behalf? Then by our silence we join the prosecution. Rev. 12:11 says, "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony...." They overcame by what He did—the blood of the Lamb—and by what they did—the word of their testimony. And if the "word of our testimony" is silent, then the "blood of the Lamb" is silenced too and does not speak in our behalf.

To an Old Disciple

By William S. Plumer

My heart is drawn towards you. I too am going down the hill of life, and the longer I live the more sympathy do I feel with the aged. I have no longer the sprightliness of youth. In common with you I know the sorrow caused by the failure of hopes. A light heart carries the young swiftly along, but in us, who have passed the middle of life, the spirit is at least chastened, if not somewhat broken. Once past middle life, we seldom forget our griefs as in youth. Indeed, the memory of some sorrows never grows dim. Twenty years after his child is thought to be dead, Jacob cries out, "Joseph is not," as if he had been missing but a day or a week. We too have lost friend after friend, not only by death, but by alienation. Very few of the friends of our childhood live to love us. One said: "I walk the streets, I go to the assemblies of my brethren, but I find none who began life with me. I stand alone like a withered tree, where once was a forest clothed with verdure." We may have our descendants around us, and "children's children are the crown of old men." But sometimes children give as much pain as pleasure. Or greedy heirs may be indecently hovering around to pounce upon our pelf as soon as we are gone. Nor care they how soon we are called away. How many of us, too, are cut off (sometimes by our own fault) from useful employment! We lack occupation. The mind, not being drawn out in healthy action, preys upon itself. Our latter years are often spent in melancholy uselessness. Our senses are often blunted as we grow old. Sweet sounds and sweet odours and delicious flavours cannot now regale us as in our younger days. To us the blue sky is no longer blue, and the green mountains are no longer green, and the voice of birds is no longer music. Great changes have come on. Times, manners, fashions, customs, habits, opinions, have all changed, nor have we changed with them. The world often seems to us to be moving too fast or too slowly, and we cry out, "What are we coming to?"

Yet all is not sad in our state. We have memories of joys, of mercies, and of friends, which, though tinged with a brown shade, are

(Continued on page 13.)

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).

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, OK)

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
 Package of 4 papers to one address, one year \$3.00
 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.

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 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.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044
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EDITORIALS

Flood Waters Rise in the Guthrie Area

Recent deluges of rain have caused two floods within one week from the Cottonwood Creek which runs through Guthrie. On the last Sunday of the Oklahoma State Camp Meeting, June 4, the last two services were canceled due to the threat of flooding. Sure enough, the Cottonwood Creek overflowed and the floors of the dining hall and chapel were covered with muddy water.

Early on the morning of June 9, the water again left its banks due to more heavy rainfall. By that evening, the inside of the Print Shop was filled with an unprecedented 13 inches of water. Many items had been placed out of harm's way, but much of the equipment we were unable to raise. The height of the water on the outside of the Print Shop building was 32 inches. Sis. Janie Woodruff's house, which is located just to the east, was surrounded by 48 inches of water on the outside and 13 inches were on the inside. As of this writing, we have computed the cost in loss of books, paper, cleanup, repair and replacement, at over \$7,300.00. And there are things which survived the flood but which will never be the same.

Much work was required in order to clean the shop, house, garage and parking lot and to get things back in normal operating condition. We would especially like to thank Bro. Ted Bock, of Sapulpa, OK, Bro. John and Sis. Wanda Gibson of Guthrie, my brother, Willie, and his wife, Neta, from Enid, OK, and Mike Woodruff, Sis. Janie Woodruff's son, who recently moved to Guthrie from Tennessee, for aiding in the clean up.

Even though this was a very damaging flood, we are thankful that the water did not continue to rise as the officials were predicting.

Print Shop Relocation Project

Last July 14 at the annual Faith Publishing House board meeting, the members unanimously voted to relocate the Print Shop building. There were several salient reasons for this decision. The concrete block structure we are presently in, which was built in 1927, is inadequate for our purposes. Humidity is a primary concern, as paper which has absorbed humidity will not feed through offset printing presses properly. And the back part of the shop is impractical to heat or cool.

Another dominant factor for moving the Print Shop is that the area we are in has changed drastically from when the shop was first built. Since we are in the flood plane the city of Guthrie will not issue permits for building new structures and therefore the value of the neighborhood is in decline.

Naturally the flooding problem was a stimulus for this decision. My grandfather, Fred Pruitt, in the editorials of the July, 1927, *Faith and Victory* paper, wrote about building the present structure. He said, "Through and by the gracious dealings of the Lord we are able to commence work on the new office building which will be built up out of the flood district, on the lot adjoining our dwelling house."

This month of June has made us painfully aware that the Print Shop is no longer out of the "flood district." It seems that in the last few years, the floods have been cresting at a higher level than at any time since records have been kept.

In the board meeting last July, it was felt that an announcement of relocating should be withheld until the September, 1995, issue of the *Faith and Victory*. This provided time to locate land on which to build, and also gave the Guthrie congregation longer to work on the new church building. We do not want our project to interfere with theirs. However, the flood has expedited the need to inform the saints of our intentions.

By the Lord's provision, we have been able to set aside a building fund with which to get started, and believe it will provide enough for the erection of the main structure. We are beginning this momentous undertaking with the faith that God will provide what we need to carry it through to its conclusion.

Bro. Tim Huskey has agreed to sell, at a very reasonable price, 18.5 acres of land, south of downtown Guthrie. It is commercially zoned, with frontage facing State Highway 77, and a perfect location for a new Print Shop building. It is on this site that we plan to begin building within several months. We would very much appreciate your prayers and support.

As is our custom, we will not be printing an August *Faith and Victory*. This will allow some free time for our workers to attend the National Camp Meeting. We will keep the office staffed during this time, so any orders that come in will continue to be filled and mailed. We would like

to remind our readers that we do stock over 300 different tracts, and approximately 120 titles of books. You may receive a free tract and book list by writing and requesting one.

Lord willing the book store on the Monark Springs Campground will be open during the National Camp Meeting. We extend a cordial invitation to all who attend the meeting to come in and acquaint yourself with the literature in stock.

On June 14, my son, Jason, joined the work force here at the Print Shop. He has completed two years of Graphic Arts classes in a vocational technical school, and will be helping to run our printing presses. This will allow Sis. Janie Woodruff to focus her time on improving the page-up of our tracts, as well as other of our publications.

One evening recently I picked up a Bible that had belonged to Aunt Marie Miles. I randomly opened it and a verse stood out to me which says, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" Isaiah 52:7.

This verse stood out to me because it had been underlined. Upon closer examination, it can be understood that it meant a lot to Isaiah also because it ends in an exclamation mark.

In the margin beside this verse, Aunt Marie had written, "I'm so glad I can publish the gospel." By this simple testimony one can understand the thoughts coursing through her mind, and the feelings in her heart as she read that particular passage of scripture. Hers was a statement of thankfulness and humility.

How small and insignificant it makes one feel to consider those to whom this verse has applied down through the many ages. Who can prophesy like Isaiah, or touch God as did Jeremiah? Who is to be compared to the Apostle Paul as he wrote to the Churches? Like gemstones against the black velvet of time, these shine, as well as men like John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, and the Wesley brothers, who were bastions of faith in sharing what Christ left to us.

Martin Luther was another who took seriously his role as an ambassador for God, and with his towering intellect and spiritual hunger,

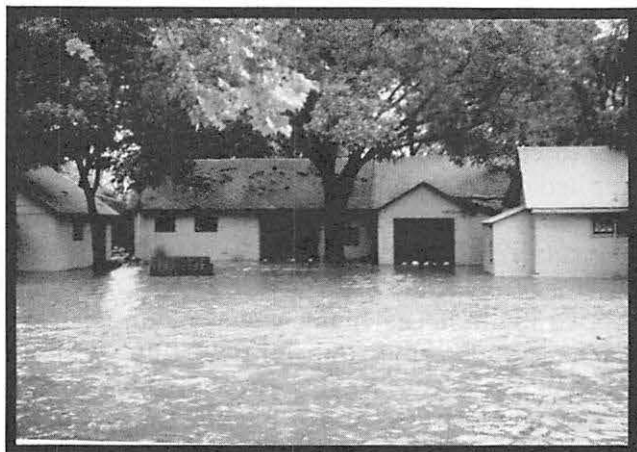
became proficient in Latin, Greek and Hebrew. Knowing exactly what God required of humanity was of more importance to him than any creed of man.

These are lives that are beautiful for publishing good tidings. And they shine, not only in

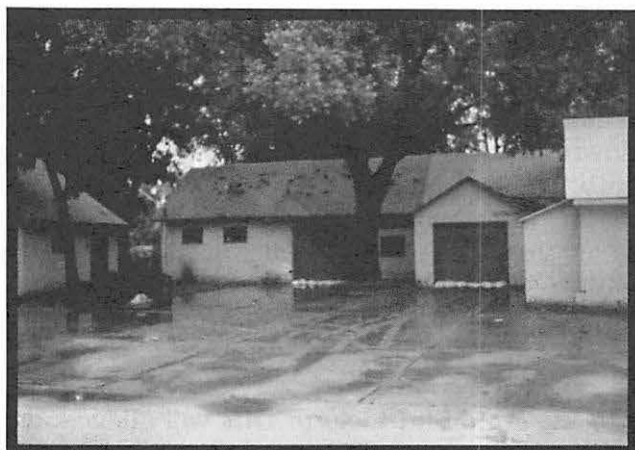
our eyes, but in the sight of God as well.

Our hearts say along with Aunt Marie, "We are glad we can publish the gospel." We fill such a small space in the scope of the work of God, but we want to radiate the beauty of the gospel we bear.

—Wayne Murphey



Back side of the Print Shop.



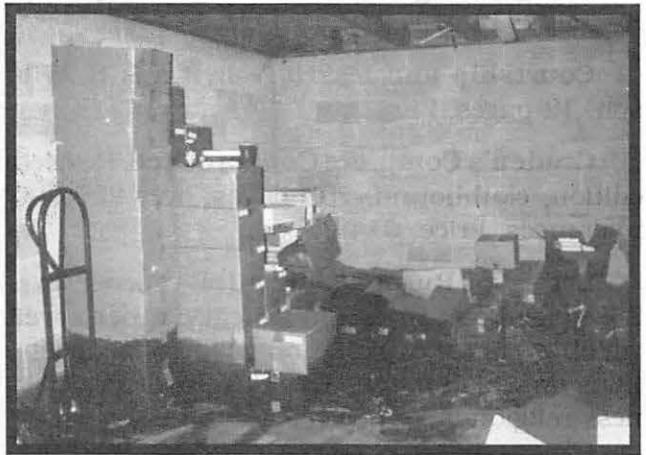
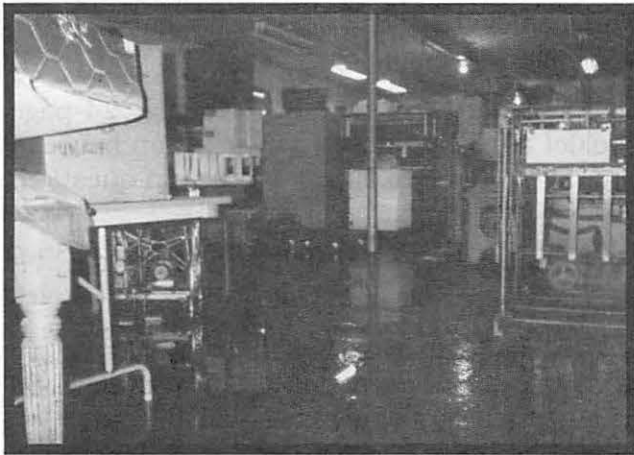
After the waters receded.



Clean

up

Time!



Partial List of Books Available

A Hive of Busy Bees by Effie M. Williams. An excellent book for children. 118 pages, bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50.

A Sketch of My Life by H. B. Hall, relates his experiences as a young man, his act of murder, his prison life, conversion, release, gift of healing, experiences as a caretaker of a senior citizen's home, and much more. It is an interesting story that all will enjoy. It contains 126 pages bound in a heavy paper cover and sells for \$1.50.

Adam Clarke's Complete Commentary of the Entire Bible in three volumes. Price, \$95.00.

Availing Prayer by Fay Martin. An excellent book on the subject of prayer. 120 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50.

Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. Reprint edition of 496 pages with pictures of pioneer ministers. Clothbound. Price, \$6.00.

Considering Marriage? by Margaretta Kennedy. 12 pages. 25¢.

Courtship and Marriage by Ostis B. Wilson. 12 pages. 25¢.

Cruden's Complete Concordance. Revised edition, clothbound, 783 pages, over 200,000 references. Price, \$14.95.

Errors of Russellism by J. E. Forrest is a 252-page book bound in a heavy paper cover which gives an explanation of the misconceptions on which the modern day Jehovah's Witness religion is founded. Price, \$3.00.

Evening Light Songs, 538 page hymnal with shaped notes, in cloth binding. Price, \$10.00. For order of 12 or more, a discount of 10% is granted.

Faith and Victory books, 11 issues of the year 1993 in heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

Food for Lambs by C. E. Orr in English. Excellent for all ages, especially for young Christians. 168 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00.

Foxe's Book of Martyrs are the records compiled by John Foxe of the lives, sufferings and triumphant deaths of Christian martyrs

throughout history. Paper binding, 413 pages. Price, \$9.95.

Heavenly Life for Earthly Living by C. E. Orr. 60 pages of good soul food. Price, 75¢.

Helps to Holy Living by C. E. Orr. Paperbound, 64 pages, 75¢.

How to Live a Holy Life by C. E. Orr. 112 pages of soul food. Price, \$1.00.

How to Resist the Devil by F. J. Perryman. Biblical instruction in heavy paper cover, 48 pages. 75¢.

How We Got Our Bible by E. E. Byrum. 46 pages, 75¢.

Instruction of Youth in the Christian Life, by C. E. Orr. Paper cover, 32 pages. Price, 50¢.

Jesus Is Coming Again by H. M. Riggle. Paperbound, 111 pages. Price, \$1.50.

Little People Sing Unto The Lord is a songbook composed of 115 songs compiled by Patricia Bell. Although the songs are especially for children, they are favorites that any age would enjoy. Bound in a heavy paper cover, the price is \$5.00 each.

Must We Sin? by D. S. Warner. 24-page booklet of the supposed conversation between Bro. Light and Bro. Foggy on the sin question. 50¢.

Odors From Golden Vials by C. E. Orr. 78 pages in paper cover. \$1.00.

Only a Servant by Kristiana Roy. The story of the glorious conversion of an aged Jew. 86 pages in a heavy paper cover. \$1.00.

Parent and Child by J. W. Byers. 60-page book in a heavy paper cover, recommended for young parents. 75¢.

Pasha (Greasy) Tichomirow, the Converted Robber is translated from German by Charles Lukesh. 32 pages, paperbound, 50¢.

Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag by S. O. Susag, early-day minister of Church of God. 191 pages in paper cover. \$2.50.

Shadows of Good Things, or The Gospel in Type, by R. R. Byrum. 144-page book with diagrams dealing with types and shadows of the Old Testament. Paperbound, \$2.00.

Smith's Bible Dictionary, thoroughly revised and up-to-date, 836 pages, clothbound, containing 400 illustrations and 18 maps showing the Bible Lands. Price, \$11.95.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Entire Bible, is the only complete concordance of the English Bible. Lists each word in the King James Version, and includes a dictionary of the Hebrew Bible and the Greek New Testament. Price, \$26.95.

The Bible, The Inspired Word of God by Earl B. Bliss is a 16-page treatise on the verity of the Bible and why we should live by it. Price, 25¢.

The Heavenly Footman by John Bunyan, the author of *Pilgrim's Progress*. 32 pages bound in a heavy paper cover. Price. 50¢.

The Last Reformation by F. G. Smith. 256 pages, paperbound. \$3.25.

The Man of His Counsel by Effie Williams. 112 pages, paperbound. \$1.50.

The More Abundant Life by C. E. Orr. 32 pages, paperbound. Price, 50¢.

The Ordinances of the New Testament by Wm. G. Schell. Paperbound, 67 pages, \$1.00.

The Pilot's Voice by Isabel Byrum. Paper bound, 146 pages. A "must" for youth. \$2.00.

Unraveling Revelation by A. Q. Bridwell. 34 pages in a heavy paper cover. 50¢.

Was the Devil Ever in Heaven? by O. B. Wilson. Clear Bible answer in paper cover, 32 pages. Price, 50¢.

What About Man? by Harlan Sorrell. A 16-page poem addressing materialistic views. 25¢.

What the Bible Teaches by F. G. Smith. Reprint of original 1914 edition, 576 pages, clothbound. \$6.00.

For postage and handling, add 90¢ for the first dollar and 9¢ for each additional dollar of total order.

Mail Orders to—

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE
P. O. BOX 518
GUTHRIE, OK 73044

Prayer Requests

OK—"I desire you all to pray for me and my family." —Della Mustin

OK—"I want to put my husband on your prayer list. He has Parkinson's disease." —Inez Wilkins

WV—"We deeply need much prayer.... Pray for all our unsaved family and neighbors." —Steve Cashdollar

TN—"I would like to request prayer for my niece who has disconnecting tissue, also for my body which needs healing." —Helen Derrick

PA—"I am requesting prayer for my father, Donald Huss, and for Alda Hockenberry and two of her sons who are in very ill health. Remember each of us here at the Duncannon congregation as well. The Lord is still our helper and we desire to serve Him until He takes us home." —Barbara Campbell

MD—"My husband needs prayer for a numb right hand, and I am sore all over most of the time. We are seniors." —Sis. Martha Clements

OH—"Mervin Rudd needs prayer for ailments in his body." —Juanita Blankenship

AR—Sis. Nellie West desires prayer for several afflictions she has on her body.

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CAMP MEETING DATES

Fresno, CA—July 9-16

National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 21-30

Ensenada, Mexico—July 30-August 6

Bakersfield, CA—August 9-13.

Boley, OK—August 22-27

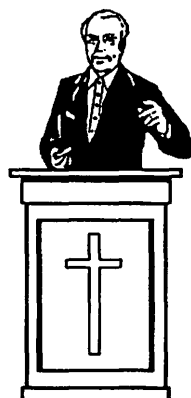
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MEETING NOTICES

FRESNO, CA CAMP MEETING

The dates for the Fresno, CA Camp Meeting are July 9-16, 1995. There will be three services both Sundays and on Saturday. During the week there will be a 10:30 service daily and a 7:30 service nightly.

We pray that God's manifest presence will work mightily throughout each service. A hearty welcome is extended to all to come expecting to



receive a rich blessing. God is able and willing to supply the needs of every soul.

The directions to the church are: For those coming north on Highway 99, take the Belmont exit, go about three miles to First Street, turn right and go two blocks to Grant. The church is on the corner of First Street and Grant. For those coming from the south, take the Venture exit, go east to First Street, turn left and follow to Grant. For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Taylor, 4776 N. Chestnut, Fresno, CA 93726. Phone: (209) 348-9029, or Bro. Charles Parrish, (209) 485-3465. The church phone is: (209) 486-9977.

—Sis. Gladys Foster

58TH NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The National camp meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 21-30, 1995. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

The Monark Springs Campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and 3/4 mile south of the intersection of Highways 86 and 71 Alternate.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may telephone the campground (472-6427, Granby, MO) for transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or lodging on the campground. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident that God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space, tents, and trailer spots are available on a first come, first served basis. Trailer spots include electricity, water and sewer hookups. Motels are available nearby, but reservations should be made in advance.

All correspondence about tents and dormitory spaces should be addressed to Sis. DeLoris Bradley, Rt. 1, Bartlett, KS 67332. Phone: (316) 226-3390. She will be coordinating requests for sleeping quarters on the camp ground.

—Business managers: Randel Bradley (above address), or Mike Hightower, Rt. 7, Box 336, Neosho, MO 64850.

BAKERSFIELD, CA CAMP MEETING

A welcoming invitation is extended to all to come and join with us in our annual camp

meeting. We are asking saints everywhere to join with us in praying for a successful camp meeting. We are expecting a special visitation from God, that Holy Ghost anointing will be in each service, so that all souls will get the help that is needed.

Our meeting begins, Lord willing, Wednesday, August 9th and will continue through Sunday, August 13th. There will be services nightly, Wednesday through Friday, at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday there will be a 10:30 a.m. and a 7:30 p.m. service. On Sunday there will be Sunday School plus two other regular worship services. We are praying and expecting God to send ministers and workers of His choosing.

For more information contact Bro. Archie Sherman at (805) 871-1636. The church is located at 1802 Virginia Avenue, Bakersfield, CA. The church telephone number is (805) 395-9314.

BOLEY, OK CAMP MEETING

The annual camp meeting of the Church of God at Boley, OK will be held August 22-27.

There will be two services daily: 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

There will be ample sleeping accommodations on the grounds.

Everyone is welcome to come to this camp meeting.

Please pray for the meeting.

For further information contact Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, (918) 667-3648, or Sis. Dorlene Adams (918) 667-3765.

DUNCANNON, PA REVIVAL

With God's help, the Church of God congregation in Duncannon will hold a Fall Revival, September 13-17. Services will be held at the chapel located on Route 849, west of Duncannon approximately 5 1/2 miles. We welcome all who wish to attend. Accommodations and camper sites are limited so we would appreciate prior notification of your arrival if possible. Please call Sis. Virginia Myers, (717) 834-4595, or Bro. and Sis. Stanley Huss, (717) 567-6988. Morning and evening services are planned. We solicit your prayers, whether or not you can come.

—Barbara Campbell

“Every person ought to go to church to get away from himself.” —Selected

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS



TX—Dear ones: Thank you for your prayers. God has healed me completely. The dizziness was terrible. I could not even crawl across the room.

May God bless you all, —Bro. Elbert Johnson
— — — — —

CA—Dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings in Jesus' name to all of you. The dear Lord has been good to us and has answered so many prayers. He tells us "...without me you can do nothing." John 15:5. I say "Amen" to that.

I haven't felt too well lately, but I have been praying about it and the dear Lord has taken care of it.

I pray for all the saints that are sick in their bodies and also the ones that have lost their loved ones.

We sure do enjoy the *Faith and Victory* and are thankful for the tracts also....

With all our love and prayers,

—Bro. Harold and Sis. Lois Underwood
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KS—Dear saints: Time is swiftly moving on and we surely have no time to waste. We must be about our Father's business. May the Lord help us to be able to get real truth to hungry souls who really want to follow Jesus all the way to glory.

I love the Lord, the truth and the way, and mean to make heaven my home.

Christian love, —Shirley Knight
— — — — —

MO—Enclosed you will find the names of two people I wish your paper to be mailed to. I, myself, look forward to receiving the paper every month.

At this time I would like to ask prayer for myself. I lost my husband a year ago in February, and to this date, I still feel lost and dead inside. I know the Lord and He has blessed me several times. I am just having trouble overcoming this one thing. —Roberta Brackman
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KS—Dear Bro. Wayne and all the dear saints: I would like, in my feeble way, to express our thankfulness and gratitude to each of you for all

that you have done during the illness and loss of our dear loved one. All the beautiful cards, prayers, offerings and the display of pretty flowers at the funeral which manifested a great expression of love, are appreciated. Thank you so much.

My home is so different without my wife, but at my age I won't have to wait long until I can go to join my loved ones. What a day that will be....

Since my dear wife is gone, would someone please take over the national missionary fund? It would be good if some young couple would do this.

Dear ones, press the battle on, and ever keep heaven in view. I want to meet all of you there.

With love and thanks, —Bro. Ralph Beisly
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AR—Dear Ones: I, Kathleen, want to give thanks to God for helping me when I was recently bitten by a brown recluse spider while I was asleep. I began having severe difficulty breathing and went into shock, but God was close by and answered our prayers for help. After the first day, God took away the chilling and fever and on the third day the core of the bite came out, allowing the sore to heal. We thank the Lord that He blessed me and didn't let it become big.

When I was sick we called the saints for prayer. It was a real encouragement to us to know that our brothers and sisters were with us in prayer before God. We appreciate every one of those prayers.

We desire that our lives may be used of God for His glory.

In Christian love,

—Alvin and Kathleen McMurrin
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OR—Faith Publishing House: Greetings to you in the name of our blessed Lord. I am well at the present time. I will soon be seventy-five years old. The Lord has been blessing me and I was able to plant a garden this year. I was a little tired after I got done, but I felt all right the next morning. I had no stiffness or pain in my shoulders or arms, which was a bit unusual for me, and I want to testify to that fact....

I have been receiving the *Faith and Victory* paper. Thank you for it.

Yours in Christ, —Sis. Juanita Jenkins
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LA—We are very thankful today for all of the Lord's blessings to us. We could never thank Him enough for how He answered prayer for us

when our daughter, Sonja, was so near death on January 1, 1995. She, at first, was pronounced brain dead; then, if she lived she would definitely have brain damage. But, praise God, through the prayers of many dear ones who were so concerned, God not only spared her life but completely restored her mental capabilities. He is so good to us and we love Him more than anything else in this world. Our desire is to live to please Him and make heaven our home.

—Sis. Cynthia LaCroix

In addition to what Cynthia has written I would like to add my testimony of what God has done for me. I had an affliction to come on my feet about the first of the year. It was so bad at times that I could hardly walk, but the Lord helped me to be able to work. My feet are much better now.

Pray for me to stay true to the Lord. I love the Lord and want to make heaven my home.

May God bless each one who prayed for us and Sonja in our times of great need.

Yours in Christ, —Doyle LaCroix

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TN—Dear Sir: We enjoy the *Faith and Victory* very much. We are still on the firing line for the Lord and we have answers to prayer every day.

We enjoy the "Letters from the Readers."

Sincerely, —Ruth A. Gossard

— — — — —

CA—"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." *Psa. 118:24*. I am thankful for the opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to all the saints for your prayers during my affliction.

Your sister in Christ, —Sis. Melia Viser

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings of Christian love. I hope all is going well with you and the workers there at the Print Shop.

I hope the damage will not be too great from the flood. I know it must have caused a lot of cleanup. We do have a promise that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord and to those who are called according to His purpose. (*Rom. 8:28*.) It is comforting to know that God knows best and He will do what is best for His trusting children. I trust God will give wisdom and direction in the future. He directed Noah how to prepare the ark, Moses how to build the tabernacle and gave wisdom how to build the temple. So He is still the same today....

Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

IN—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and workers at the Faith Publishing House: I am appreciating the *Faith and Victory* paper that I have read for many years, and I would like to renew my subscription for seven more years.

I have been a widow since 1956. If I live until September I will have seen seventy-seven years of this earthly life.

I never cease to thank God for a dear lady who gave me subscription to your paper years ago. I have looked forward to it every month. I have tried to save most of them for they give me faith to trust my God and have confidence in a people who I feel really live up to the truth of the Word. May the Lord ever continue to bless you and help in your blessed work there in Oklahoma.

I desire your prayers, —Sis. Mary Davis

— — — — —

KS—Dear Bro. Wayne and all who are faithfully doing God's work at the Print Shop: I felt impressed to write to you my testimony in hopes that it may be of help to someone. I have been receiving the *Faith and Victory* for awhile now, and if memory serves me correctly, I believe ever since I was baptized in early 1993 in Wichita. I enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory*, and when I finish reading one, I eagerly look forward to reading the next one that comes in the mail. With the state of the world nowadays, it helps to read encouraging and inspiring information, in addition to prayer and trusting the Lord to lead and guide me in my everyday life; especially in raising a young son alone, and teaching him to love and follow the Lord.

My testimony is about something that happened to me several years ago, and how the Lord delivered me from danger and spared my life. I have never told this to any of my loved ones (except for my son), for fear they would worry too much about me (I do not want to be a burden to anyone).

For as long as I can remember, I have always loved motorcycles. I used to own one, up until a little while back. Years ago, when I still lived at home with my parents and had my motorcycle, I would go out riding early in the morning. (After daylight and before a lot of traffic hit the streets.) I went out riding one morning, and decided to venture into Kansas City looking for a particular address. I used my motorcycle a lot for venturing into new, unknown areas. As I was riding through a neighborhood looking for the street, a car with a man and woman pulled up beside

me, so I decided to ask them if they knew where the street was. I don't recall what they said exactly, but I don't think they knew where it was. Anyway, I went on riding along still looking for the street, and I noticed that the car was still following behind me. When we came to a stop sign, the man driving the car got out, came up to me, and seemingly being friendly, introduced himself and asked me my name. He asked if he could ride my motorcycle. I told him "No, I don't think so, because I really have to go." I was beginning to be afraid because he was very persistent. I was desperately praying for this man to go and leave me alone. Only by the grace of God did he finally give up and get back into his car. I immediately took off as fast as I could and prayed that they would turn off on some street somewhere, and again by God's grace did this happen. I think I went straight home from there, thanking the Lord for allowing me to get away safely.

Later that evening, I just happened to see that man on television as a wanted criminal in the area using an alias name, which was the name he used to introduce himself to me. I am so very thankful to the Lord for sparing my life that day, because as crazy as people are, he could have forced me into the car, taken me somewhere and raped and/or killed me. I hope that this may be of help to someone somewhere.

I am currently going through some trials and tribulations. Please pray for me that I will continue to look to the Lord and remain faithful to Him. Thank you.

—Tawanda Graves



FOREIGN MISSION REPORT

From India...

May 18, 1995—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints scattered in different states of America: Greetings in the gracious name of Jesus Christ.

I was sorry to hear of the terrible bomb explosion and the killing of many precious and innocent souls in Oklahoma City. The wicked-

ness of the present generation has gone to a high level. Esther cried, "...How can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?" (Esther 8:6.)

The convention at Athani during the first week of May was our last convention for this season. The rainy season has already started. Bible studies, youth association, cottage meetings, fasting and prayer meetings, house visiting and all such activities are going on.

We need your special prayer and support for the progress of our monthly paper, *Evening Light*, printed in the Malayalam language. The price of paper has gone up and the printing expenses are also very high. Please pray and support this ministry.

Our prayers are for you and for the progress of the ministry there.

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese



To an Old Disciple

(Continued from page 3.)

dear to our hearts. In general, too, we are treated with respect. Good men think with Solomon that "the hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness." The respect paid us is well suited to smooth our way. We have also stores of experience, which wealth could not buy. We have been taught the art of walking in darkness and having no light, and yet trusting in the Lord. We know that all is not lost which is brought into danger. We know better than the young disciple what is meant by such texts as these: "When I am weak, then I am strong;" "He that loseth his life, shall find it;" "I have meat to eat, that ye know not of." A thousand good lessons of this sort has God taught us. We know, too, that in His providence, as in nature, the darkest hour is just before day. Why may it not be so with us, as our sky is more and more lowering? May not eternal day be ready to burst upon us? Indeed, a thousand mercies still surround us. If our hearts are right, we cannot fail to see them. Let us often count them up.



To know how to grow old is the masterwork of wisdom, and one of the most difficult chapters in the great art of living.

—Henri Amiel

Freedom from Prison

By Connie Sorrell

The heavy metal door creaked open and the prisoner stepped inside the small cubical. It held an open drain in one corner, over which was a water faucet. Across and along the opposite wall was a concrete block, six by four feet, upon which lay a hard, rubber mattress.

As the weary prisoner sat down on the rubber mattress, the metal door banged shut and keys rattled in the lock. The prisoner sighed. Separated from family, saints and friends—what a lonesome feeling! The four cold, gray walls looked harsh, menacing, and a shudder shook the frail body.

Where was God now? Was He yet to be trusted?

The prisoner looked up and felt a nourishing warmth began to pour down. It strengthened the inner being like healthy soup to a starving body. With outstretched arms, the prisoner stood up and quietly acknowledged the presence of the Lord. Then they began to visit.

Tear-stained questions were addressed to the Father and simple, reasonable answers were delivered to the child. This punishment was not for wrongdoing but it was a test of trust: a trusting Father expecting His child to obey and trust Him through the fiery furnace.

Though isolated in a cell, the prisoner was not alone for the Creator of the universe was there. Authorities had imprisoned the body but they had not bound the spirit.

Physical imprisonment is damaging to the natural life but imprisonment of the soul can lead to eternal damnation. A prisoner definitely knows "I am locked up" when held inside a concrete cell, but spiritual imprisonment can be obscure though just as real.

What are some spiritual prisons?

Anger can be one. Inward anger at people—parents, children, a spouse, the boss, or toward certain people or groups. Uncontrolled anger will lock the person into unacceptable social behavior. A magnified example of monstrous anger is found in the recent bombing in Oklahoma City. Such anger toward the U.S. government caused 168 deaths.

Most people occasionally experience emo-

tional anger which must be checked and analyzed. In Ephesians 4:26-27, it reads: "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil." Positive anger will motivate a person to do something constructive. Sinful anger hurts others, and it destroys the prisoner held in its bondage.

Another spiritual prison is bitterness. A person full of bitterness isolates the soul from help by thinking each problem is the fault of others, caused by a bad situation, or sent by God Himself. An exaggerated example of bitterness is the Menendez brothers who claim their father abused them as children. As grown men, they killed their father and mother and inherited 14 million dollars. Erik and Lyle were not convicted for their crime by a U.S. jury but they are in a spiritual prison. Hatred and bitterness control persons who react with animosity. Hebrews 12:15 warns against the root of bitterness that can spring up and defile the soul. Harbored hurts over "injustices" can grow to engulf the whole person. Bitterness is never justifiable.

Also, fear will hold souls captive. Today psychology has many long names for extreme fears but any captivating fear is from the enemy. Fear brings doubt. "...God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." II Tim. 1:7.

The main character in "Hind's Feet on High Places" was in bondage to fear. Much-Afraid was badly intimidated by the Fearing Family. Through many trials and tests, the Good Shepherd finally taught her how to rise above fear and skip with Him upon the mountain tops regardless of what others said to her or how the future looked.

One time she was in a mountain cave when she came upon a delicate plant growing inside a rock prison. Much-Afraid was amazed at the blood-red beauty of this flower blooming alone, out of sight. She knelt and asked the flower its name. It answered, "Bearing-the-cost, or Forgiveness." The flower went on to explain that it had been dropped there and forsaken by others but it did not let their cruelty mar its devotion to God. Through the day, through the night, it lifted up its face to behold the love of

God. His divine love gave her the courage to bear the cost and forgive. This pleasing flower conquered an unforgiving prison.

Likewise, the prisoner in the cubical reached up to the Lord for deliverance. Willingly, hopefully, the door of the heart was swung open. Only the person could open the door for help. Only God could remove the spiritual chains that coiled about the heart.

Patience answered the anger giving the prisoner endurance. (James 1:2-4.) Love turned the bitterness into honey and strengthened the soul. (Matt. 5:43-48.) When love began to work, a prayer from the heart was whispered, "...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...." (Luke 23:34.) Perfect love and trust in God casts out fear with its torment. (1 John 4:18.) There was no spiritual bondage found in that cell that day.

More dark trials followed but this Christian knew how to gain spiritual freedom—the most treasured freedom on earth. No matter how deep the wounds, humble submission before God heals deeper. His offered grace will set the accepting captive free.

There are other spiritual prisons (envy, lust, greed, bad habits, etc.) that hold millions of souls captive. However, a trusting child of God has freedom from these dark prisons. As we run this race with patience, let us not be weary in well-doing for we shall mount up with wings as eagles while we wait upon the Lord.

HOME LIFE



Young People Should Learn Economy

Before young people start to do for themselves, they should also be taught how to manage and economize. Many young people never know where money comes from and consequently cannot know its value. Such young men and young women are handicapped in getting along financially. Let them learn how money is made and also how to save it, not to be covetous, but for the purpose of knowing how to get along themselves, as well as to be able to do good outside of their own circle in life. The scripture does not say in vain, "Study to be quiet, and to do your own business [manage your own affairs], and to work with your hands...that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing." Parents should study this good lesson themselves, as well as practice it, and should teach it to their children in a practical way.

—Taken from *Home, Health and Success*
by Thomas Nelson

Saints In Guthrie Forced to Vacate Campground

The saints in Guthrie have once again experienced the destructive results of severe flooding. On June 4th, the last day of the Guthrie Camp Meeting, the afternoon and night services had to be canceled as the campground came under threat of flooding. The saints worked together through the afternoon to remove furniture and equipment from the buildings in an effort to save them from damage or loss. That night the water left the banks of the Cottonwood Creek and rose to a height of eight inches in the Chapel and twenty-one inches in the dining hall. The next evening a number of the saints met at the church grounds and started the clean up process of pushing the mud out of the buildings and hosing down walls, floors, etc. Wednesday night prayer service was canceled due to the moisture and odor still in the chapel. The following Friday,

June 9th, the already swollen creek was once again forced from its banks by more torrential rains. Flood waters swept across the campground and the west side of the city rising to an all time record height, destroying businesses and homes. The campground was under more than six feet of water. There were seventy inches of water in the dining hall and nearly fifty-eight inches in the chapel. Much damage was done, especially to the chapel. Windows were broken and doors destroyed. One entrance door was ripped from its hinges and about thirty church pews floated out of the building and disappeared. The pews that remain are pretty much beyond use.

Due to the cost of repairs to reoccupy the damaged chapel, the church trustees felt it would be wisdom not to put more money into the building, but rather try to finish the new chapel which

is under construction. Total completion cost of the campground relocation project that was started in 1989 has been estimated at one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. This project includes a new chapel, dining hall, entrance road and parking lot. If the city will give us a temporary occupancy permit, we feel like we can finish enough of the building to have services in for about fifty thousand dollars. We could not have campmeeting again, however, until the rest of the project was completed.

The congregation is currently having services in the church school located on the new campground. The room used for the chapel is not air conditioned and hearing is difficult due to very poor acoustics. Folding metal chairs are being used for seating. In spite of these difficulties we are thankful that we still have a place to meet and carry on until we are able to do better. The Lord is blessing our services.

The disposal of the old campground is of great concern to us. The city of Guthrie has expressed some interest in incorporating the property into a city park they plan to develop. We are hoping that they will offer to buy it with federal grant money which they may receive as a result of the flood being declared a national disaster by the president. However, we do not know if the disaster money can be used in that way or if it will be a priority to the city. At present we have no real assurance that the property will sell and the proceeds be available to help pay for the completion of relocation to the new campground. Please pray about this.

The congregation here at Guthrie is seeking the Lord for help and generously giving what they can to get the new chapel ready enough to use on a limited basis. Please share this burden with us. If you care to correspond with the church concerning this situation you may do so by writing to: Church Of God, C/O Route 6 Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044. We appreciate the concern many have already shown and thank each one who has offered assistance. Please continue to pray for us.

—Bob Sallee

Since the chapel at 6th and W. Warner is no longer in use, mail is not delivered to that address. Correspondence to the Church of God may be addressed in care of the pastor, Bro. Charles Elwell, 5308 Meadow Lake Dr., Guthrie, OK 73044.



Excerpts Taken From July, 1970 Faith and Victory

"Bro. Sam Barton, veteran minister of the gospel, finished his course on June 6 [1970] and won the crown of eternal life. His passing seems a personal loss, as this writer first met Bro. Barton and heard him preach at the Dover, OK, camp meeting in the early 1930's, and through the years we have been closely associated, especially the 20 years we served together on the National Camp Meeting Board and the many years together on the Oklahoma State Board. The large attendance of saints and friends at his memorial service in Tulsa, OK, on June 9 was evidence of the high esteem in which he was held. His life of devotion to the cause of Christ will live on in our hearts and the Church at large."

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

60th Wedding Anniversary



Bro. Roy and Sis. Virginia Harmon began a new life together on August 22, 1935. They accepted the Lord early in their marriage and Bro. Roy has served God faithfully for many years in the ministry. Concerning their 60 years together Bro. Roy says, "It has been the mercy and goodness of God." Sis. Virginia adds, "And sticking together through thick and thin."