FAITHAND ICTORY

Church of God Servant

Unto <u>Him</u> shall the gathering of the people be.

God Is Love

YE SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD.



The night cometh, when no man can work.

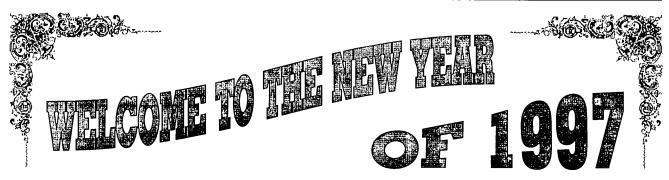
Volume 74, No. 10

74th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

\$1.00 Per Year

Jan., 1997



The New Year

I am the new year, and I come to you pure and unstained,
Fresh from the hand of God.
Each day, a precious pearl to you is given

That you must string upon the silver thread of Life.

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Once strung can never be unthreaded but stays

An undying record of your faith and skill. Each golden minute link you then must weld into the chain of hours

That is no stronger than its weakest link.

Into your hands is given all the wealth and power

To make your life just what you will.

I give to you, free and unstinted, twelve glorious months

Of soothing rain and sunshine golden;
The days for work and rest,
the nights for peaceful slumber.
All that I have I give with love
unspoken.

All that I ask—you keep the faith unbroken!

—J. D. Templeton

"Have Faith in God"

By Sis. Brenda Wilkins

If God had to tell us to have faith in God, (Mark 11:22) that meant it wouldn't come as a natural course of life. He instructs us to believe in Him, and He promises blessings if we will.

My first thought on having faith in God was about salvation, everyday problems and divine healing. God so gently seemed to say, "No, my child, it goes much further. It is faith for your unanswered prayers; faith to trust Me with them. It is faith for the places in life that seem so foolish to maintain faith in; those perplexing, irritating things." When it seems that God is not there, and the devil would have you believe that you are just trusting in an idea that has been passed down to you, have faith in God!

In the 7th chapter of St. John, there is an example that lets us know it takes pressing to believe God. Some of Christ's disciples who walked with Him turned away at His difficult sayings. There were things they just couldn't comprehend so they walked no more with Him. When life doesn't make sense, and when it is hard to understand that "...This is the way walk ye in it,..." Isa. 30:21, then, have faith in God.

God knew hard times would come. He said, "...when the Son of man cometh, shall he find

faith on the earth?" Luke 18:8. Christ gave us the example of the faithful stewards, reminding us we would grow weary waiting for Him to come, but come He would and with His reward according to our fidelity in Him. (Luke 12:36-48.) There is an end and the rewards are promised.

I love the words of Peter when Jesus asked the twelve, "...Will ye also go away?" John 6:67. Peter answered, "...Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." John 6:68-69. There is no one else to turn to other than Christ and God, and we must have faith in God!

It is encouraging to read of the faith of the three in Daniel 3:17-18. "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

While reading and meditating on the examples God took the time to place in the Bible, it made me aware of a greater faith, a deeper faith that He desires us to maintain; faith beyond human reasoning—absolute trust. God's command

has become a sweeter, softer command, something I have desired so much.

I also thought of how God said His promises are new every morning. They are not "old stuff" given to His people thousands of years ago, but are upto-date, new this morning for you and me.

"For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death." Psa. 48:14.

"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee." Psa. 9:10.

"When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them." Isa. 41:17.

Another promise that has been so precious to me is in John 13:7. "Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." Have faith in God. He knows just what He is doing, and someday we will too. That is a promise!

Be encouraged! Has your battle been long, hard, and something you can't understand? God understands!

Surely we are working for a wonderful crown. Hold fast to God's promises!

RUONE?

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

How many of us would like to start out on a trip with our gas gauge on "E"? Have you ever run out of gas and had to walk to the nearest station to buy a can and some gas? I think we would all agree that it is wise to have plenty in the tank before we take off down an interstate highway. Very often we will check the gas gauge when on a trip to make sure we have enough to get where we are going.

Let's apply this spiritually. At birth, each of us begins a journey toward eternity. Before us are two places and we choose the direction we will go. Surely no one wants to go to hell, a lake of fire and torment. It is a downward slope and a person naturally falls that way because the force of evil gravity in our society draws our carnal nature that way. (Romans 3:23.)

When a person realizes he is racing down the broad way of sin, he needs to slam on his brakes, turn completely around, and begin the upward climb to Heaven, a place of rest and happiness—God's dwelling place. It takes effort and "grace" to accelerate upward. If our spiritual "grace" gauge is on "E" for very long, we will lose momentum and possibly back-slide. Therefore, we need to check our fuel gauge and see if we are low on any of these graces.

FAITH: "...Without faith it is impossible to please him;..." Hebrews 11:6. The entire plan of salvation relies on our faith in God, His Son, His Word and the Holy Spirit. We must have faith in the blood of Jesus that it will wash away our sins. We must believe God's Holy Spirit abides within the sanctified soul and He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5.) We

must have faith, never wavering, when we pray because His Word tells us to come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy. (Hebrews 4:16.) Also, Jesus said, "...ask, and it shall be given you;..." Matthew 7:7. He promised to supply our needs when we ask in His name, and little seeds of faith can move mountains of obstacles.

Faith nurtures confidence and together they deepen into trust. God wants us to daily trust Him. Whether we prosper or suffer adversity, God desires us to have faith in Him and trust His wisdom in guiding us.

HOPE: "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast,..." Hebrews 6:19. Through the grace of hope, we see Jesus with arms outstretched and heaven waiting for us. Hope gives a saint victory over depression and a martyr courage to face torture and death at the hands of a persecutor. Remember Stephen and the vision he had as he was being stoned to death? (Acts 7:56.)

Without a hopeful vision of heaven, we can disappoint ourselves and the Lord when physical suffering comes our way. There is hope in the promises of God's Word for every crisis, trial, trouble or affliction that we may face on life's journey.

When we have a stedfast hope, peace nestles in our heart and joy bubbles in our soul. It is divine peace and joy that the world cannot give. This unspeakable joy will show on our faces and attract others to Jesus Christ. He alone can light the joyful hope within the soul that will brighten life, attract others to Himself and give us victory over death

LOVE: "Charity suffereth long, and is kind;..." All through the chapter of I Corinthians 13 we read about love and its attributes. We may have faith to move mountains and eternal hope encouraging us to give our bodies to be burned, but if we do not have charity, (love) it profits us nothing. God is love, (I John 4:8) and if we have His Holy Spirit within us, we will have love for others. His divine love causes us to have mercy and forgiveness when we are treated wrongly—even turning the other

cheek if need be. (Matthew 5:39-48.) Love does not envy, but instead it prefers another in honor. (Romans 12:10.) The spirit of divine love is not proud and boastful but it is meek and humble, willing to serve others in the same manner Jesus did when He was in His fleshly body.

If we love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, and if we love others as ourselves, then we will obey the Ten Commandments. Thus sin will not be in our hearts and we will be welcomed into heaven.

The journey to heaven is plain and simple, but it takes determination on our part. Through the tunnels, in the valleys and around the curves of life we must have these "graces" to keep going onward and upward. If you find yourself spiritually parked along the Heavenly Highway, check your "grace" gauge and see if u-r-on-E. If so, go to Jesus Christ who has plenteous grace for every need and let Him fill you up.

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).

(Periodical 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 50¢ 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

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| Single copy, one year | \$1.00 |
|---|--------|
| Package of 4 papers to one address, one year | |
| 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 Office phone numbers: 405-282-1479, 800-767-1479; fax number: 405-282-6318; home phone: 405-282-6170.

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Janus, the Roman god, from whom we derive the word "January," was known as "the deity of good beginnings." The temple of Janus in Rome, built on an east-west line, where the day begins and ends, featured the famous two-faced statue, with the young countenance of Janus looking east and the old one looking west.

At this juncture in time, it also would be well for us to look both forward and backward. We do not look backward with a desire to return to the past, or to allow our insufficiencies to be a hindrance to us, but for the purpose of counting our blessings and learning from our failures. By looking to the past, we are infused with inspiration to conquer the future.

This past year has been one of great change in our personal lives, as well as here at the Print Shop. We consider changes which come as opportunities for the Lord to open up new fields of service. Many battles have been won through prayer, and blessings have come through need. We thank God for everything we have experienced, and eagerly await what He has for us in 1997.

The progress made in publishing the gospel this year is largely due to a host of people who love the Lord. Those supporting the publishing efforts with their freewill offerings have been instruments in God's hands to keep the work afloat.

We are grateful for those who have faithfully sent monthly offerings with no expectation for publicity and those who have enclosed payment above the price of the books they purchase. This greatly helps in subsidizing the printing cost. These are Christians who truly have a burden to see the work of God increase. They are quietly performing the work the Lord has given them to do as members in His body, and they will receive their reward in that final day of reckoning.

I also want to thank the workers who are laboring here in the Print Shop. This is not a high paying pursuit, and at times requires long hours. May God give you an extra outpouring of grace and personal blessings because of your dedication.

Would you like to see the Church grow in 1997? This is possible. Let us seek a greater measure of the Holy Spirit, and work together so this can be our testimony one year from now.

We would like to offer warm wishes of support to Bro. James and Sis. Carol Jantz, who have moved from California to Shawnee, Oklahoma, to help in the administration of the Golden Rule Home. Bro. Derrill Smith, the present administrator, has battled health problems for some time and felt a change was in order. Bro. Derrill dedicated himself to the oversight of the Home for several years, and I am sure he would appreciate the prayers of the saints. Also pray for God's wisdom and blessing of grace to be upon Bro. James and Sis. Carol as they shoulder this great responsibility.

Much progress has been made on the new Print Shop building in sheet rocking the inside walls, electrical, plumbing and heating and air duct work. As soon as the weather moderates, the taping and bedding of the sheet rock will be done. Thanks for your continued support, which we need in order to see this project finished.

We still have in stock a supply of 1997 wall calendars and yearbooks for both the 1996 Faith and Victory and The Beautiful Way. The calendars sell for \$3.00 each, which includes postage and handling. The Faith and Victory yearbook, postpaid, is \$2.25, and The Beautiful Way yearbook, is \$1.90 postpaid.

In stock at this office are more than 350 different titles of gospel tracts. You may write for a free 4-ounce sample to read and pass on, or to enclose in your letters. One gospel tract could result in the salvation of many souls.

We also stock a number of books. A partial list is printed in this Faith and Victory.

The January edition of the Faith and Victory is being mailed before Christmas and during the Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting here at Guthrie. Because of this early printing there are not as many letters as usual.

We trust everyone will have a safe and blessed Christmas and New Year holiday, and as the Lord tarries His coming, we will greet you on the other side of 1997.

—Wayne Murphey

Partial List of Items Available

Adventures in the Land of Canaan by R. L. Berry. An instructive allegory of true-to-life experiences in the grace of sanctification. 128 pages in paper cover. Price, \$1.50.

A Hive of Busy Bees by Efflie 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 and contains 126 pages bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50.

Stories of Home Folks by Mable Hale. Actual incidents from real life. Paper cover, 160 pages. Price, \$2.00.

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

The Gift of Tongues—What It Is and What It Is Not by G. E. Harmon. 20-page booklet. 25¢.

Egermeier's Bible Story Book for children, with beautiful colored pictures. 576 pages. Cloth binding. Standard Edition, Price, \$15.95.

The Holy Spirit and Other Spirits by D. O. Teasley. 192 pages, paperbound. Price, \$2.50.

What the Bible Teaches by F. G. Smith. A reprint of the 1914 edition, containing 576 pages in cloth binding. This is a book that should be in every home. Price, \$6.00.

Holy Spirit Baptism and the Second Cleansing by R. R. Byrum. Consists of 108 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

Just Mary by Effie Williams. A true story for young people and older folks as well. 96 pages in paper binding. Price, \$1.00.

A Religious Controversy by C. E. Orr. An 80-page, paperbound book presenting truths in an interesting manner. Price, \$1.00.

The Redemption of Howard Gray by Charles Naylor. True experience of a young man seeking and finding the truth of God's Word. Paperbound. 72 pages. Price, \$1.00.

Food for Lambs by C. E. Orr. This book contains 168 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00.

Salvation Present, Perfect, Now or Never by D. S. Warner. 63 pages, paperbound. Price, 75¢.

God's Gracious Dealings by Fred and L. D. Pruitt. This enlarged seventh edition is a history of this gospel publishing ministry in the Church of God for the past 60 years, as well as a record of the work of the Church at large. Contains 496 pages, including more than 100 pictures in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.50.

Harry the Newsboy and Other Stories by Isabel Byrum. 32 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, 50¢.

Heart Talks by C. W. Naylor. Consists of 59 chapters with a different subject treated in each chapter. It contains 280 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price. \$3.00.

The Double Cure, or Redemption Twofold by D. O. Teasley. This book should enlighten the reader on the two works of grace, and correct the thinking of those who deny the cleansing element in sanctification. 160 pages of large print in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00.

Man, His Present and Future by H. M. Riggle. It deals with man in his present state, between death and the judgment and beyond the resurrection in the eternal world. It would be invaluable as a research book or for use in group studies. It contains 206 pages with a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50.

Our Darlings' Bible ABC Book by Isabel Byrum. Any child who is just learning the letters of the alphabet will enjoy this book. There is a Bible story to go with each letter. It is bound in a heavy paper cover and contains 64 pages. The price is 50¢.

Rays of Hope by D. O. Teasley. Encouragement to those accused by the Devil. 95 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

The Battle of Armageddon by O. B. Wilson. A clear exposition of this much misunderstood subject. Price, 50¢.

The Watchman on the Wall by Wayne

Murphey. An illustrated, 32-page book, which is an allegorical story relating problems which Redeemed experienced in fulfilling his job as a watchman. It is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 50¢.

The Revelation Explained by F. G. Smith. Includes two large charts. 464 pages, clothbound. Price. \$6.00.

Winning a Crown by C. W. Naylor. This book tells how to accept the plan of salvation and then goes into detail on how to keep the victory in everyday Christian living. It contains 368 pages in an extra-heavy cover. Price, \$4.00.

Paula, the Waldensian by Eva Lecomte. A 175 page book relating the touching story of a young girl who went to live with her uncle who was opposed to even the mention of God. Bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50.

The Hero of Hill House by Mabel Hale. A very interesting and inspiring true story, this book contains 224 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price \$3.00.

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

The Kingdom of God and the One Thousand Year's Reign by H. M. Riggle. 160 pages, paperbound. Price, \$2.00.

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

Touching Incidents and Remarkable Answers to Prayer. Children's edition, many pictures, paper cover. 135 pages. Price, \$1.50.

Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag was written by himself, a Norwegian who had many marvelous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister in the Church of God. 192 pages are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50.

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

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PRAYER REQUEST

OH—Mary Vice needs prayer for several physical needs.

CA—"Please pray for me and my unsaved loved ones." —Ruth Donnelly

OK—Larry Eck has requested prayer for some things in his life he is striving to get victory over.

MO—"Please request prayer for me and my family." —Hallie Pinkerton

CA—Sis. Doris Pihaylic needs urgent prayer for some problems she is facing.

NC—Sis. Rhoda Blevins has requested prayer that her body would be healed.

OK—"Tonight we had a call from Mr. Whitehouse from Bartlesville, OK, desiring prayer for his dad, Richard Whitehouse, who has been diagnosed as having colon cancer. Please help us pray for him."

-Bro. and Sis. Gordon Humphrey

Devotions Still Needed

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed a devotion for the devotional book that I am in the process of assembling. All that have been received are appreciated.

However, I would also like to urge anyone who would still like to contribute a devotion to send it in as soon as possible. It should consist of approximately 100 words and include a verse of scripture that has meant something special to you.

Send your devotions to: 320 N. 2nd St., Guthrie, OK 73044.—Connie Sorrell

Meeting Reports

Quotes from the General Southern Assembly Meeting at Loranger, LA.

"I find it doesn't seem very hard for a wife to submit herself to her husband when he's treating her like he should." —Bro. Mart Samons

"Jesus has entrusted into my hands His business...Which one of us would have someone work for us who wouldn't handle our business just right, and cost us money, and still keep him on the payroll?" —Bro. Louis Kimble

"Your opinion can be so much a part of you that when somebody attacks it, you think they are attacking you."

—Bro. Darrell Johnson

"We need to be single-minded in our dedication to the Lord, and not worry about the other man."

—Bro. Bob Huskey

"Abel's blood cried out for vengeance. Jesus' blood cries out for mercy." —Bro. T. V. McMillian

"(One said while dying) 'My life has been like a cigarette. Now its burned up, and I'm not going to give God the butt end.' (He died lost.)"

-Bro. Emmett Gerald

"Talk about a good lawyer! The devil builds cases when there's not even anything there!"

-Bro. Larry Abbott

LETTERS FROM OUR FILES



FL—Dear Bro. Wayne: Enclosed please find a check for the foreign missions. I would send more if I were financially able. I pray for the Church in other countries and also the missionaries. I love to read their reports and that the Church in different places is doing so well.

May God bless you all for the wonderful work you are doing.

In Christian love, —Judith Kokner

LA—Dear Bro. Wayne and Print Shop workers: Greetings once more in the name of our wonderful Saviour, who gave His life that we could all have eternal life. No doubt the time is drawing near for Him to return for His Bride, the Church. I am striving daily to live so that I will be a part of the Bride, dressed in the pure white wedding garment. Oh, it is going to mean a lot to stand before a holy God without even a tiny little spot on our garment.

May the Lord bless all of you there who labor daily in the work, putting out the pure gospel to a lost world. Oh, that all would take heed to the Word and voice of the Lord, and be ready for His coming.

The Faith and Victory is a real blessing, and especially to the dear ones who are isolated and

unable to hear the preached Word as often as we who are in congregations.

I have been much interested in, and concerned about the progress and completion of the new Print Shop. I am praying the Lord to furnish the means for its completion. I know it will be wonderful to be out of the flood area and have worry lifted from the mind when the floods break through again.

Christian love and prayers, —Alta Flynn

CA—Dear ones in Christ: Praise the Lord anyhow! I really need prayer, but I am not as bad as I was yesterday. Only the Lord can bring me through all of this.

Please pray for Pete Lopez, a former gardener. He was the best for awhile, and then I found he is taking hard core drugs. He is on the board of a church and is teaching a Sunday school class. He was driving a van for the church the last I knew.... Pray that the Lord will deliver Pete.

Prayerfully, —Hazel Horne

MO—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' lovely name. This is just a line to say that I praise the Lord for all His goodness, and to tell you that the Faith and Victory paper is a blessing to me. I enjoy it very much. I thank the Lord for every one of you at the Print Shop. I have never met any of you, but you are my brothers and sisters in the Lord. I do love you all very much, and I ask God's blessings on each of you in this new year of 1997.

I ask you to pray for me. I have glaucoma and allergies in both eyes. I realize it is not too hard for the Lord to heal. I am trusting that He will get honor and glory out of my affliction.

Your sister in Christ, —Laura Jarvis

KS—Dear Bro. Wayne, and all who are faithfully doing God's work at the Print Shop: I feel inspired to write to you at this time, of my testimony for the Lord and all He has done, is doing and forever will do for me; and not only me, but all who know and trust Him. Glory to God forever and ever! I cannot wait until He returns to take His Church back to heaven to live with Him throughout all eternity! (Titus 2:13.) I give Him all praise, honor and glory for all He is in my life!

In the past year He has truly been working with me and has brought me into a closer relationship with Him. Like never before, I sincerely love him with all of my heart, mind and soul. I see Him working every day in my life and in my son's life. I see him faithfully answering prayer each day.

Last year my son accepted the Lord Jesus as his Savior. I praise God that He has been faithfully working to teach my son all that He wants him to learn of Him in His Word. I prayed God would manifest and make Himself real to my son, and He did it in a way I never would have thought. It happened to him while he was at school in his first hour class. One day my son, Raico, told me that I would really like what he was going to tell me. He said that while he was sitting in science class he had a daydream that it was the end of the world. In his dream, he said there was a knock on his classroom door and it was Jesus. Jesus asked if Raico could come home with Him. When my son told me this, I praised and thanked the Lord for answering prayer. I love the way He works. He is awesome! He never ceases to amaze me! My son said that this daydream just happened all of a sudden.

The Lord has done so much for me, and has taught me more of His Word in this past year. He blessed me with a much needed new car, He has shown me where there needs to be more of Him and less of me, and He has been, and still is, teaching my son by His Holy Spirit through me.

I used to feel resigned that people who were lost were simply destined to go to hell; eternally separated from their Creator. But now the Lord has shown me through a fellow Christian at my job, that He loves us all, (John 3:16) and that it is not His will that any should perish. (II Peter 3:9.) Although I do not fully comprehend His divine love, I now feel a burden and continually pray for the lost. Praise God, He is not finished with me yet! (Philippians 1:6.)

I desire your prayers that I will faithfully serve the Lord and bring praise, honor and glory to His mighty name! Thank you.

-Sis. Tawanda Graves

AL—Dear saints: Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, who gave His life for our sins. I can't give Him enough praise for what He did for me.

This finds David and me doing very well, thank God. We are still encouraged to press on.

I had a chance to go to the Water Valley, MS meeting this last November. I was really fed from the message Bro. Mart Samons brought on

to get in the ship of God, sit down, keep quiet and hold on. I am in the ship and I mean to hold on. If we don't, the cares of life will cause us to fall out.

I thank God for Jesus.

-David and Jessie Shelton

NC—Dear brother: I enjoyed reading about the building progress. The new building will be a blessing! Thank you for sharing the information with us.

May God continue to bless you in your ministry.

Pray for me and my family.

Always in Christ, —Angela Taylor

TN—Dear Bro. Murphey and co-workers: Greetings and thanks to all of you for the good work you are doing for the Lord. It is much needed in these times of evil and confusion. Please keep encouraged and press on as the Lord leads and directs.

I am so thankful for the re-location of the Print Shop on higher ground, and for the new, larger and much needed publishing house....

Christian love, —Charles B. Williams

FL—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: I am grateful for this wonderful salvation. It is sweeter than the honeycomb. I am also thankful for the new Print Shop that is being built.

Please pray for my eyes. I will be 84 years old on December the 18th. Glory to God's name!

I'm glad I am saved, running for my life and telling the unsaved to come to Jesus.

-Sis. Kathleen Williams

OR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' name. I pray daily for God's blessings on all there, and that through the work you are doing souls will be brought to Jesus for salvation....

The apostle Paul, in II Corinthians 3:2-3, tells us about how our lives affect others: "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart." For many people the only exposure they have to the attributes of God is from observing the lives of church-goers and professing Christians.

It is certain that my life is "read of all men"

with whom I have any contact, and I must live so it is an "epistle of Christ." To reveal Christ in my life to others I must "walk in the Spirit" and not after the things of this world. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance:..." Galatians 5:22-23. I cannot, of my own self, live so others may see this fruit, but Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5. This tells me that only by abiding in Jesus will I be able to live so those around me will see my life as an "epistle of Christ." Each day I pray for guidance and for that divine love that will enable me to love God and all men, even as He loves me.

With Christian love and prayers,

—Bro. Bill Busch

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear servants of the Lord: It is a beautiful, cool day in California. I am saved and sanctified, living with my Lord in old age. I just had my 93rd birthday on October 31, 1996. I love Jesus with all my heart and I am ready whenever He calls me home to be with Him.

I had the joy of meeting Sister Carol Jantz and her father, Bro. Vada McMillian, Sis. Mary Lawson and Sis. Carol Gerue. There is nothing like being with the saints, and oh, what a reunion that will be when we all get to heaven! While I am still here on this earth, I will witness for Him and do all I can in His vineyard.

Two years ago I had a stroke on my right side and am confined to a wheelchair and walker. I live one day at a time and am happy in the Lord.

Pray for me—I love all of you,

-Sister Lucille Allen



From Malawi...

November 10, 1996-Dear Bro. Wayne: I

send greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. Here in Malawi we are very strong and well.

We are writing this letter to inform you how our churches are progressing. We have opened churches in other places, such as on November 3rd, when we opened one at Samire and Kasonya. At Samire there were one hundred eighty-six men and eighty-four women. At Kasonya there were one hundred and twenty-eight women and ninety-one men.

We have many branches of the church, and many Christians, and I can't manage them. Only God is the one who can do it and help me.

Lastly, I am blessing you and your family. May God give long life to you.

Yours in Christ, —Failos Namaozongo

From India...

Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and saints in America: Greetings to all you dear ones again in the gracious name of Jesus Christ.

I am very sad to know that pastor Charles Elwell passed away. He has been my spiritual friend since 1974. At that time he was the pastor of the Gladstone, Oregon congregation. His virtues of simplicity, humility and broadmindedness attracted me very much. We send our heartfelt sympathy and condolence to Sis. Coquetta and children, and all other members of the bereaved family. May God find the right person to fill the vacancy at Guthrie.

Lord willing, our 32nd general convention will be held at Karickom Bethel grounds in the second week of January, 1997. We need your prayers for its blessings.

May God bless Assembly Meetings which are to be conducted in different congregations in America.

With love and prayers,

Yours in His service, —John Varghese

Honduras Mission Report

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are thankful to report victory in our soul: that is a blessing, praise God.

We want to report to the saints our new address. It is: Bro. Louis Kimble, Sr., 2752 Tupelo Street, Kenner, LA 70062. We are sorry, and ask forgiveness on this matter, if any mail has been returned to you.

We would also like to say that Bro. Mart Samons and Bro. John Clement recently returned from Honduras, C. A. They reported that the work is doing very well, and that the saints are doing fine.

There are some special needs that have come about which is part of the reason they had to go. The Gospel van is in need of much work. It needs tires, motor repairs, etc. Bro. John was able to do what he could with what he had to work with. Also, the chapel needs painting and other work needs to be done. We have one of the brethren on a salary of \$125.00 per month as a grounds keeper. This job enables him to stay home and work, and not to have to leave his family and go to a far part of the island for work. This proves to be a blessing to his wife and children. Our missionary fund is at a zero balance at this time, so we encourage the saints to please come to our rescue and help keep the work moving on.

Plans are in progress to make another trip to Honduras, but funds are needed to make this trip possible. Please pray and see what the Lord would have you do in this matter.

Yours for souls in Honduras, C. A.

-Bro. Kimble and Company



Kenneth Albert Knight, Sr. was born in Akron, OH on July 6, 1937, and departed this life after a short illness on November 12, 1996. He was the son of the late Earl and Zenola Knight.

As a child he attended the Akron public school system. Later, he joined the Armed Forces, serving in the Marine Corps from 1955 to 1958. In 1958 he married Gloria Jean Stevenson of Akron, Ohio. The fruit of this union was one son, Kenneth A. Knight, Jr.

At the time of his death, Kenneth was employed by General Metals Powder Company, having attained 29 years of service there. Previous to this, he worked alongside his father, from

whom he learned the work ethic. Kenneth loved to work with his hands. He was a "jack of all trades." Many in the community were benefactors of his skills.

In 1963, Kenneth received salvation and remained a faithful member of the Church of God until his death. Words are almost inadequate to describe Kenneth's faithfulness. He was always at his post of duty as a Sunday school superintendent, teacher, trustee, minister's helper and general Church worker. The church meeting house can attest to all his manual skill.

During his sickness, his trust in God remained stedfast; he never wavered in his faith. Through his suffering, he never complained. Some of his last words were, "I have no regrets. Tell the saints of God, 'This Is The Way.'" He died in the triumphs of a living faith and is at rest with Jesus whom he loved.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his son, Kenneth, Jr. of Akron, OH; brothers, Earl P. Knight, Jr. of Carlsbad, CA; William P. Knight, Jr. of MerRouge, LA; sisters, Cordelia Gulledge of Akron, OH, Lela (Lawrence) Hobbs of Highland, CA, Maxine (Francis) Browne of Victorville, CA, and Juanakee (Keith) Fuller of Akron, OH; aunts, Sue Jones of Akron, OH, Gwendolyn Neely and Bertha Long of Tulsa, OK; and a host of nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Keith Fuller, assisted by Bros. Adolph Robinson and James Bruner. Interment was in Mount Peace Cemetery, Akron, OH.

Former Shawnee, OK resident, **Verlene E. Williams**, died November 8 in Mt. Pleasant, S.C. at the age of 85.

Verlene was born November 27, 1910, in Texas. She married Richard A. Williams on September 16, 1934, in Bossier, LA, and was a member of the Church of God. She moved to Shawnee, OK, in 1978, and lived there until April of 1993 when she moved to South Carolina.

Survivors include a son and daughter-inlaw, Richard and Sharon Williams of Hawthorne, CA; three grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard A. Williams, on June 13, 1989.

Private graveside services were held Thursday at Bethel Cemetery, Shawnee, OK, with Bro. Merrill Smith officiating.

That Glorious Guest, The Holy Spirit

By Sis. Angela Gellenbeck (Continued from last month.)

He is the Teacher and Guide. (John 14:26, 15:26, 16:13-15, Ephesians 1:17-18, I John 2:27.)

A personal experience comes to my mind when I consider the Holy Spirit as my personal Teacher. I wept one night at an altar, because I had been moved by the message, recognizing that I had a great need for humility in my life. Who could teach me how to be humble? How was I to go about receiving this grace? Who could pray with me and instruct me? Ironically, (but later I thought, how planned by God), no one came to pray with me at that altar. As I got up and after the service got in my car and drove home alone, I lamented inwardly, "Lord, who can teach me what I need to know?" Immediately the answer from the Scripture came to my mind, so directly, as if someone had spoken it aloud, "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." I John 2:27. As the years have passed since that night, I can indeed say, "Who could have been a better teacher than the Spirit Himself?" How can any other human delve into the deep recesses of the heart and mind, bring out the hidden motives and thoughts to our view, change, remake and mold us into a completely new character—His own?

This brings me to another way that the Holy Spirit manifests Christ to us: He is the Refiner and Purger. In prophecy, Malachi proclaims: "But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver:..." Malachi 3:2-3. It was testified of the Gentiles, upon whom God had poured out His Spirit, that the Holy Ghost given to them had "purified their hearts by faith." (Acts 15:9.) John the Baptist told the people that Jesus would baptize them with the Holy Ghost "and with fire." (Matthew 3:11.) When the Holy Spirit fell upon the believers on the day of Pentecost, His form, in a visible way, was a tongue or flame of fire. God has always been represented by fire! The Hebrew writer says that our God is a "consuming fire."

(Hebrews 12:29.) The Holy Spirit, sent by God through Jesus, is a burning, refining fire in our lives, consuming all that is unlike God, terrible in His zeal and passion to destroy-not us, because of Christ's love and intercession for us-but anything that will come between us and God. By our initial consecration at the time of our infilling, we give Him the permission to do this purging, refining and burning! He does it upon His arrival, burning and purifying the heart of the old man of sin, yes, but His refining is an ongoing process, a continual burning, until the day we die. I am reminded of what Hannah Hurnard wrote in her book, Hinds' Feet On High Places, of the Shepherd's burning zeal: "Love is beautiful, but it is also terrible...terrible in its determination to allow nothing blemished or unworthy to remain in the beloved."

There is so much more I could say about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Time and space limit me here, but now I want to go back to where I started, with the conversation this

morning between my soul and the Lord.

"Lord, if You send the Holy Spirit to abide, never to leave me, are there conditions to His abiding? I mean,

would it be possible to *lose* His sweet presence out of my life?

Again we have the Word of God, and the Spirit's inspiration of it coming to me was, "The Holy Spirit can be quenched." (I Thessalonians 5:19.) That teaching, that guiding, that gentle impression of what to say, what to pray, that refining process which is at times so painful and drawn out—that Spirit can be quenched by our drawing back, our refusal to believe, to go forward, to submit, to obey; and our negligence, our lack of continued passion and desire for His presence, which is evidenced by a decline in prayer.

Again, He said, "The Holy Spirit can be grieved." (Ephesians 4:30.) The context in which this is given speaks of anger, corrupt communication, giving place to the devil, etc. In these areas there is real danger. The devil will seek to take advantage of our flesh through the pressures of every day life, and it will be easy to yield

and give in to words and feelings of the flesh, instead of the Spirit: instead of saying, 'I want more of the Spirit of God,' we should just *yield more fully* to the Spirit. Every day opens with new choices as to what, or to whom, we will yield.

Another area of grievance to the Holy Spirit concerns the deeds of the body, and the way in which we conduct ourselves. In IThessalonians 4:3-4, Paul tells us that to abstain from fornication is the will of God, and an all-important factor in maintaining our sanctification, or holiness; or in other words, in keeping the Holy Spirit in our lives. In I Corinthians Paul mentions several times how the body is the temple or dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." I Corinthians 3:16-17. Again, "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the

body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have

you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. I Corinthians 6:17-20. And in II Corinthians 7:1 we read, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." There are areas of our flesh that need to be safeguarded at all times. In the matters of our affections and morals, God places emphasis on purity. Any

My prayer as I have gone about my day has been, "Oh, may I ever yield to the sweet influence of the Spirit of God, and may I never grieve or quench the Spirit by yielding to my flesh! Saviour, keep me pure and undefiled, a fit temple in which your Spirit may dwell! Lord, ever abide in me!"

yielding to the flesh in these areas will immedi-

ately grieve and offend the Spirit of God right

out of our lives.

"Every day opens with new choices as to what, or to whom, we will yield."

"It Makes My Skin Crawl. . ."

By Mary Murphey

"When I hear someone say something like, 'I am a Christian,' it makes my skin crawl."

That statement, made by Jennifer Lee, a young mother with three children, was recorded in the "Faith and Values" section of a Wichita newspaper. A friend of mine read it aloud one day and my reaction to Jennifer's statement was one of sadness.

Why did this woman have such a paranoia in regard to Christians, I wondered. What about them was awful enough to make her skin crawl?

I concluded that perhaps Jennifer had met a fraud, a counterfeit Christian. But hypocrites exist in all vocations. And to discount the good people in a profession, because some are corrupt, would certainly be unfair. There are bankers who embezzle and lawyers who are sharks, but at some point in life, most people will seek the services of honorable professionals, and be glad for them.

After more thought, I decided that perhaps Jennifer had come in contact with a zealot; a Christian who needed a little toning, taming, or training—someone whose zeal overrode their good manners, someone who needed to learn to communicate their values more effectively. Perhaps Jennifer encountered a Christian who overwhelmed her, causing her unexpected discomfort. As a result, she may have developed a **bias**.

I recalled an experience of my own, when I felt overpowered by a religious person's fervor.

I was attending a funeral in a distant city. During the time set aside for visitation, the family of the deceased gathered near the front of the room, beside the lifeless form of the one they loved, to remain there for the majority of the evening.

As visitors came forward to pay their respects, they spoke to the assembled family members, offering words of condolence.

In observing this throughout the night, I noted the surviving spouse was often in tears as she responded to those about her. Distraught, exhausted, and traumatized, the least of her miseries seemed to be her aching feet.

I spoke with her son that evening, a former

childhood playmate. "I don't see how you do it," I said. "I'm not sure I could stand there and handle what you're going through." I knew the kind words of well-meaning friends would launch from my eyes an avalanche of tears, and break my heart all over again.

I expected a response to what I said, but not the one I received. As I sat facing the person to whom I was speaking, near the front of the room, he suddenly knelt before me. Thrusting his face just inches from my nose, he gripped my shoulder, stared intently into my eyes, and intoned dramatically, "By the grace of God, Mary, by the grace of God!"

Totally unprepared for the intensity of his response, and the invasion of my "space," embarrassment crept over me. My immediate thought was, "How can I relieve the awkwardness of this moment?"

Maybe Jennifer Lee met someone like that, a person who unsettled her, and thus feels her apprehension of "Christians" justified.

Or, it could be that she's simply uninformed, and therefore unappreciative. She may be unaware of how much Christianity has contributed to civilization in a positive way. Perhaps a few historical facts and some study would change her point of view.

For instance, I wonder if she realizes the direct benefit to her as a woman because of the Bible principle that everyone is of equal value before God? (Galatians 3:28.)

In reading James Kennedy's book, What If Jesus Had Never Been Born? I learned the following facts. Prior to Christian influence, a woman's life was very cheap. In ancient culture, a wife was considered the property of her husband, and according to Aristotle, a woman was somewhere between a free man and a slave. If you consider how valueless a slave was in ancient times, you get a glimpse of how bad a woman's fate was.

Baby girls were killed simply because of their gender. When missionaries came into lands unaffected by Christianity, they found appalling practices of female infants put out as food for wild dogs and wolves, or just left to die, exposed to the elements. But Christians placed value on human life, taught that value and saved many of these babies.

Christians then went on to create orphanages, missions and countless charities.

Inspiration for some of the greatest works of art, music and literature sprang from Christian influence. As a result we have the great cathedrals of Europe, the melodies of Bach, and the work of men like John Bunyan, John Milton and Charles Dickens, whose last published book, The Life of Our Lord opened with these words:

"My dear children, I am very anxious that you should know something about the history of Jesus Christ. For everybody ought to know about Him. No one ever lived, who was so good, so kind, so gentle, and so sorry for all people who did wrong, or were in any way ill or miserable, as He was."

The influence of Jesus Christ led to the abolition of slavery through the lifelong effort of the evangelical William Wilberforce, and through members of the abolitionist society, two-thirds of whom were ministers.

Almost all of the first colleges and universities in the U.S., including Princeton, Yale and Harvard were Christian in origin. And in Third World countries, it was primarily Christians who educated countless millions in literacy and health care.

In view of these facts, and innumerable others, it is unquestionable that Christianity has improved our lives and the world in general. We sometimes forget, however, what life might be like without its influence.

James C. Hefley tells the story of an American soldier stationed on a remote island in the Pacific during WW II. The soldier met a national on the island who could speak English, and who was carrying a Bible. The soldier pointed to the Bible, grinned, and said, "We educated people don't put much faith in that Book anymore."

The islander grinned back. "Well, it's a good thing for you that **we** do," he said, patting his stomach, "or **you'd** be in here by now."

Now there's a thought that **could** make your skin crawl. A society without a Saviour would be dangerous indeed. It's not Christians Jennifer Lee needs to fear, but the woeful absence of them.



Songs In The Night

By Sis. Carol Jantz

When our pathway of life is shrouded with a heavy cloud of trial, we call upon the Lord to lift the gloom and show us more clearly the way. How we long for Him to reveal to us His master plan of all our puzzlements and concerns in life; but He so lovingly reminds us, "...It is not for you to know the times or the season which the Father hath put in his own power." Acts 1:7. Yet our heart will still cry for relief. If we get real quiet before the Lord, He has something more to tell us. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me." Something quickens within us when we ponder how we "learn." Yes, it's through our tears, trials and the tests of life that we "learn" of Him.

Then the Lord speaks again. "For I am meek and lowly, and ye shall find rest to your souls."

We want to grasp more of the depths of these words, so we consider the life of Christ. Surely He was meek or He would never have condescended to this world and been so willingly offered up as a sacrifice for our sins. Our heart then feels a deep gratitude that we can bring **anything** before our Lord. Not only is He meek, but He is lowly. He is ready to listen to even our faintest whisper or heartbroken cry. He wants to give us "songs in the night." The sweetest songs we can sing are only learned during the deep shadows of night.

"I have been through the valley of weeping, The valley of sorrow and pain; But the 'God of all comfort' was with me, At hand to uphold and sustain.

"As we travel thro' life's shadow'd valley,
Fresh springs of His love ever rise;
And we learn that our sorrows and losses,
Are blessings just sent in disguise.

"So we'll follow wherever He leadeth,

Let the path be dreary or bright;

For we've proved that our God can give comfort;

Our God can give 'songs in the night."



NEW YEAR THOUGHTS

The last month of the old year is gone, never to return and January of the new year is come; it will be here and then gone as other months take its place. Just so it is with us: we are here for a short space of time, then we go on to our reward, and someone will have to fill our place and carry on our work, and soon they too will go on. We find it this way all through life.

-Taken from a tract by Mary Pruitt

Let Us Begin Anew

Lord, God, Thou lettest the green things start
A new life every year;
Out of their sunken selves they rise,
Erect and sweet and clear.
Behold the lily's pure white leaves
Unfolding by each mere.
Hear the new golden flood of song
The lark pours forth to the blue!

Behold the strong, undaunted shoot
Pushing its brave front through
The fallen tree. Lord God, Lord God,
Let me begin anew!
Out of my own self let me rise;
For God, if it can be
A noble growth may spring
From yon decaying tree,
Surely a strong, pure life may mount
Out of this life of me.
—Ella Higgenson

Do not act as if you had ten thousand years to throw away. Death stands at your elbow. Be good for something while you live and it is in your power.

-Marcus Aurelius

What the New Year brings us will depend a great deal on what we bring to the New Year.

I have never heard anything about the "resolutions" of the Apostles, but I have heard a great deal about the Acts of the Apostles."

—Horace Mann

Each Day Has Its Opportunities

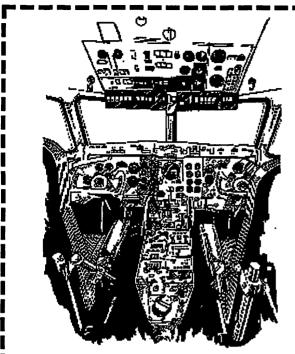
All the days seem alike as they come to us, but each day comes with its own opportunities, its own calls to duty, its own privileges—holding out hands offering us radiant gifts. The day passes and never comes again. Other days as bright may come, but that day never comes a second time. If we do not take just then the gifts it offers, we shall never have another chance to get them, and shall always be poorer for what we have missed.

—J. R. Miller

Time for a lost soul is an uncertain voyage across troubles and stormy waters into the sunset of eternal night, but to one saved, time is a quiet, serene voyage across placid waters into the sunrise of eternal day.

—Horace Wood

Great souls have wills; feeble ones wishes.



Is God at the controls of your life?

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FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY



Excerpts Taken From Jan., 1972 Faith and Victory

"This writer well remembers the first meeting he attended on the Hammond, Lousiana campground, which was 43 years ago, in the year of 1928, when Bro. C. E. Orr was the pastor. Over the intervening years we have attended many annual summer and autumn meetings on those grounds, and we have always enjoyed the Christian fellowship and gracious hospitality of the saints in the South. Many faces have gone and many new ones have come, but we are all going toward the setting of life's sun, then looking with bright anticipation for the dawn of that happy golden morning when we shall meet to part no more. The footsteps of the coming of the Lord are drawing very near, even at the door. Let us keep ready!"

—Lawrence Pruitt

"Some Christians are like lightening bugs, just flickering now and then. Dear Lord, let me see to it that my light shines so that it may give a lonely sinner a better view of heaven, and cause someone to want to follow Jesus." —Wilma Horsley

"Minnie Mae White, daughter of William and Anna Ott, was born Sept. 4, 1904, at Guthrie, OK, and departed this life on Dec. 4, 1971 at the age of 67 years and three months.

"Sister Minnie White had been a faithful member of the Guthrie congregation all these years since she was 'born again' in 1933."