

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the
gathering of the
people be.

GOD IS
LOVE

YE SHINE AS
LIGHTS IN
THE WORLD.

JESUS
SAVES

The night cometh,
when no man
can work.

Volume 74, No. 8 74th Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$1.00 Per Year November, 1996

THANKSGIVING

November 28



"Thank You, Lord"

Author Unknown

*Even though I clutch my blanket and growl
when the alarm rings every morning, thank
You, Lord, that I can hear. There are many who
are deaf.*

Even though I keep my eyes tightly closed

*against the morning light as long as possible,
thank You, Lord, that I can see. There are many
who are blind.*

*Even though I huddle in my bed and put off
getting up, thank You, Lord, that I have
strength to rise. There are many who are bedfast.*

*Even though the first hour of my day is
hectic—socks are lost and toast is burned,
thank You, Lord, for my family. There are
many who are lonely.*

*Even though our breakfast table never looks
like those in the ladies' magazine and the menu
is sometimes unbalanced, thank You, Lord, for
the food we have. There are many who are
hungry.*

*Even though school is often monotonous,
thank You, Lord, for the opportunity to learn.
There are many who are uneducated.*

*Even though from day to day I wish my
circumstances were not quite so modest, thank
You, Lord, for the gift of life!*

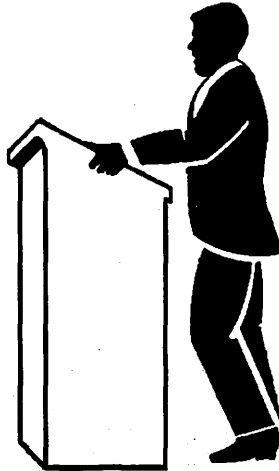
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MINISTER'S COLUMN



We are living in a fast age. Every element likely to be prominent, to have preeminence, or become predominant is pushing forward, aiming to be at the front. This is the wisdom that "...descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish." Jas. 3:15. This is true both in the secular and spiritual realm of man. It was this element, or spirit, that led to the abuse of ministerial authority among the primitive Christians.

The disposition to desire to be somebody great, or to be recognized as one vested with authority over men, was manifested among the first apostles during Christ's earthly ministry. "Then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest." Luke 9:46. John speaks of one who loved to have preeminence. III John 9. These Scriptural references, along with what we behold in sectism as the fruit of this disposition in unsanctified man, should be a continual reminder of the danger of having a desire to be preeminent. In the last ten years I have known of some very useful men, able ministers, who have fallen and become castaways because they admitted into their hearts a desire to be recognized as somebody great. We need not be surprised at this; for, since the early Christians had to guard against the danger of falling into this error, we might expect more danger of the same nature in these days of special peril to our souls. The more prevalent an evil of a particular form and nature, the more necessary it becomes for us to guard against that particular form of evil. This fact is borne out by testimony of Jesus concerning these

MINISTERIAL AUTHORITY AND HOW IT SHOULD BE EXERCISED

(Taken from "Gospel Trumpet," 1908)

last days—"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Matt. 24:12. The love of preeminence and the abuse of authority by professed ministers of Christ are one form of iniquity abounding everywhere. Against this we must continually guard.

THE NATURE OF OUR AUTHORITY

First. We are commissioned to preach the gospel to all nations, to teach them to observe all things that Jesus has commanded us to observe. (Matt. 28:19-20.) "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." II Tim. 4:2. We find that among the things which Jesus commanded the apostles to observe were these: to minister healing to the sick, to raise the dead, and to cast out devils. (Matt. 10:8.) Just before His ascension to heaven, He said that similar signs should follow believers.

Second. We are ambassadors. "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." II Cor. 5:20. As ambassadors, we are representatives of Jesus Christ to the people, endeavoring to persuade them to be reconciled to God. When we perform our office work as ambassadors properly, we are backed by all the authority of heaven, and whatever we do will be recognized as binding by the Lord himself.

This is briefly the nature of the authority of ministers of the gospel. They have no authority to forgive sins that have been committed against

God. Neither have they any power to formulate doctrines and creeds, or articles of faith for God's people. They have no authority over the faith of the people of God. "Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand." II Cor. 1:24. We have no right to condemn as sinful what cannot

be proved sinful by the Scriptures. Again, we have no authority to dictate to our fellow men how far light has been received by those who are conscientiously trusting in God. We have no authority to unsettle their faith nor to destroy it, unless we can prove that they are deceived. The law of Christ is already complete. —J. C. B.



Listen and Know by the "You" and "We"

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

One golden crisp Saturday morning I was busy changing beds and doing housework when the Lord came down and flooded my soul with so much happiness I had to sing. I was singing "Joy Unspeakable" (#88 in Evening Light Songs):

"I have found his grace is all complete,
He supplieth ev'ry need;
While I sit and learn at Jesus' feet,
I am free, yes, free indeed.
Chorus: It is joy unspeakable and full of glory,
Full of glory, full of glory;
It is joy unspeakable and full of glory,
Oh, the half has never yet been told.

I was on the chorus for the second time when a voice spoke to my mind. "What are YOU so happy about? Look at all the repair work that needs to be done on YOUR house and YOU know it will never get done. Also, YOU put a dent in the van last week and now YOU have to drive around a beat up van. Remember all the problems YOU had through the last week? None of them were really solved and YOU will have to face them all again. Things are getting worse and worse. Think about the condition of YOUR nation. How long do YOU think there will be freedom for YOU to worship freely? Don't YOU know there are hundreds of people in prison right now for believing in Jesus Christ and here YOU are singing when YOU should be worried and praying!"

Then another voice spoke to my mind. "Together WE have fought many battles in life and WE have won the victory. WE are at peace this day because the enemy cannot separate US. WE have made covenants together and WE have both kept OUR promises. As long as WE stay faithful to each other, WE don't need to fear the future battles because WE have a hope that is eternal—a hope that goes beyond the grave. Remember, heaven will be worth it all!"

Praise the Lord! I never stopped singing all that day! I KNEW which voice was my shepherd's (John 10:4) and I KNEW "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." (Psalm 23:3.) Why should I fear evil for He was with me? I KNEW He was with me because His rod of strength continually guided me in the way and His staff of mercy comforted my heart. That day He anointed my head with oil so that my cup ran over with joy. I KNEW the joy came from the Lord because it restored my soul and even rested my body. Praise the Lord!

Often the voice of the enemy will crush us down and cause us to feel hopeless. If the devil can take away our joy in spiritual blessings and our hope in eternal life, then he has robbed the jewel of our faith. Isn't faith the substance of things hoped for? (Hebrews 11:1.) Yes, it is an anchor to our soul both steadfast and sure. (Hebrews 6:19.) The devil knows this and he seeks to rob and destroy our hope and joy in the Lord. He is a wolf in sheep's clothing speaking to us with crushing words and hopeless accusations.

The voice of the Lord brings hope, assurance and comfort. Even when the Lord convicts a sinner, His voice speaks with hope and the promise of victory. It is the voice of the shepherd calling his sheep to safety through the obedience of His Commandments. The very name of Jesus Christ our Savior speaks of deliverance from sin, depression, and accusations of the devil. (Isaiah 9:6; Acts 3:15-16; II Timothy 2:21.) How wonderful it is to rejoice in the Lord and be glad in the days that He has given us! He will bless us with hope and joy even in the midst of a battle! Praise the Lord!

A couple of mornings later I was in a heated battle and praying to the Lord for wisdom and help. A voice spoke to me and said: "Where is YOUR song now? YOU sure lost the victory awfully fast. What a big cry baby YOU are! Don't YOU still have faith in the Lord? YOU worry too much about little things that don't matter. If YOU were a child of God, YOU wouldn't feel so good one day and be so discouraged the next! YOU are a shame to the Lord!"

Was that true? I pushed out several thoughts in my mind and struggled to become quiet. I certainly didn't want to displease the Lord. Then I heard another voice. "WE are still together, aren't WE?" This voice instructed me and gently told me how to improve. Sure there was a trial and a battle but WE were in it together.

By evening time I KNEW all was well but I didn't really feel like singing "Joy Unspeakable." So I asked the Lord to give me a song and He did. He gave me the last verse and chorus to "Sing It Again." (#50 in Evening Light Songs.) "We will sing the name of Jesus all along the path of life, We will sing it, hallelujah, 'mid the battle and the strife; We will sing it all together when we meet upon that shore, Oh, we'll sing the name of Jesus, blessed name forevermore. Chorus: "Sing it again, sing it again, Sweetest of all the names that angels sing above, Sing it again, sing it again, Jesus, thy name's a fountain of redeeming love."

FAITH AND VICTORY

16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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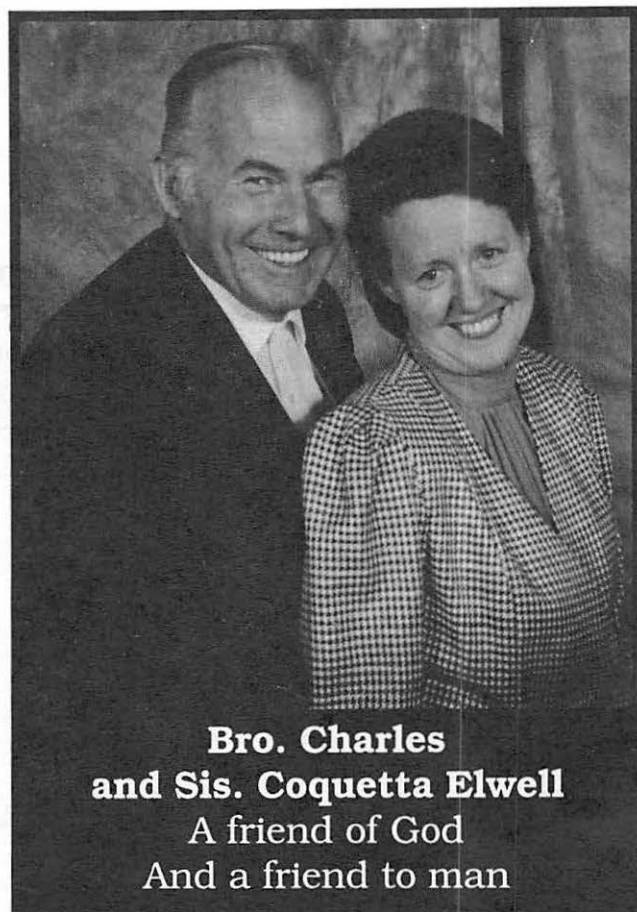
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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).



**Bro. Charles
and Sis. Coquetta Elwell**
A friend of God
And a friend to man

Bro. Charles Elwell received the call from God on Oct. 15 to join the ranks of those who have finished their earthly walk. His memory will always be treasured in the hearts of those who knew him.

It was said of Abraham, that he was a friend of God. (James 2:23.) So it was of Bro. Charles, also. Friendship is earned, and the things which earned Abraham this title were also evident in the life of Bro. Elwell.

Abraham **believed God**, a quality which drew him close to God's heart. When called upon to sojourn in a strange land, Abraham's faith was such that he did not question. When God asked for Isaac, Abraham prepared to offer up his only son, believing God could raise Isaac even from the dead.

Abraham **feared God**—not with a tormenting fear, but with respect and reverence. This healthy fear led him to do all God required of him. (Gen. 22:12.) It is no wonder God loved Abraham. Their friendship was one in which mutual respect prevailed.

Abraham **carried a concern for the lost**. (Gen. 18:16-33.) God also deeply cares for those in sin, insomuch that He gave His only

Son to redeem them. This mutual interest in souls brought Abraham and God into close fellowship.

Those who were acquainted with Bro. Charles' life will testify that he also believed God, feared God and had a deep concern for the lost.

Bro. Charles was also a friend to man. He gave talent, time and finances to help those around him. He fit the description of friendship one author expressed this way: "Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are, chaff and grain together; certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away." This is what it was like to be associated with Bro. Charles. And we will sorely miss him....

During this time of sorrow the Lord has sustained Bro. Charles' wife, Sis. Coquette. However, I am sure she would appreciate your continued prayers. Those who wish to offer condolences may contact her at: 5308 Meadow Lake Dr., Guthrie, OK 73044.

— — — — —

Another stalwart soldier for Christ who has gone to be with the Lord is Sis. Ailene Dickson. She also was a beacon of the spirit of Christ to those around her.

The Lord has been helping her husband, Bro. Stanley Dickson, pastor of the Church of God at Four Corners, OK, to make the adjustments required after losing a dear and close companion. If you would like to express your sympathy to him, address your correspondence to: 441053 E 230 Rd., Vinita, OK 74301.

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New Print Shop Building Report

Because of the goodness and provision of our Lord, progress is still being made on the new Print Shop.

Over the months since construction began, a number of saints have inquired about the financial status of the project. We shared what information we could as the work progressed, but now we have been able to arrive at a projected finishing cost.

In early June of 1995, Faith Publishing House received a check of \$166,451.10 from the estate of Sis. Effie Clark, of Lakeland, FL.

Having felt for some time the need to relocate, we put the check in an interest bearing account with the purpose of relocation specifically in mind. Then on June 9, 1995, the Cottonwood Creek flooded, filling the Print Shop with an unprecedented 13 inches of muddy water. This caused much damage and loss. On July 20, 1995, the trustees of Faith Publishing House voted unanimously to build a new Print Shop. This vote was made with the knowledge that it was a vote of faith, since the money received from the Clark estate was insufficient for completing a project of this magnitude. However, since the daily operation of this work is already on a basis of faith, and having seen the Lord provide in the past, with confidence we looked to the future.

The project was pursued and up to this time, God has blessed us to be able to accomplish the work at a very reasonable cost.

For \$35,000.00, Bro. Tim Huskey sold us land on which to build. This was well below the appraised value. Bros. John Madden, and his son, John, of Bristow, OK, gave us a low bid to bring their dirt-moving equipment to the property and prepare the building site.

After the completion of that phase, we accepted bids for the foundation and erection of the metal structure. Bros. John Gibson and Dwane Sorrell bid substantially below others we received, and as of this writing, have finished the erection of the building with only the porch to complete.

On July 15th of this year, \$54,890.05 was received from Sis. Gladys Piper's estate and placed in the building fund. Over and above the money received from these two estates, the saints have contributed \$22,290.26. We feel that the good to be accomplished through printing the gospel in this new and efficient building will serve as a living memorial to Sis. Effie Clark, Sis. Gladys Piper, and every other contributor, however small the donation.

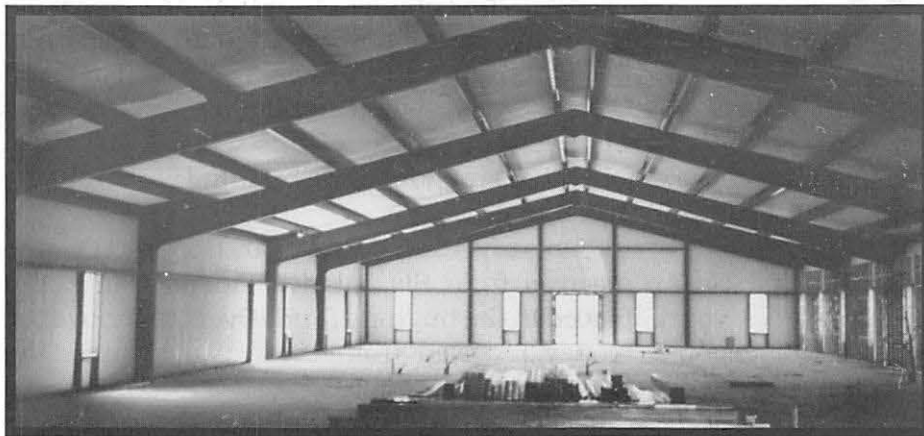
We have now entered into the phase of erecting metal studs for the inside walls, running electrical wiring, sheet rocking the walls and installing a hanging ceiling. The funds on hand are not quite adequate to cover these costs, and additionally, a projected \$90,000.00 will still be needed before the building is ready for occupancy.

(Continued on page 7.)



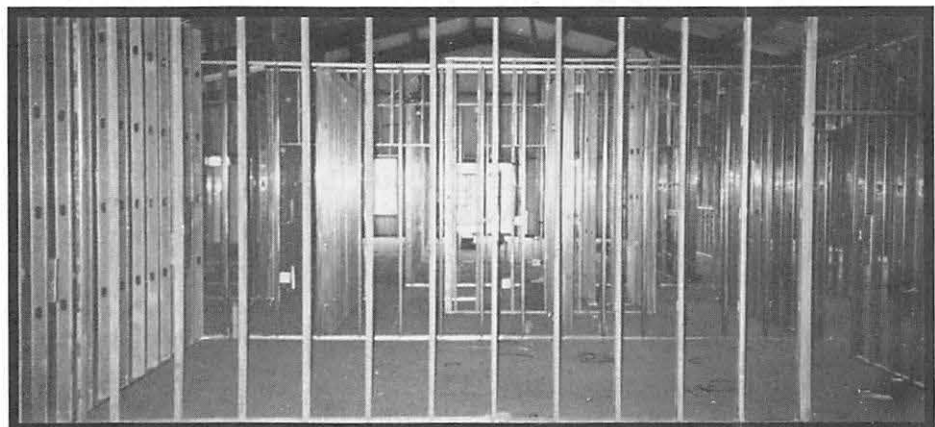
Preparing the front of the building to be bricked.

After the front of the building has been bricked.



Inside of the building before the metal studs are erected.

Inside of the building after the metal studs are erected.



leaves us with the need for a full-time pressman. We hope to hear from a dedicated brother with a heart to fill this position. We cannot offer commercial wages, but God always seems to supply the needs of those who work here, and blesses those who labor with a burden. Opportunity for reaping souls shortens with each passing day, and there is an urgency to print and distribute more of the gospel before Christ returns.

Soon we hope to have 1997 wall calendars in stock and ready for sale. The calendars measure 7 1/4" X 13 1/2". Featuring a colorful nature scene with a Bible verse for each month, they make nice Christmas gifts. The cost is \$3.00 each, which includes the postage and handling.

Bro. Michael's departure from the Print Shop



OK—Please keep Bro. Kenneth Flynn in your prayers.

WICHITA, KS MEETING REPORT

We thank the Lord for His mercy and love and the victories He gives us in this life. He truly blessed and granted victory in our meeting. The Word was powerful and rich. The very first message told us about the great things of God. The saving of our soul is a great thing and then God gives us the great Holy Spirit. We were urged in messages not to be neglectful, not to let God's Word slip, to put forth extra effort and to give God credit, as well as to have fervent love. We were given a clear understanding from two messages of what it means to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. We were told what it takes to develop inward beauty and how important right motives are and the need of having a purpose. We were exhorted that the older ones must teach the younger ones how to love, as the Bible so instructs us, and then be a good example to them. God also sent a very clear message on the purpose of the congregation. God's Word blessed, taught, corrected, edified and warned. The Lord knows how to help us and bless us, and we thank Him for His faithfulness to each of our souls. May we each prove faithful to Him.

—Shirley Knight

The Duncannon, PA congregation received much encouragement and inspiration during our September revival. We surely appreciate all

the good messages God faithfully sent, and also the messengers and dedicated workers. The calls and prayers of those who couldn't come were beneficial too. —Sis. Barbara Campbell

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK FALL MEETING

The saints who meet at 5900 NE 23rd St., Oklahoma City, OK, are planning, Lord willing, to have a fall meeting November 4-10. There will be services nightly at 7:30, and on Sunday, November 10, there will be morning and afternoon services as well as dinner.

For further information you may contact the pastors, Bro. Loren and Sis. Maxine Busbee, phone: (405) 341-7291. The chapel phone is: (405) 427-1223.

OAK HILL/PHELON, CA WEEKEND SERVICES

The Oak Hill/Phelon (formerly of Pomona) congregation, are planning their annual fall weekend services to be November 16-17, 1996. Lord willing, there will be a singspiration in the 7:00 p.m. service, Saturday, November 16.

For more information contact Bro. and Sis. Travis Johnson, (619) 261-2564.

WATER VALLEY, MS FALL MEETING

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. If it be the Lord's will, the saints in Mississippi will be having their fall meeting in their new chapel on November 17-24, at 7:30 nightly. Everyone is invited and will be cared for.

There are camper spaces, but hookups are unavailable at this time. There are motels in the surrounding areas for those desiring motel accommodations. Homes are also open for some of the sisters and dormitory space for the brothers.

Everything will be operated on a freewill offering basis. If you cannot join us in the opening of the new chapel, we will appreciate your prayers and support.

The Word will be preached by Bro. Mart Samons and Bro. Keith Fuller.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Louis Kimble, (505) 467-9039 or (504) 467-8842 or Bro. Lessie Brown (601) 675-2718. Correspondence should be addressed to: Church of God Evening Light, P.O. Box 84, Coffeeville, MS 38922.

GENERAL SOUTHERN ASSEMBLY MEETING

The General Southern Assembly Meeting is to begin on the morning (10:30 a.m.) of Wednesday, November 27th and last through Sunday, December 1st, at Loranger, LA. Come expecting a blessing.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Power and water hookups are provided for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offering.

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit. (Take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40.)

For more information write Nelson Doolittle: 51367 Narretto Rd., Loranger, LA 70446. Phone: (504) 878-6111. The Chapel phone is: (504) 878-2788.

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 90th annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK, from December 20 through December 29, 1996. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S. The first service will be held Friday evening, December 20th at 7:30 p.m. Daily worship services throughout the remainder of the meeting will start at 10:15 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. There will also be a morning prayer service at 9:00 a.m. and a youth service at 6:00 p.m.

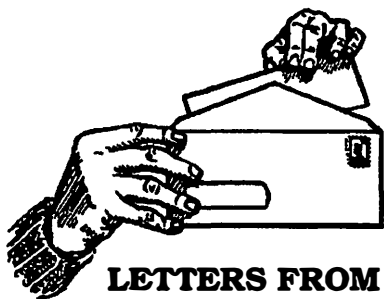
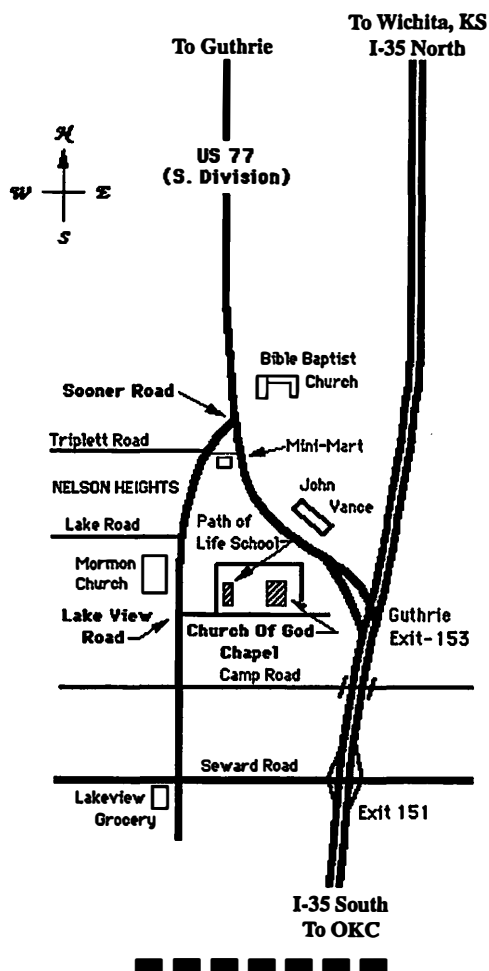
The new campground is located east off of Sooner Road on Lake View Road which is a little over four tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road (See Map). All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met as usual by freewill offerings. Come share in the blessings of the Lord and enjoy the new campground facilities He has so graciously provided.

We especially urge the saints in Oklahoma and the surrounding states to attend this meeting. Pastors and gospel workers, encourage your congregation to spend part of their Christmas holidays at this meeting. Come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all those who need help in soul and body. Come help us close out the year with victory.

Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly Meeting directly to the State

Treasurer, Sister Brenda Wilkins, Rt. 6 Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044. Phone: (405) 282-0566.

Directions to the Guthrie chapel.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the name of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. I appreciate the sacrifice which He made for me that I might live. My desire is to be more like Him every day. This is a learning way and the Word becomes more precious as the years go by. New things seem to open up to us as we read and meditate.

This way is full of joy even though my desires (such as going to church) are not met. I once thought that Christians were people who were

somber and without pleasures. Now I know better.

Again, I thank God for Jesus, and for the saints, the happy people.

I appreciate the *Faith and Victory* and the *Bible Lessons* are inspiring.

Christian love, ————— —Bob Mickelson

MS—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and workers: Greeting in Jesus' sweet name.

I pray that all of you are well and encouraged in the Lord. I am happy in the Lord, and mean to press on.

I am in a nursing home. I broke my hip before I came here and it has never gotten well. I am almost helpless, but I can roll around in my wheelchair. I am so thankful that I haven't fallen since I have been here.

Two months or more ago my foot got real bad. They don't know what was the matter with it. After my niece found it so bad, they did their best to make it well. I have been in much pain and it is hard to sleep at night. I think something bit me. It is better, but not well. Please pray for me.

In Christian love, ————— —Novella Pugh

NC—Dear Bro. Wayne: We would like to request prayer for Jimmie Revell of Sneads Ferry, N.C. He needs prayer for both soul and body.

Frankie continues to improve each day. His recovery is slow, but steady. We have been overwhelmed by the support of the saints. Please keep Frankie in your prayers.

We're praying for the Print Shop workers and the work.

Sincerely, ————— —Lynne Millis

WV—Dear Bro. Wayne: I feel a closeness to God whenever I receive my monthly *Faith and Victory* paper. I am 77 years old and very handicapped with arthritis. Please pray for my health.

————— —Christine Butters

FL—Dear Bro. Murphey and all the saints: You don't know who I am since this is my first letter. My name is Sis. Mary C. Williams. I just recently got saved and I was baptized last Sunday, September 29th. I attend church in Miami with the Clays and McIntyre's. What I really want to let the saints know is that my mother, Sis. Mattie B. Savage, is doing well and would like to hear from the saints. A card or a

note would be appreciated. She is in a nursing home. She is 101 years old, but she reads every day and is in her right mind which is what she always prayed for. She can't walk, but other than that, she is fine.

If anyone cares to write, the address is: 2872 N.W. 2nd St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311.

Pray for me that I will grow strong in the Lord, also for my unsaved children. I plan to make heaven my home.

Prayerfully yours, —Mary C. Williams

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OK—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings again. I am thankful I yet love the Lord and enjoy His daily blessings. It has been several months since you have heard from me. My health has been good, except during the month of May I had a problem with arthritis in my right knee, and I wasn't able to make it to the Guthrie camp meeting....

During the month of June, all through the day, I would repeat the 23rd Psalm. Finally, I told someone, "I need a preacher to preach the 23rd Psalm for me." To my joy, you printed the message by Bro. Ostis Wilson taken from 1980. I am sure I can say, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

I also enjoyed the article by Jason Murphey. I have experienced this consecration for years, but it was strength to read it in print.

Always for prayer,

—Sis. Johnnye Lee Johnson

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CA—Bro. and Sis. Wayne Murphey: Greetings in the name of Jesus.

I feel led to give you an update on our trip to the petrified remains of Noah's Ark. My wife, Elke, son Glenn, and I went to visit my daughter, Sarina, who was stationed in Germany. She arranged a cruise of the Mediterranean Sea with a stop in Turkey. That triggered an impulse to go to eastern Turkey and visit the site of Noah's ark. Glenn said, "Let's go for it."

We jumped ship in Greece and flew to Istanbul, Turkey. We found we could not fly east as the Gulf war machine was building up.

We called a list of car rentals. They all said their cars and drivers were rented. The last one asked why we wanted to go to eastern Turkey and I replied, "I wanted to see Noah's Ark." I explained that it had been uncovered by the 1948 earthquake and had been proven to be the remains of a ship by ground penetrating radar.

I also explained that the Turkish government in 1989 proclaimed the area to be Noah's Ark National monument, constructing a road above the site and an observation building overlooking the ship's remains. The man then said he was getting a delivery that morning of a new car and would drive us. That was the first of many manifestations of God's will.

We were able to walk down to the ship, over and around it, and take photos and videos of it.

I now feel it is my calling to witness about it every chance I get. I have shown the video and photos to various churches, schools, clubs and anyone who wished to have their faith renewed.

Last year, I approached the prison in Gulfport, MS. I talked to the sheriff twice and got no results. Someone referred me to a minister that had a pass. I left a message on his answering machine. Weeks later, on a Saturday, I received a call, and was asked if I could be at the prison at 6:00 a.m. the following morning. I accepted. The minister selected to serve the prison that day had canceled late that Saturday night, and a minister was called to take his place. He said, "I have been given a sermon and I am burning to deliver it."

I met the minister the next morning and he told me of his last minute request to come. His sermon was about Noah! We, together, were blessed with the opportunity to witness to three groups of prisoners.

The remains of this ship are 515 feet long. Since Moses went to school in Egypt, the cubit used then when measured in inches, was a length of 20.6. When 515 feet divided by 20.6 inches it equals 300 cubits. Modern day Bible translators have converted the ark length to 450 feet, using the cubit length adopted many years after Noah, which was the length of a king's arm, standardized at 18.6 inches. Modern translators also change other truths to their own reasoning.

The Turks have never recognized any other pretended discovery of Noah's ark. They found no brass plaque stating, "Constructed by Noah and sons," but they believe it to be the true remains.

I believe it is the remains of Noah's Ark. Non-believers say it is not located on Mt. Ararat. If they rightly read their Bible, it says "After 150 days the ship came to rest on the mountains of Ararat." Genesis 8:4. Not "Mt. Ararat."

May God bless you,

—Ivan Forbes



Noah's Ark—Picture Taken by Ivan Forbes

TN—Dear Brother Murphey: I truly enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* magazine. It is so informative and inspiring.

May God keep all of you there in good health and may He bless and direct you in all of your undertakings for Him.

Please pray for me and my family and friends.
Sincerely, ————— —Sallie E. Smith

IN—Dear Brother Wayne and all at the Print Shop: I would like to testify of God's goodness to me. I really received a blessing during the Dayton, Ohio revival. Brother Louis Kimble and Bro. Mart Samons obeyed the Lord and preached the truth. I am thankful for the Church of God and I have more understanding of Its importance than ever before.

I want to be all God wants me to be. I know in the past I have failed myself as well as my family, and yes, my congregation in Dayton, Ohio. I ask all to forgive me and I need your prayers.

—Bro. Dan Anderson

OH—Dear Bro. Murphey: I really appreciate and thank the Lord for the workers there at the Lord's Print Shop. The *Faith and Victory*, *Beautiful Way* papers and other literature are a real blessing to me, and I am sure to all those who receive it. I am also learning how to lean more and more on Jesus. I love God's Word and it is my desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of my dear Savior.

We had a wonderful Revelation Bible Study last week. It was very enlightening and I am

encouraged to study my Bible even more. I really thank the Lord for true preachers who feed us healthy food.

Please continue to pray for me, all of my loved ones and for the congregation in Akron.

I am still praying for all of us and that more souls will be born into the kingdom of God.

With much love, —Sis. Janice Shaw
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NC—Dear Bro. Murphey: ...Thank you for your prayers. God is so good.

Continue to publish the wonderful news about Christ. So many people need to know there is hope for their condition.

Sincerely, —Sis. Angela Taylor
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WI—Dear saints scattered abroad: We are glad to report victory in our souls. We trust everyone else is keeping the hungering and thirsting for righteousness alive and well in their souls. We sure can feel the forces of evil around us. We know we are living in the midnight hour. We sure want to be confident and unashamed when Christ returns for His elect.

Saints, I want to encourage each one to launch out into the things of God. He has much in store for those who yield their life to Him. I am reminded of a saying, "I have but one life, twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." The clutter of this world will rob us from a consecrated walk with our Lord. We live in a time when it takes great effort to keep our priorities in line.

We have had a real encouraging meeting here in Spooner, WI. The Lord seemed to remind us of how we need to get an experience with God for ourselves so that we can be a vessel of honor for Him. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, and for those who came and supported the meeting. There is a work here if anyone feels a burden for WI. We give an open invitation for those who are willing to come. We covet your prayers,

—Ron and Martha Zacharias
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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus' name, the name above all other names. The Bible says, "Holy and Reverend is His name." I am glad that we can bow before Him and confess that He is Lord of all.

Bro. Elwell's passing sure was a shock to all of us. We trust the Lord to comfort all and to give support!

I trust the Lord to help in all phases of the

printing work. We appreciate the *Faith and Victory* and all the many other tracts and books that you print and send out. It was through these that I was led to the truth. I thank the Lord for the Evening Light saints and the Church of which Christ is the head.

Your saved Brother, —T. V. McMillian
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NC—Dear Bro. Wayne: Just wanted to write and let you know about replacing the roof on our house. We pray that God will richly repay each one of His dear saints who helped us in our time of trouble.

It was a trying time for us here, knowing that we had to replace a seven-year-old roof, which had a 40 year warranty and not knowing how we could afford it. In fact, the roof being only two or three years old when we bought this home was one of the points we considered and caused us to buy it, along with its other good qualities.

We now have a new roof on our home, and oh, how thankful we are to get it on before winter weather comes.

A dear brother from our area bought a \$50 roll of heavy plastic, wood, strips and nails and took off work early one day to come and put the plastic across the whole front of our house for us. For this he would not receive any money. He said, "The Word teaches us to care for the widows and the fatherless." So we thanked him and have asked God to bless and repay him for his kindness.

It is such a comfort to know that we are loved by so great a people as God's precious saints. Many of our own kin have forsaken us since we lost Grady, but we thank God for His chosen ones who have stood by us and held us up in their prayers through all our hard trials.

We love them everyone and we love God for His great love wherewith He loved us. Our desire is to serve Him each day in a more perfect way.

May God's richest blessings be yours.

Love and prayers,

—Margaret and Elaine Dunn
■ ■ ■ ■ ■

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From India...

September 15, 1996—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints everywhere in America: Greetings to you again in the gracious name of Jesus Christ.

The last week of August was our national festival holidays and we conducted youth camp

meetings on those days at Kothamangalam in the north and at Thrikkannamangal in the south. Three days special meetings were conducted on August 23-25 at Athani and six young people were baptized. The meeting closed with ordinance services. House visitings and tract distributions are arranged every first Saturday in the north and in the south.

May God bless the meetings going on in different areas in America. Glad to know that the new building for Faith Publishing House is progressing. May God bless all Christian activities for the glory of God. Our prayers are for you.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese

From Nigeria....

September 25, 1996—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and saints of God everywhere: Greetings in the royal name of the Lord Jesus, whose love for us brought Him down to earth from His throne of majesty, to the depth of shame, to seek and to save that which was lost. (Luke 19:10.)

We are wholeheartedly in His service, bravely pointing out to people the disastrous consequences of failing to choose Him as one's personal Savior. We have not labored in vain. Our achievement is not by energy of the flesh, but Divine. We have many a battle. We do not always come out a victor, but in each fight we gain strength and at the end we do conquer in His name. There can be no failure or hopelessness if we enlist the help of God who makes losers winners. None of our prayers go unheard. We are expecting that before this year is over for a new work to be started at Ashaka, a town in Ndokwa East Local Government Area of the Delta State. Offerings are being taken in preparation for this new work. The congregations around us are admirably living for Jesus.

Pray for this writer to have the funds to repair his car before the arrival of the dry season. Traveling to outstation congregations to strengthen them demands personal attention at increased frequency. No money should be sent directly to us. Whoever is burdened by the spirit of God to cooperate, should mail their offerings to Bro. Wayne Murphey for transmission to us. We have resolved never to look back, economic problems notwithstanding.

May God save us in the church today from Laodicean indifference.

Yours in His army, —Titus U. E. Enu



On November 21, 1909, in Jackson, MI, Lula and Daniel Mixon were blessed with their fourth daughter and they named her **Ethel Jocelia**. She was the fifth of nine children.

Her family moved to Boley, OK while Ethel was a baby. She attended elementary school in the Rusk Community High School in Boley, OK and attended college at Langston University.

In 1934 she married Willie Ross Brown. To this union seven children were born.

Ethel was raised to know and fear God. She became a member of the Church of God in Boley, OK, where she served as a Sunday School teacher and treasurer for many years.

Sister Ethel Brown departed this life on the morning of September 19, 1996, at the home of her daughter, Marian, where she had lain since June 1994. She was 86 years old.

She leaves to cherish her memory; two daughters, Lavada McCullough and husband James of Alta Loma, CA and Marian McBynum of Oklahoma City, OK; five sons, Everett Brown of Fort Worth, TX, Calvin Brown and wife Joan, Hobart Brown and wife Ruby of Oklahoma City, OK, Raymond Brown of Marietta, GA, and Larry Brown of Norman, OK; a granddaughter, Tyree Jima McBynum of Arlington, TX, whom she raised from infancy; one brother, Hulin Mixon of Tulsa, OK; and 14 other grandchildren, Lydell and Azzario McCullough, Sarah and Tiffany Brown, Warren, Ginger and DeJuan Brown, Stephen, Cynthia, Belinda and Hobart Brown, Jr. and Neysa, Angela and Kimberly Brown, several great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives, friends and saints.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Charles Chandler.

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Aliene Esters Dickson, of Vinita, OK, was born on October 1, 1942, to Willard and Annie

Esters of Jena, LA, and departed this life to be with Jesus on October 1, 1996 at the age of 54 years.

The 54 years were not long enough to those who loved her and were loved by her. Yet those years were filled with blessed and precious memories of a wife, mother, daughter, sister and grandmother that left a legacy of true love and of faithfulness to God and family that touched us and will never be forgotten.

On July 13, 1968, she made Stanley Dickson the happiest and most blessed of all men when they became husband and wife. The following 28 years of marriage were always filled with love and devotion to each other.

From Aliene's early childhood she had a tenderness and desire to live for God and was faithful unto death, never wavering in her trust and love to Him.

She left a family that loved her so dearly and includes her husband, Stanley, of Vinita, OK; two sons and daughters-in-law, Craig and Kim Dickson of Gallup, NM, Jeff and Inga Dickson, of Garland, TX; three sisters, Doris Bjorn of Portland, OR, Gloria Martens of Shreveport, LA and Sherri Williamson of Loranger, LA; one brother, Will Esters of Henderson, TX; one granddaughter, Jessica Dickson of Gallup, NM.

Funeral services were held October 4, 1996, in Vinita, OK, and were conducted by Sister Maxine Busbee, Brother Danny Adams and Brother Ivan Eck.

One year ago Sis. Aliene called for prayer in her affliction, and her battle became our battle. Our friendship was born of her suffering, which was a friendship ordered of God. Bro. Stanley expressed that I did not know Sis. Aliene in her "free time." But, her life before her affliction was evident. She was a woman who loved her husband, her whole family and the saints. She was a true homemaker, delighting in making a house their home. Every room was surrounded by Sis. Aliene's talents and glowed with her love for her home and family.

Sis. Aliene's faith and hope were solely in God. She desired healing and life and fought a courageous battle to live. God was gracious, giving grace in the midst of great suffering, and God was good, upholding her with His Word. She was given promises from the Word of God, and it was this that sustained her even to the end. She is now among the ranks of those who

"...died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them,..." Hebrews 11:13.

Those who have "obtained a better resurrection" can be a strength for our own faith, that whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. God's promises are still true.

—Sis. Maxine Busbee

Trust Him Still

Old Satan says, "It's all in vain,
God does not answer prayer."
Yet I will trust Him just the same,
I KNOW my God is there.

I may not see the answers great,
Nor feel just now His power.
But I will walk by faith not sight,
And trust His love each hour.

He hears each prayer, He sees each tear,
And lifts the fainting heart.
So I will trust Him while I'm here,
And from His truth not part.

"More blessed," now our Savior says,
As in the days of old.
"Are they that constantly believe.
Tho' seeing not what's told."

So when old Satan comes around
And whispers loud to you,
Just know God's Word is ever sound,
And to your Lord be true.

Hold on, dear soul, and never doubt
Our God's not lost His power.
'Tis only that the thing we sought
Is holden for the hour.

For there is coming yet a day
When faith is lost in sight,
And that which now seems dark and gray,
Will then be glorious light.

—Sis. Laverna Probst

Dear saints: The following song was sung at our dear Sis. Aliene's funeral. It has been such a comfort to us and several saints have asked for the words and suggested it be printed in the paper.

—Retha Cole

(1) I've seen the righteous man suffer with pain;
looked like the wicked would go free.
And in my frustration, it just didn't seem right
to me.

I asked you for sunshine, You sent a rain.
I cried for healing, but I only got pain.
But I know Your love will see me through,
Lord, I still trust You!

(Chor.) I still trust You, Lord!
I still trust You, Lord!
That You're able to guide me through
this cold barren land.
And when I don't know
Which way to turn or go
I still trust You, Lord
So let me hold to Your hand.

(2.) I trust You because You've been so faithful to
me
And You said in Your Word,
"I'll never leave nor forsake thee,"
"Lo, I'll go with You until the end."
Your blood has cleansed me from all guilt and sin
Your promise I can hold on to!
Lord, I love trusting You!

— — — — —
Charles Richard Elwell, age 57, was the third child of ten children born to the late William Roy and Virginia Mae Elwell. He was born on November 13, 1938, in Los Angeles, CA. He lived in Tillamook, OR for a short time in early childhood, then the family moved to Pomona, CA, where he lived to adulthood.

As a young person, Chuck loved sports. He was very involved in baseball and dreamed of paying professionally. He played in an all-star game in which, if the team won, they were to go on to the regionals which would be out of state and also to be played during the Pacoima Camp Meeting. The team lost, and in answer to his mother's prayers, Chuck went to the Pacoima, CA Camp Meeting and gave his heart to God at the age of fifteen.

His love for God and His work became the center of his life. He enjoyed camp meetings and had special memories of Brother and Sister Stover who took him with them in some outreach revival meetings while he was in his teens.

His father died when he was seventeen. It was then that he and his older brother, Bill, assumed the financial responsibilities of the family. It was Chuck who was the spiritual rock for the family down through the years. He loved his family and carried a burden for all their needs.

His first real job was stocking shelves at night in a large supermarket. He would sometimes work all night and then go on to school the next day. He later worked for J. J. Newberry Co.

for 22 years and for A. Lyell Textile Co. in Portland, OR for several years. He was very ambitious and loved to work. He was a merchant at heart, but God called him to the ministry at the age of twenty-one. He was always trying to figure out a way to make a living and still fill his ministry.

It was on November 14, 1963, that he married the love of his life, Coquette Sorrell. Their home was blessed with three children. Sarah Jane, the firstborn, lived only four hours. When a baby is taken away so quickly it adds to your sense of values about children. When Nancy Joan arrived they were overjoyed, and their dreams of having a son came true with the arrival of Rex Andrew. Their goal was to raise their children to be loving and respectful, yet be their best friends. In 1984, rather than losing a daughter in marriage, they gained a wonderful son, Ron Doolittle.

Loved ones left behind are his wife, Coquette of Guthrie; one son, Rex Elwell of Nashville, TN; one daughter and son-in-law, Ron and Nancy Doolittle of Guthrie, OK; three grandchildren, Roger, Cindy and Brenda Doolittle of Guthrie, OK; four sisters, Carolyn Shirrell of Portland, OR, Jeanne Culpepper, also of Portland, OR, Middy McMorran of Neuvo, CA and Marlene Zinzer of Edmond, OK; six brothers, Bill Elwell of AZ, David Elwell of Coos Bay, OR, Stephen Elwell of Gladstone, OR, Wesley Elwell of Portland, OR, Don Elwell, also of Portland, OR and the "other brother" Clifford Smith of Salem, OR; a host of nieces and nephews, 14 of whose weddings were performed by Chuck.

He will be sadly missed not only by his family, but many friends and brothers and sisters in Christ.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Michael Smith, Wayne Murphey and Calvin Hobbs, Sr. Burial was in the Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, OK.

On a windy, sunny day
an acorn fell with force and lay.
Waxing warm with sun and dew,
life sprang forth, so fresh and new...
Life that those who watched could see
developed from a seed to tree.

The sapling bent when winds first blew
but roots rushed downward where it knew
a sound foundation's strength lay deep.
Through storms its life would surely keep.

Growth occurred in sun and rain
tho' whirlwinds' thrashing caused it pain.

Many passing paused to note
this thriving tree brought others hope.

First there was one, then there were two.

With passing years the number grew
of countless souls this friendly tree
had sheltered, blessed, including me.

In memory of Bro. Charles (Chuck) Elwell,
with all my love and great respect....

—Paul Sorrell

Note of Thanks

Words fail us to express our heartfelt thanks
to all the saints for their love, prayers, telephone
calls, beautiful flowers, cards and offerings
during the illness and death of our beloved
Chuck Elwell. —Coquetta and family

Note of Thanks

On the behalf of all of our family we wish
to thank every one for the love and sympathy
shown to us in the time of our bereave-
ment of the passing of our dear Mother,
Sister Thelma Busbee Ray. Your comfort,
support and sympathy meant so much.
May the Lord bless and reward you.

Lovingly yours,

—Bro. Leslie and Sis. Sylvia Busbee



The *Faith and Victory* is available on
cassette tape. The price will be \$2.00 per
cassette or \$22.00 per year for 11 issues.
These would make an excellent gift for
anyone who is unable to read the *Faith
and Victory*.

If interested, please direct all corre-
spondence to: Mike Woodruff, 924 W.
Mansur Ave., Guthrie, OK 73044. Phone:
(405) 282-2378.



Excerpts Taken From Nov., 1971 *Faith and Victory*

"Brother William A. McCoy, minister of
Dayton, Ohio, and Sister Evelyn Gibson of
Guthrie, Oklahoma were united in mar-
riage on October 2, at the Church of God
chapel in Guthrie, Oklahoma with Bro.
Sam Abbott officiating."

People with letters in the November
1971 *Faith and Victory* were:

PA—Eva Cox and Mother Campbell
LA—Randall and June Flynn
GA—Gertrude Vansandt
TN—Charles B. Williams
AR—Oscar and Margie Wall
MO—Leslie Adams and boys
LA—J. M. Mitchell
CO—The McEndrees—Ed and Addie
IN—Sue Morrison
IL—Mrs. Truman Pitts
LA—Mary Bush
GA—Sister P. R. Bowers
VA—Nannie Connell
IN—Elizabeth Swafford
CA—Mattie Smith
IL—Thelma Sprague
CA—Lavern Manuel
MD—Mrs. J. I. Rambo
SD—Sister C. A. McFarling
CO—Fred B. Allen
MI—Dorothy Wilkins
LA—Audrey Henry
KY—Curtis Williams
TX—Carolyn Holland
KY—Sybilla Humphrey
OR—Emma Busch