

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

USPS184-660

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 75, No. 9

75th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

\$3.00 Per Year

Dec., 1997

A BED IN MY HEART

*Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.
My heart for very joy doth leap,
My lips no more can silence keep.
I too must sing, with joyful tongue,
That sweetest ancient cradle song,
Glory to God in highest Heaven,
Who unto man His Son hath given,
While angels sing with pious mirth,
A glad New Year to all the earth.*

—Martin Luther

The Son Of God Is Come

(I John 5:20.)

By Bro. Burbridge Copeland

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." I Corinthians 2:14.

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;..." I Corinthians 1:18.

The natural man must take on spirituality to receive, accept and to really find for himself reliability in the teachings and promises of the omniscient One.

The natural man is somewhere between heaven and hell, having only a faulty opinion with which to chart his course, and with no God. With darkness coming, the demons wait, like vultures in every tree, and at the end of every trail there is a grave.

No wonder Jesus declared it worthy to leave the ninety and nine. Now we can see why He left a throne in glory to come down to this treacherous jungle.

Now we can see! God so loved the lost people of the world "...that he gave his only begotten Son,..." John 3:16.

For the Son of God has come, "...to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10.

Contents

Spiritual Maturity	2
The Responsibility of Knowledge	3
Editorials	4
Prayer Requests	5
Meeting Notices	6
Letters	7
Mission Reports	9
In Memoriam	10
Question and Answer	11
My Spiritual House	13
Worthy of His Name	14
The Inn that Missed its Chance	15
The Census	15
Window to the Past	16

Special Faith and Victory subscription offer inside, see page 5.

Spiritual Maturity

By Sis. Anita Adams



"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." I Corinthians 13:11.

Recently, the Lord sent us a message on spiritual maturity. As it was going forth, the Lord brought to my mind several childlike ways. Let us examine them and see if we have put away "childish things."

Children speak their mind. They will boldly tell you that you are ugly, or that they don't like the gift you have given them, etc. Spiritually, are we still speaking our mind, no matter who we hurt or what damage we are doing?

Many times, if things don't go their way, they will pout. Their bottom lip comes out and they will not so much as give you the time of day. What about spiritually? If church services don't go exactly like we think they should, or the pastor doesn't handle a situation like we think he should, do we clam up, or maybe even quit going to church? Remember, this is the way children handle life. "...When I became a man, I put away childish things."

Maybe you are not one to pout, but one that throws a tantrum when things don't go as planned. Instead of clamming up, you make sure everyone knows that the situation should have been handled better, or services should be run more smoothly, etc. It is still a child's way of handling life.

Children have great exuberance over worthless items. Some of them can become so excited over a cheap, plastic toy which tears up before the day is over. They aren't willing to save their money until they can buy something which will last. They want it now. Are we letting our joy and happiness come from the worthless things of life? We should be taking the time to dig a deep well in the things of God and let peace and joy be springing up within.

Many times children are picky eaters. As long as they can have candy, cookies and ice cream, everything is fine, but give them green beans and broccoli, and they immediately say "Yuck!" Are we picky eaters with God's Word? Do we just want to measure to certain things?

God has a well-balanced meal to set before us and to be healthy we must eat it all.

Children's attention span is about two inches long. Try sending a three-year-old to his room to pick up toys. Invariably he will look at a book or play with the toys. How are we? When God gives us a job to do, are we willing and able to complete it? When we are prompted to read and pray, or send a card to someone; do we get sidetracked? What about that area God has dealt with us about? Do we complete the task or fail to completely conquer?

If you are calling, "Ice cream, everyone," children hear very well, but if they think you are calling them to do work they suddenly become deaf. Do we have selective hearing when God is talking to us?

Little children need to hang on to their mother, or their security blanket. Are we afraid to step out into a new field for the Lord, or would we rather keep quiet than to testify or pray like the Lord is asking us to?

Many times children become discouraged very easily and are ready to give up. I heard of one child who, because he couldn't ride a bike with the first try, wasn't going to try again. When we try and fail, are we ready to throw in the towel? That is being childish. If at first we don't succeed, try, try again. A sign of maturity is to get up and try all over again.

Often I find my children taking things into their own hands and correcting each other without giving me a chance to handle the situation. We need to learn to back off and let God do the correcting. God is well able to correct without our being in control and bossing.

It is real easy for children to say, "I can't." If we are not careful, we will tell the Lord, "I can't forgive." "I can't be kind." "I can't measure up on that line." That is being like a child.

Children are ready to lie, if need be, to cover up their faults. If they don't lie, they will make an excuse. God sees right through all our lies and excuses.

No doubt you can think of other childish behaviors. Let God challenge you to become a MAN and put away childish things.

The Responsibility Of Knowledge

By Bro. Bill Busch

It is written, "That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar." Matthew 23:35. "From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation." Luke 11:51.

Jesus was talking to Pharisees, scribes and lawyers when He said the words recorded above. It might seem unfair that they should be responsible for things that happened before their time, but they had the written records of the shedding of righteous blood and God's judgments on those that were responsible. Because they had this knowledge and they also knew the commandments to love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, and their neighbor as themselves, their disobedience to what they knew the will of God to be made them responsible. Even knowing these things, they had purposed in their hearts to do the very same thing. The Bible says they were motivated by envy, which is a manifestation of selfishness.

We who are living in this dispensation are even more accountable for the past events because we have more knowledge. Unless we have the love of God in our hearts and a complete surrender of our will to Him, we will be like those that crucified our Lord Jesus. Our disbelief and disobedience can make us partakers in the crucifixion of Jesus, and can there be any greater sin than that?

"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." I Timothy 4:16. This text tells us that by being obedient we will not only be saved ourselves, but also through our obedience others may find salvation, and this should be the greatest desire of every child of God.

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17. This is another scripture that speaks of the responsibility of having knowledge. We have no excuse for ignorance because we have the Bible, which is the Word of God, to let us know what God's will is for us.

"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." John 12:48. Here we are told that we will be judged in the last day by the words of Jesus, so we will have to be obedient to what He has said, and it is all in the Bible.

"And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:..." Luke 12:47-48. God is the Just Judge of all the earth and every one will receive the reward that each one deserves. Only with Godly sorrow, repentance and dying to self can we deserve anything other than eternal torment. But by the blood of Christ we are made sons and daughters of God and are then deserving of eternal life.



Please Search The Book Again!

By Sis. Natalie Allen

This song came to my mind due to a burden I have had. For some months I have been endeavoring to read Galatians 5:19-26, every week, if possible. The Lord impressed me with the thought that it would be good to read about the works of the flesh and search my life each time to see if I had any of them in my life. If so, I should get them purged out, and watch and pray more on that line.

I have also been reading about the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and searching my life to see if I am bearing all of those fruits and if I am short of any, then asking for grace to be fruitful. We read where that if we live after the fruits of the flesh, that we cannot enter the kingdom of God. Just one of them will keep us out!

Dear ones, let us search our lives and see what kind of fruits we are bearing. We do not want to come to the Judgment and be found wanting. To me this is serious, and not to be taken lightly.

The song says: "Please search the Book again before I have to go." May none of us be found asking for the Book of Life to be searched again to see if our name is written in it. Let us do our searching now!

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



Single copy, one year	\$3.00
Package of 5 papers to one address, one year	\$12.00

Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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

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

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

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

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

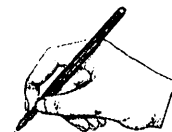
In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044
 Office phone numbers: 405-282-1479, 800-767-1479;
 fax number: 405-282-6318; home phone: 405-282-6170.
 Internet address: <http://www.theshop.net/faithpub>

Postmaster: Please send address corrections to: Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.

Editorials



By Wayne Murphey

Christmas is a time of sentiment. Children anticipate its coming with wide eyes and anxious hearts, hopeful of the presents they wish to receive. For adults, it is often a time when their thoughts drift back to childhood and the pleasant memories which surrounded their family during the Yule season. It is also an occasion when many are reminded of the story of Christ's birth.

A heartfelt sentiment was expressed by Mary, the mother of Jesus, as she visited with Elizabeth prior to the birth of Christ. Mary said, "...My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." Luke 1:47-48. This is the essence of what Christmas should mean to us today.

There is a picture in which the artist depicts two little beggar children standing on the pavement before a beautiful house. They were peering through the windows at a happy family gathered around the table during an evening meal. They saw the father, mother and children, well-dressed, and with glad faces, enjoying the luxury and great comfort within.

It was winter, and the night was bleak. Snow was falling. As the impoverished children observed all the brightness and beauty within, they could describe it, but could not call it their own. Outside, the storm swept about them, and they shivered in their thin rags, feeling the gnawing misery of unsatisfied hunger.

So it is of those who celebrate Christmas, but cannot say that their soul magnifies the Lord, and that He is their Saviour. To feel sentiment at the story of the angels heralding peace on earth, of the shepherds finding and honoring the Christ Child, and of the wise men from afar following the shining star in the heavens, is only to look into the windows of salvation.

To fully celebrate Christmas we must be a part of the story of redemption. We must have the Christ child reigning within our hearts. When He does, we are drawn into His family,

and there is nothing to equal the feeling of inner peace and joy which it brings.

Subscription Special

Included in this issue mailed to subscribers in the U. S., **is an envelope with a special subscription offer.** By filling out the names and addresses on the lines provided, ten of your friends, neighbors and relatives can receive the *Faith and Victory* for one year at a cost of only \$10.00 to you. We urge our readers to take quick advantage of this special offer. Begin the year of 1998 by sending Gospel literature into as many homes as possible.

We are still seeking the Lord to provide the means for the completion of the new Print Shop. We are asking God to better equip this work for the efficient production of Gospel literature. It is always an encouragement to hear from each of you who share an interest in the publishing work. You are a comfort and encouragement to us, more than you may know, and we thank you for expressing your love through prayers and support.

Several former Print Shop workers have said that they are in the process of writing about their experiences while laboring here in the past. I urge as many former employees as possible to send in their testimonies for printing in the special 75 Year Anniversary Edition.

We are encouraged by the increasing amount of response we are getting from the Internet. During this past month of November, more contact has been made through this means than at any time since its formation.

On Jan. 1, 1998, Bro. Ed and Sis. Roberta Wilson, along with Bro. Clifford and Sis. Patsy Smith, plan on leaving for India to attend the National Convention in the area where Bro. John Varghese pastors. Although foreign travel can be costly, the encouragement generated through this kind of fellowship is invaluable. Our understanding is that the airline tickets for Bro. Ed and Sis. Roberta have not been entirely covered, so if the Lord should burden anyone to help in this outreach, you may send an offering to this office to be relayed to Bro. Ed. Not much time remains before they are to leave, so whatever is done will need to be done quickly.

1998 wall calendars will soon be in stock and ready for sale. The calendars feature a colorful nature scene with a Bible verse for each month, and make nice Christmas gifts. They measure 7 1/4" X 13 1/2" and are available for the cost of \$3.00 each, which includes postage and handling.

We will soon have in stock and ready for sale, bound volumes of the 11 issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper for the year of 1997. The price is \$2.00 per book, plus \$1.50 for postage and handling.

Also soon to be in stock are the 1997 *Beautiful Way* yearbooks for Juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$1.00 each, plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. The limited supply of these books will be sold on a first come basis.

Income tax time is right around the corner. If you have contributed to this work during 1997 and need a receipt for the purpose of deductions, please let us know.

The next issue of the *Faith and Victory* will carry the date of 1998. Until then, we wish each of our readers a blessed Christmas Holiday Season. And as we look into the future, we say with the Apostle Paul, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." I Thess. 5:23.



prayer



REQUESTS

OH—Sis. Juanita Blankenship has requested prayer for Nina Walters of Middletown, OH. They think she may have cancer in her arm.

LA—"Please pray for my brother, Bob Miller, who has cancer." —Cynthia LaCroix

TX—Christina Wood called for prayer for Sis. Helen Lambright.

TX—Bro. Otis Francisco desires prayer for his wife, Sis. Henrietta.

PA—"Pray for Ruth Godshall. She's in a

nursing home in Quakertown, PA. She has cancer throughout her body. Also pray for her children."

—Barbara Campbell

AL—"I still need prayer for my eyes and back. Also, I have an unspoken request."

—Sis. Pearlene Gerald

WV—Sis. Queen Luzador desires prayer for recovery from the effects of a stroke.



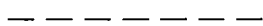
CHRISTMAS CAROL TAPE

A 60 minute cassette tape is now available of the Guthrie Young People singing Christmas carols. Entitled "A Guthrie Christmas," the cost is \$2.00. Send your order, or call for quick shipment, to: Mike Woodruff, 924 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, OK 73044. (405) 282-2378.



THANK YOU

Sis. Fern Stubblefield would like to thank everyone who has prayed for her and sent cards and letters during her illness. She is still in great need of prayer.



I appreciate the interest, phone calls and cards you have shared with us since the time of my accident. I am improving and seeking the Lord for all the good I can get out of this situation. Please continue to remember us in your prayers.

—Sis. Dora Doolittle



Meeting



NOTICES

ASSEMBLY MEETING, PACOIMA CA

The annual Assembly Meeting at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA, will convene, Lord willing, Friday night, Dec. 26 at 7:30 p.m. There will be three worship services daily, 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., commencing Saturday, Dec. 27 and continuing through January 4, 1998.

The Lord abundantly blessed the camp meeting last August. We expect another profitable meeting through your prayers and the support of all who can possibly attend.

For information, or assistance, contact: Sunset Guest Home, (818) 899-2022, or Bro. Ed Sorrell (818) 834-4947.



OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 91st annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK, from December 26, 1997 through January 4, 1998. 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 26th 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 campgrounds are 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. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met as usual by freewill offerings.

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.

Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly Meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sister Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044. Phone: (405) 282-0566.



CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT

Dear saints:

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. We thank God for the glorious Gospel! And whom the Son has made free is free indeed! I would like to report victory through Christ our Lord, and to everyone that believeth that He is the Son of God. We have been in a battle the last five months, but thank God we see a light at the end of the tunnel. Glory to His precious name!

We have been held up for over two years on the building of our chapel. The city did not want to issue us a permit. They sent us through many changes, but thanks be to God, through the prayers of the saints, we were issued a permit on the 30th of September. We have a limited amount

of time to rebuild the chapel and very little funds to work with. So our cry for help goes out to all the saints of God.

An estimated cost of the building is \$45,000 to complete. We have approximately one year before our building permit expires, and they may not issue us another permit. They have been trying to condemn the building, and if the building is torn down, they will not permit us to build at all. Please pray and see what the Lord will have you do concerning this matter.

For anyone wanting to help, with your presence or offerings, please contact: Bro. Louis or Sis. Diane Kimble, (504) 467-8842 or Bro. John Clement (504) 831-6771. Mailing address: Church of God Missionary, P.O. Box 73835, Metairie, LA 70033.

Faithful in the service of the Master,

—Louis Kimble and congregation



SUNSET GUEST HOME REPORT

The Lord has made provision for His elderly saints at the Sunset Guest Home. Here, in addition to receiving assistance in their daily living, they will find fellowship and encouragement to keep their faith firmly fixed in God. This home was built as a result of the burden several ministers, primarily Sis. Opal Wilson, had to provide a place where saints would not be forced to receive medical treatment as they grew older or more feeble.

Today, the Home is yet operated on this basis. We are blessed with a capable, consecrated staff. The chapel is within easy access where regular services are held as well as annual meetings. Services can also be heard in the living room of the Home. The rooms are large and comfortable with newly redecorated living and dining areas. Added to this is the benefit of the mild, southern California climate.

With so much to offer, we felt we must let the saints know what the Lord has provided for them. Many saints have found the peace and security they needed right here. We are confident the Lord will make it a blessing to many others.

We will be happy to provide any further information you desire. Address all correspondence to: Sunset Guest Home, 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, CA 91331, or call (818) 899-2022. Ed and Nelda Sorrell, (818) 834-4947.

your



LETTERS

CA—Dear saints and friends: As I study the 23rd Psalm with my Sunday school class, I am inspired, encouraged and convinced that the path of the righteous is for me. If we allow Him to, He will clear our lives of rocks of stony unbelief. He tries to tear out the roots of bitterness. He attempts to break up the proud human heart that is sometimes set like sundried clay. He then sows the seed of His own precious Word, which, if given half a chance to grow, will produce good, healthy saints, full of peace and contentment. The Good Shepherd has supplied green pastures for all who care to move into them and find peace and plenty.

—Loyce Davenport

— — — — —

CA—Faith Publishing Company: I am so blessed to report that the balance problem with my inner ear is all gone. The healing of the malady, which had lasted seven months, began about the time that your *Faith and Victory*, asking for prayer, began to reach the mailboxes of those nearest Guthrie. By the time my copy arrived on the West Coast, the job was done.

Yours rejoicing, —Nelson R. Markham

— — — — —

NC—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints: Greetings in Christian love. I trust that you and the saints are doing fine in the Lord.

We are pressing onward in the Lord, trusting Him each day for help to be what He would have us to be.

You all are in our prayers, and we pray that you will remember us also.

In Christian love, —Sis. Julia Holt

— — — — —

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne, saints and workers at the Print Shop: Greetings of love in the name of our Lord. I am so thankful for His saving and keeping power. He has been so good to me.

I haven't been well since January, but thank the Lord, He has blessed me the last few weeks with more strength in my body. Words can't express my thankfulness to the Lord for what He has done for me. Also, the saints have shown

their love and concern by calling, sending cards and praying. Thanks to each of you. Many times when I would be suffering and be so very weak in body, I know the saints were in the battle with us.

The Lord visited me many times with a Bible verse or a song. The peace that comes to my mind in time of suffering is such a blessing to my soul. I want to make Heaven my home. Please continue to pray that I will be faithful.

Your sister in Christ, —Alta Bock

— — — — —

TX—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. Oh, how I love Jesus! Without His amazing grace where would we all be today?

I have suffered with the beginning of osteoporosis for over a year. I know I have the faith for my healing, but maybe it is not God's will for my healing just yet. God has His own place and time for everything. Yet I continue seeking the prayers of everyone, because sometimes I am beyond going. Put me and our church on your prayer list....

I love my *Faith and Victory* papers. I read them over and over. Keep up the good work.

In the love of Jesus, —Sis. Rhoda Smith

— — — — —

CA—Dear Bro. Murphey and saints: Praise the Lord, I am past 90 years of age and still determined to follow Jesus all the way.

I am blessed to be able to talk with some of the saints quite often. It is so encouraging. I am feeble, but I am still able to read the precious messages in the *Faith and Victory*.

Please pray for my unsaved loves ones. I always pray for God's people everywhere, and for people to come to the Lord before it is too late....

Pray for me. I am determined to be faithful and follow Jesus all the way.

Your sister saved by the precious blood of Jesus, —Ruth Donnelly

— — — — —

WA—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and co-workers: "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1.

This verse is such an encouragement to me, because the Lord supplies everything for me. I am so glad for the opportunity of being one of His children. From my youth up, until now, in my old age, He hasn't failed me, although I have failed Him. I am watching and praying more to

keep closer than ever before. I need the prayers of the saints that I will keep faithful to my Shepherd.... —Sis. Naomi Jones

— — — — —

LA—Dear ones: Greetings in the name of Jesus. I am very thankful today for all the Lord means to me, and for all He has done for me. I am, also, very thankful to have been taught the truth from a child, by a mother who taught by "precept and example."

The provision of divine healing is a wonderful part of the plan of salvation, and it was made available to all of us by the stripes which Jesus suffered for us.

I would like to relate some of the wonderful healings the Lord has performed for me in the last two and a half years.

In July of 1995, I was carrying out the trash when I stepped on the edge of the walk and my right foot buckled. It was either broken or badly sprained, as it was about six months before I could wear a shoe and walk on it normally. But I do praise God for healing it and helping me through the pain and discomfort.

Then, last February, I was eating in town when a piece of food became lodged in my throat, completely sealing off my windpipe. God was so good to have someone there to help get it dislodged, and again, I praise Him for it.

Now, this summer, on August 30th, I was standing on a chair trying to hang a picture, when I lost my balance and the chair tipped. I fell over the back of the chair and landed on my back, on a concrete floor that had only a thin layer of carpeting on it. Thank God, my daughter, Janell, was at home and was able to come immediately and help me get up and into the living room to a recliner. I very possibly broke some bones, including a toe, and was very sore for several days. About three days after my fall, I was sitting in the recliner and I turned my back wrong and it started having muscle spasms just below my left rib cage. I had four of them within about three hours of time, and they were very painful. I could hardly stand to move. The ministers came and prayed for me and God healed me and I haven't had them since. Thank the Lord!

The ministers and saints have been faithful to pray for me each time I have been in need, and God has been so good to hear and answer prayer.

Not long after I had fallen in August, I got

something in my eye and suffered about four hours with it, but the Lord helped us to finally see it and Janell was able to get it out for me.

I thank God for all of His blessings to me, and also to our family. We love Him and desire your prayers that we will be true to Him.

In Christian love, —Cynthia LaCroix
— — — — —

NC—Faith workers: "...All things work together for good to them that love God..."

Keep up the dedicated press and pray for me that I will hear the Lord each time He calls me to work!

I mean to go right on, with God's hand in mine.

Love and prayers, —Sis. Brenda White
— — — — —

TN—Dear Bro. Wayne: I trust this finds you and the other faithful workers well, encouraged and pressing on in the good, Holy Bible way. I thank the Lord for the Bible and its teaching. With it by our side, we can always have a guide. It will teach us how to live and what to say.

I thank the Lord for His many blessings to me each day, and for His loving care and protection for over 88 years. It was in 1909, the year of my birth, when my parents first heard the truth and came out of sectism (along with others). The Lord got the Rockvale, TN, Church of God started, and under the preaching of those old-time ministers, signs and miracles followed. So I have been in the Church of God all my life, and I thank the Lord and those faithful "old-timers," for it....

Yours for the whole truth,

—Bro. Charles B. Williams
— — — — —

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne and co-workers: Greetings of love in Jesus' precious name. I enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* very much. It encourages me to stay in the one, true way.

I have been blessed with good health most of my life, and when things have gone wrong He hasn't failed me.

I have many loved ones that need healing and many loved ones that need salvation.

I enjoy helping others who are less fortunate than myself, so I have no problem with keeping busy.

Jesus has been so good to me that I can't thank Him enough.

Christian love, —Sis. Violet Sinkhorn

Mission



REPORTS

From Ghana...

October 24, 1997—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints in America: I greet all of you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

First of all, I would like to give thanks to God for the wonderful things He is doing for the saints both abroad and in Africa. We thank God for delivering Sister Karen Saltee from malaria.

I would like to give the testimony of a sister which we have in our congregation named Rose. About a year and a half ago she became a Christian and is very devoted. However, her husband is not a Christian, and one day he told her that he would not allow her to go to church anymore. This was heartbreaking to her, and she informed me of the matter. I told her to pray and that we would pray, that nothing was impossible with God. (Luke 1:37.) One month later God touched his heart and he told Sis. Rose that on Sunday morning she could go to the Church of God service. This was a miracle. Please pray for Sis. Rose and her husband, that he will give his life to God.

We have devoted workers here in Ghana to spread the Gospel. Also we have many activities in progress to strengthen the Church such as designated time for prayer, Bible Studies and an open forum.

The government has been giving us some trouble about paying taxes on the Church property. Please pray about this matter.

May God bless you all.

—Bro. Maxwell Nkansah
— — — — —

From India...

October 17, 1997—Dear Bro. Wayne and dear saints scattered everywhere in America: Warm greetings to you dear ones again in the most Holy name of Jesus Christ.

We were very sorry to read of the passing of Bro. Derrill Smith in Shawnee, OK. I had known him since 1974, and he was very kind to me during my visits to America. May God comfort Sis. Ruby Smith and the bereaved family.

We had a two-day minister's conference during the first week of October at Karickom. It

was real good. We discussed many subjects and learned many spiritual lessons.

Lord willing, our 33rd General Convention will be held on January 7—11, 1998. We invite your prayers and presence.

Please pray for the needs of our congregations and our ministers here. Our prayers are for you.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese



In

MEMORIAM

Mattie Bell Savage, age 102, died on Sunday, October 12, 1997 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. She was born on January 30, 1895 in Ft. Gaines, Clay County, GA, to Willis and Katherine White. She was the youngest of eight children. They were raised on a farm in Ft. Gaines, GA, by two Christian parents who were firm believers in prayer. She was a brilliant student in school. She attended Paine College in GA. She was also a teacher in the public school system for eight years.

In 1918, she was united in holy matrimony to Daniel Savage. Three children were born to this union. She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters, brothers and two sons.

At an early age she accepted the Lord as her Savior. She became acquainted with the "Evening Light Saints," by corresponding with some of the writers of the *Faith and Victory* paper. She later said, "I believe it was through my parents' prayers that the Lord's gracious guidance brought me to see the true Church of God."

As a missionary, she passed out tracts on street corners, at grocery stores or wherever she traveled. She also mailed tracts to unknown individuals, hoping and praying that the written message would reach some poor lost soul. Her lifetime mission was to be a faithful witness for the Lord.

As a teacher she taught Children's Meetings in her home. She faithfully instructed the children to be obedient to their parents and to seek the Lord in their youth. She also taught Sisters' Meetings. The sisters were taught to be in subjection to their own husbands, how to rear

their children and to be chaste keepers at home.

As a minister she reached out to the lost. Whenever a soul was seeking help she never turned them away. She became an ordained minister in 1969. She served and ministered to the saints in Goulds and Ft. Lauderdale, FL. When the calls came to go pray for the sick, she would literally drop everything and go pray for them.

She was a member of the Church of God at Goulds, FL, under the pastorate of the late Bro. Herschell Hargrave, Sr. She faithfully served in Goulds until she felt a burden from the Lord calling her to return to Ft. Lauderdale, FL. At the church in Ft. Lauderdale, she served under the pastorate of Bro. Robert McIntyre, Sr.

At the ripe old age of 102, Sis. Savage was still living a devoted life to God. One would often find her reading her Bible and singing the sweet songs of Zion. Her life was an inspiration and a testimony of God's faithfulness to His trusting children.

She is survived by one son, Sterlan Savage (Adele) of Ft. Lauderdale; one daughter, Mary C. Williams (Samuel) also of Ft. Lauderdale; eleven grandchildren; one great niece, thirty-three great-grands, twenty-one great-great-grands; a host of great nephews, great nieces, saints and sorrowing friends.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, October 21, 1997, at Mission Revival Center. The service was conducted by Bros. Robert McIntyre, Sr. and Charles Clay. Interment was in the Sunset Memorial Gardens, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

The Savage family was sincerely and deeply touched by the outpouring of love and generosity from saints and friends. We wish to thank you all. May God's wonderful blessings shower each of you.

—Sis. Mary Williams
and family

If any of the saints wish to write or correspond with me, I welcome your letters. I'm still endeavoring to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please send correspondence to: Sis. Mary C. Williams, 2872 N.W. 2nd St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311. (954) 583-9704.



Boley Spears was born February 12, 1905, in Boley, OK, to Jake and Anner Spears. He was the first child born in Boley, OK. He attended

grammar school in Rusk and high school in Boley, OK.

He was a farmer for many years. He did construction work and also worked for the State of Oklahoma at the Boys Reformation School at Boley. He worked as a night watchman for twenty years—never missed a night and was never late.

He attended church services at the Church of God in Boley. Those were the days when you walked to school and church and rode in a wagon.

He met and married Ora Carr in 1924. They moved to Kansas City, KS. He worked there for a short time where their first child was born. They named her Laura Anna Mae. They moved back to Boley, OK where three other children were born, Eunice, Gwendolyn and Kytus Spears.

Preceding him in death were his wife, daughter, Eunice, and son, Kytus.

He is survived by his daughters, Anna Mae and Caldwell Thompson of Boley, OK, Gwendolyn and Ted Arnold of Perris, CA; daughter-in-law, Novella Spears of Carson, CA; many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held November 1, 1997, with Bro. Woodrow Warren officiating. Interment was in Boley, OK, cemetery.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

QUESTION AND ANSWER
BY
BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON
Reprint

(Continued from last month.)

QUESTION: Please give us a lesson on how to raise our children and teach and train them.

If you teach your children to love God above all else and put Him first in their life, then let them see you putting Him first in your life and loving Him supremely. If you teach your children to be unselfish and to share, then let them see no selfishness in you and see you sharing with one another and with them. If you teach your children that they must not strive, nor quarrel among themselves, then let them never hear you, their parents, striving, quarreling, speaking harsh, sharp, cutting words one to another nor arguing between yourselves. If

you teach them to be humble and submissive one to another and to you, their parents, then let them see you manifesting a lot of humility and submission one to another in the fear of God. Especially let them see their mother humbly and graciously submitting herself to their father as the Word of God instructs her to do. If you teach them to live in peace among themselves, make sure that they see you living in peace between yourselves. If you teach your children to deny themselves and never contend for their own way, then let them never hear either of their parents contending for their own way, but let them see them both denying themselves and submitting one to another.

I here insert another quote from Adam Clarke's commentary. "He who understands the way of God should carefully instruct his household in that way: and he who is the father of a family should pray to God to teach him, that he may teach his household. His ignorance of God and salvation can be no excuse for his neglecting his family: it is his indispensable duty to teach them; and God will teach him, if he earnestly seeks it, that he may be able to discharge this duty to his family. Reader, if thy children or servants perish through thy neglect, God will judge thee for it in the great day."

Abraham faithfully taught his household, which included Lot, the principles of upright living and righteousness; also the entertaining of strangers and hospitality to travelers. This paid off good dividends in later years with Lot and his family. When the angels came to Sodom at evening, Lot, looking for opportunities to show hospitality to strangers and travelers, and help to the needy as he had been taught by precept and the example of his Uncle Abraham, went right out and urged the men to come under his roof for the night. This proved to be the saving of his life as well as his two daughters' lives. Way over in the New Testament, reference is made to this in Hebrews 13:2, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." The principles of righteousness and upright living continued to direct Lot's life so that he was not drawn into the evil, corrupt way of life which was prevalent all around him, but it was obnoxious and vexatious to him. He had been taught better than that. Peter referred to him in II Peter 2:7-8, "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing,

"The legislators have taken hold of the matter of 'child abuse,' and in some cases have enacted laws that prohibit parents from using a paddle or switch on their children."

vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds.)"

I insert here a quote from Adam Clarke in regard to Lot. "He and his family...alone were free from the pollution of this accursed people. How powerful are the effects of a religious education, enforced by pious example! It is one of God's special means of grace. Let a man only do justice to his family by bringing them up in the fear of God, and He will crown it with His blessing.... This is your work that is the Lord's. If through your neglect of precept and example, they perish, what an awful account must you give to the Judge of the quick and the dead. It was the sentiment of a great man, that should the worst of times arrive, and ministry fail, yet, if parents would just be faithful to their trust, pure religion would be handed down to posterity, both in its form and in its power."

Before passing on from the discussion of Abraham and Lot and his family and the relationship between them, let me point out and emphasize this point. Abraham was a man who lived very close to God, and God was well pleased with him, and his sacrifices were acceptable to God. Consequently, he stood in a place with God where God would and could accept his plea in behalf of his kinsmen (Lot and his family) as the hour of destruction approached for the city in which they dwelt.

It seems that in the narrative related in the 18th and 19th chapters of Genesis, that the Lord Himself and the two angels with Him appeared in the form of men to Abraham and he entertained them. After they had eaten the meal that was prepared hastily for them, the two angels went on their way, but the Lord tarried and made known unto him what He was going to do in the destruction of Sodom. He knew that Abraham had kinsmen down there and He would not carry out His purpose to destroy the city without letting him know about it. Then Abraham began to plead with the Lord to spare the city if 50 righteous people could be found in it. The Lord agreed to that. Then Abraham asked that if 50 couldn't be found, if He would spare it for 45; then 40, then 30, then 20 and finally 10 and the Lord accepted his petition all the way, step by step, and agreed to spare the city if 10 righteous people could be found there.

That would surely cover Lot and his family. Abraham was pleading for their lives and the Lord knew it, but the Lord was pleased with his life and faithfulness and his sacrifice was acceptable to God, so he was qualified to plead in their behalf. But, alas, all of them had not maintained righteousness, so there were not enough to save the city. But watch it now. The two angels spent the night in Lot's home and in the morning told him to go to his married children and tell them and their families to get out quickly because the destruction of the city was imminent. They would not go, so the angels took Lot and his wife and their two daughters and told them to hurry and get out of there because they could not do a thing until they had gone out of the city. (Genesis 19:22.) Abraham had made an acceptable plea for the lives of Lot and his family, and the angels made certain that Lot got the message and was gone from there before the destruction fell. This can all be traced to the acceptability of Abraham's life and his sacrifices before God.

Ah, parents, grasp the urgency and the importance of our own lives being well pleasing to God and our sacrifices acceptable to Him. It is very important that we have a good relationship with God and a life well pleasing to Him so that our sacrifices will be acceptable in defense of our children and in behalf of their salvation.

I am fully aware of the fact that we are somewhat at a disadvantage, even legally, in disciplining our children. The legislators have taken hold of the matter of "child abuse," and in some cases have enacted laws that prohibit parents from using a paddle or switch on their children. I have read where there have been attempts in our congress to enact laws to permit children to bring suit against their parents in court if they do not like the way they have been disciplined. I understand this has been hotly contested and debated on the floors, and in the chambers of Congress, but so far as I know has never gotten through, even in any modified form, and I hope it never will. Such would just open the door wide to outright rebellion and anarchy through our children and younger set, and the courts would be hopelessly flooded with such cases because "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child;..." Prov. 22:15. Children

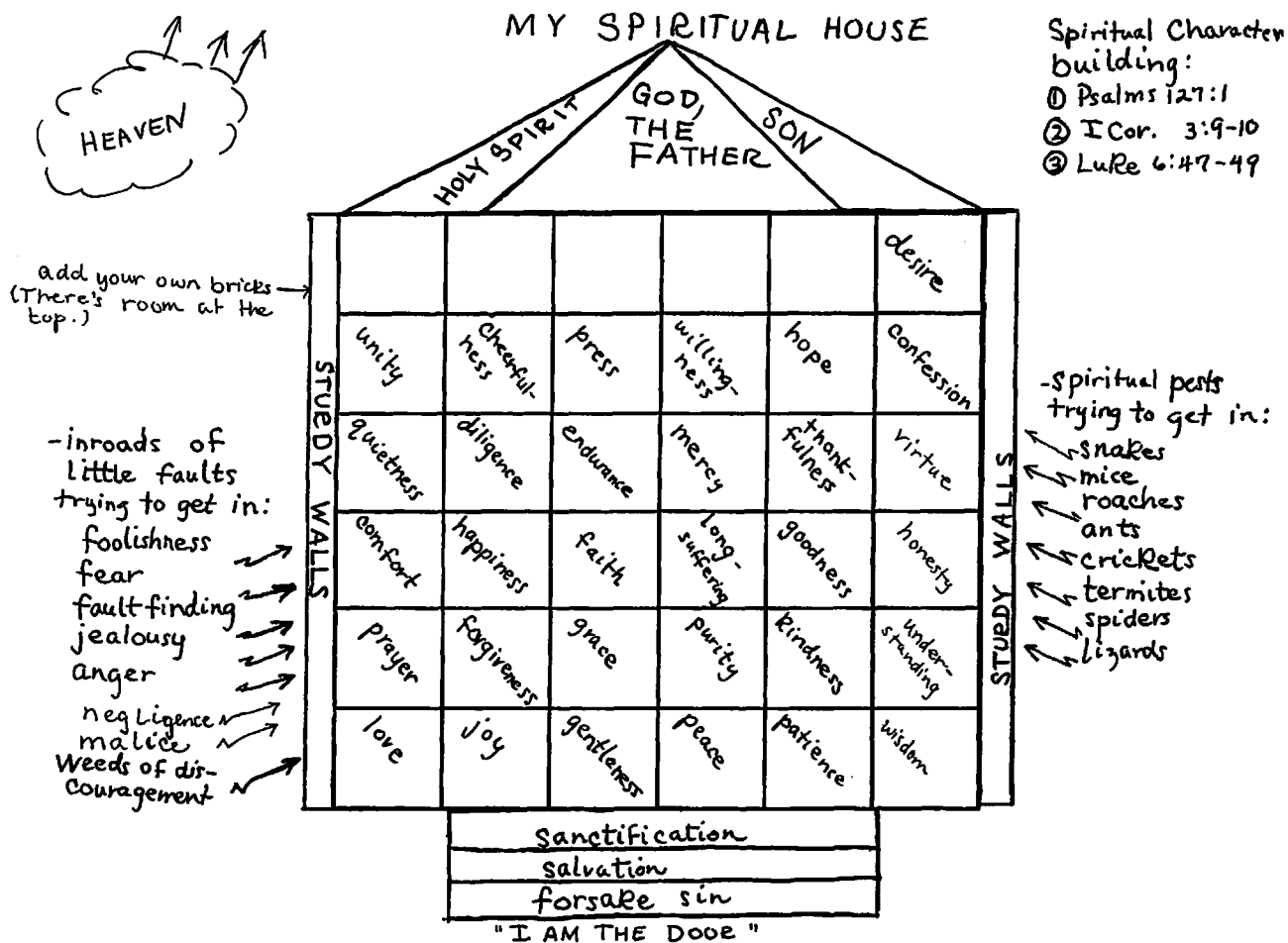
don't like discipline of any kind at any time. None of them do. They want to be at liberty to go their own way and do not like restraint, especially if they are a strong-willed child. You will be at loggerheads with them anytime you try to restrain them in something they want to do.

Notwithstanding all this, saints have God's Word to go by in training their children, and we can count on God backing us up in it if we pray earnestly to Him, follow His instructions and employ His way in dealing with them. In Proverbs 19:18 we read, "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." This verse seems to teach us that there is a time or period of their lives when our chastening will be to their profit, and we are admonished to not pass that time up, for when it is past there will be no more hope of helping them by that means. Again in Proverbs 13:24 it says, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son:

but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." It is a perverted sense of love we express when we are so sympathetic and "loving" toward our children that we cannot stand to hurt them and hear them cry over a chastisement we are administering to them. The word betimes seems in my mind to mean when it is necessary, administer the discipline and when it is not necessary, don't do it. Proverbs 22:15 says, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." This verse makes it clear that it is common to all children to have foolishness bound up in their hearts, but God Himself has designed that the rod of correction, in the hand of a wise and good parent, shall be a means of helping to guide them out of their foolishness. In Proverbs 29:17 we read, "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."

(To be continued next month.)

The following is a diagram which was designed and used in a message by Sis. Theresa Gaines. It has been a blessing to many, and we pray that it will be a blessing to all who read it. —Sis. Patricia Rhodes



Worthy Of His Name

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

*"Oh, write thy law of holiness in living characters of flame,
That by a life of purity I may be worthy of Thy name!"*

—C. W. Naylor

One of the ten commandments that God thundered to Israel on Mount Sinai was: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." Exodus 20:7.

It is a serious and responsible matter to assume the name of the Almighty God upon us. To profess to be His children means that we are called by His name. But to do this without faithfully bearing the weighty responsibility that is therein involved can bring woeful judgments of His wrath upon us. Taking the name of the Lord in vain is not only using it as swear words and profanity like we usually think it is. We can more seriously take the name of the Lord in vain by not living up to the standard of purity and holiness that His name is worthy of.

I Peter 1:13-17 says, "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear." For us to be worthy of the name of our Heavenly Father we must strive and seek earnestly to live a holy and righteous life. We must give up the sins of the world that we were taken up with and follow holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. This means to be holy in all manner of conversation.

"...The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." Titus 2:11-12. The word "sober" means to be sound in mind, self-controlled, and moderate as to opinion and passion. Why should we live thus? Because we are bearing the name of the One who purchased and redeemed us. We want to be worthy of that holy name. To be worthy means to be deserving

or fit. We cannot be worthy of the holy name of God Almighty or His Son, Jesus Christ, if we are still partaking of the sinful and fleshly lusts of this present evil world. The Spirit of God, that Christ accomplished for us to receive as the children of God, will dictate a holy, pure, clean, sober, conscientious and loving behaviour to conform to.

Bear in mind that, as Jesus said in Matthew 7:21, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." To profess His name and at the same time live contrary to His blessed will is to take His name in vain. This will bring serious consequences. He will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. I John 2:15-17 warns us: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." It is wise for us to be very diligent about how we live, where we go, how we spend our time, how we dress our bodies, how we speak, how we spend our money and how we treat our fellow man.

A person who allows sin or anything ungodly to have a part in his life, while professing the name of the Lord, is in grave danger. It is even as if one is saying, "It does not matter what I do. The Lord is not concerned with such things." People can be turned away from faith and obedience to God because of the unholy and unrighteous ways of those who profess to know Him. I heard of one young man who was so discouraged because a professed saint spoke such unkind and harsh words to him. He turned away from the truth and went out into open sin. Let us be careful and prayerful about this matter. Let us seek to live that righteous, godly, and holy life that is worthy of the name of the Lord God, our Father, and that of His holy Son, Jesus Christ.



THE INN THAT MISSED ITS CHANCE

(The Landlord Speaks)



"What could be done?
 The inn was full of folks:
 His honor, Marcus Lucius, and his scribes
 Who made the census; honorable men
 From farthest Galilee, come hitherward
 To be enrolled; high ladies and their lords;
 The rich, the rabbis, such a noble throng
 As Bethlehem had never seen before
 And may not see again - - -
 Of course, if I had known them, who they were,
 And who was He that should be born that night. . .
 Had I known,
 I would have turned the whole inn upside down,
 His honor, Marcus Lucius, and the rest,
 And sent them all to the stables.
 So you have seen Him, stranger, and perhaps
 Again may see Him, Prithee say for me
 I did not know; and if he comes again,
 As He will surely come, with retinue,
 And banners, and an army - tell Him my Lord
 That all my inn is His to make amends.
 Alas, alas! to miss a chance like that!
 This inn that might be chief among them all-
 The birthplace of the Messiah-
 Had I known!" -Selected

The Census

Sleepless and bewildered, but gloriously proud, the husband of Mary emerged from the stable and made his way to the census taker's booth. For it was the decree of Imperial Rome, ordering a general census, that had brought them to Bethlehem. The angel's song hummed through his heart and timed his steps with its rhythm; his fine bronzed face was radiant with the wonder of the night. But enrollment blanks and reckoning kept the census taker busy, and all he saw was another peasant standing in line.

"Name?" he demanded in a routine tone.

"Joseph, carpenter of Nazareth, of the house of David."

"Married?"

"Yes."

"Wife's name?"

"Mary."

"Children?"

The sturdy carpenter drew himself up. "One child," he answered very proudly. "A son, JESUS, born last night."

Was there any comment? Did the petty government official who wrote for the first time the name that was to be, "above every name"—did he wonder as he wrote? Probably not. It was just one more name on the census roll. Just another boy. What laughter would have rung through Rome if someone had pointed to that name and said, "There is the beginning of the end of our empire and of all empires everywhere." Yet it would have been true. Democracy began and thrones began to totter when He said, "You are sons of God." —Selected

FOR SALE

MORAL LAW

This book, written by Bro. Clifford Wilson, is now in stock and being sold. It is a theological study every Bible student would enjoy.

Moral Law, bound in an attractive hard cover, sells for \$10.00 each, plus postage and handling of \$1.00 for the first dollar and 10¢ for each additional dollar of the total order.

Send your orders to this office at: P.O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044

NEW TAPES AVAILABLE

Three new cassette tapes of recorded songs are now available on the following subjects:

1. Where Will You Be a Million Years From Now? (Tape #1 of Songs of Truth Concerning Man's Infinite Future.)

2. Will You Go With Us to Heaven? (Tape #2 of Songs of Truth Concerning Man's Infinite Future)

3. Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving.

These tapes, which include scripture readings and comments, are recorded by Harlan Sorrell, who sings all 4 parts. The price is \$3.00 each. Mail your orders to: *Songs of the Evening Light*, Rt. 1, Box 118A, Myrtle, MO 65778.

"Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever."

—Thomas Jefferson



Excerpts Taken From Dec., 1947 *Faith and Victory*

"Let us be a giver that God loveth. Let us not give grudgingly and be like the flint that has to be hammered and then you get only chips and sparks; nor give of necessity and be like the sponge that yields only to pressure; but let us be like the honeycomb that just overflows with its own sweetness. Just give without even being asked at all. Whether it be money or our service, let us be a cheerful giver."

—Rada Watkins

"Dear Saints:—Greetings to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am only a child, fourteen years old, and I have been in bed for twelve years, and I am happy. The Lord has kept me all these many years.

"Isn't it wonderful how God helps sick children and keeps them from worrying? I have heard many people say that if they were like me they didn't think they could go on. But if they would get their mind on God it would not be so hard. So I pray that God will still get me out of this condition that I may work for Him and do His will.

"I can't turn my head and my left leg is bent under. My right leg is stiff and my fingers are so crippled that I can't write, but somebody is writing this testimony for me....

"I am going to try to attend the winter meeting in Hammond, LA if the Lord is willing."

—Theodore Carter