

FAITH AND VICTORY

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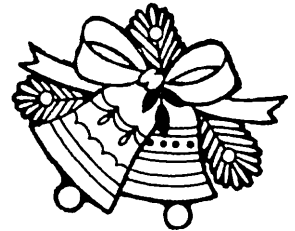
Church of God Servant



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He Came

By Bro. Clifford W. Wilson



A tiny babe in mother's arms
Was snuggled to her breast,
Nobody thought or even cared
If there was room to rest.

There was no place in public inn
Its rooms were long since filled,
But there's the sheepfold near at hand
'Twould shield them from the chill.

So babe and mother settled there,
A manger for a bed,
The world passed by in busy throng
Not noticing the shed.

For who would question this tiny child
Had come the King of Peace,
Or that He'd come our souls to save
And bring from sin release?

Or who would think that every heart
Could know His love sublime,
Or that He cared for every man
With love that was Divine?

'Tis hard to see in babe at hand
The man that's soon to be,
And what might be His life and work
And how it would touch me.

But this babe came the world to save
No one would be ignored,
He'd pay a price that reached us all
For souls that He adored.

To purge our sins He had to die
For sin exacts a toll,
No mortal price would meet the need
So He would fill the role.

From tiny babe to full-grown man
He dwelt here where we dwell,
And taught us all along the way
The truth He had to tell.

He spake to us of heavenly land
Where He would go to stay,
And told us if we'd follow Him
He'd bring us there someday.

Let's set our hearts with purpose true
And walk the path He trod,
We'll let Him live and reign in us
And bring us home to God.

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Changed on Christmas Eve

A young English woman married a man in government service. Her husband was a lighthearted young man who smoked, drank and gambled. As the years went by, he was promoted in service and had large responsibilities, but he became a hardened gambler and drinker.

As her husband went deeper into sin, she, through anxiety on his account, became deeply anxious about her soul, and as a lost, guilty sinner cast herself and all her burdens on the Saviour and became a new creature in Christ, with one burdened desire—to bring her husband to Christ. For 13 years she prayed with never-failing faith that the Lord would convert him. Every Sunday she would ask him to accompany her to services, and he as often refused. He would sometimes say that if she would go with him to some worldly place that he would go to church with her 40 times. Her invariable reply was, "As much as I long to have you with me, I could not bring reproach on my Saviour by going where He could not be."

On the Sunday before Christmas she repeated her invitation, when he laughingly said, "You have not converted me yet, old woman." She immediately threw her arms around his neck, and said, "No, and I never can; but the Lord Jesus Christ can convert you, George." From that time he became very uneasy, but more determined to resist his wife's entreaties.

On Christmas Eve he went with some of his companions to a dinner. After the dinner, he went home to take his usual Christmas gifts to his wife and children. When he was distributing them he found that for the first time since he was married he had forgotten a gift for his wife. He was utterly at a loss to account for this and said to her, "I've never forgotten you before; now you may ask what you like, and I will give it to you." She quietly and earnestly said, "Come with me to the meeting tonight—that will be my gift."

"Oh, no," he said, "I cannot do that; ask for some gift." But she was firm and reminded him of his promise. When the time came for his wife to go to the meeting, she waited for him.

The children asked, "Do you think Father will go with us?"

"Yes," she said, "your father never broke a promise to me." He had returned, and overhearing this remark, began to feel very uneasy. When they started he went with them, to the great joy of his wife. At the church door he turned and left them, intending to go back to his companions and cards, but something compelled him to return to his home.

There were pictures hanging on the walls, and his

eyes fell on a representation of Christ on the cross. It attracted him, and smote him to the heart. The words which his devoted wife had so often read in his hearing came afresh to his memory: "*He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; . . . But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*" Isa. 53:3, 5. The past, with a wasted life, and the future with an awful eternity, rolled in like billows over his soul. Here in this One who was despised, rejected, wounded and bruised, appeared the only hope of true peace now, and true joy hereafter.

He looked and looked, until it seemed to him as if it were Christ Himself hanging on the cross, and He said to him, "I died for you."

"For me, Lord?" the wondering man replied, and then and there, in agony of soul, he called on the Saviour to save him and to put away from him forever the taste for liquor and the desire for all sin. Like "the chief of sinners" he "fell to the earth" (Acts 9:4), and upon his knees in his own house, with no one near but God, he acknowledged his "manifold transgressions and mighty sins" (Amos 5:12), and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour. He believed on Him, "Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification" (Rom 4:25), and rose from his knees a free man, with Christ as his Saviour and his mighty Deliverer.

That very night he wrote checks paying off all his gambling debts and ceased playing cards. He never tasted liquor again, and he who had smoked 20 cigars a day never smoked another. His deliverance was complete. The gospel demonstrated itself in his life.

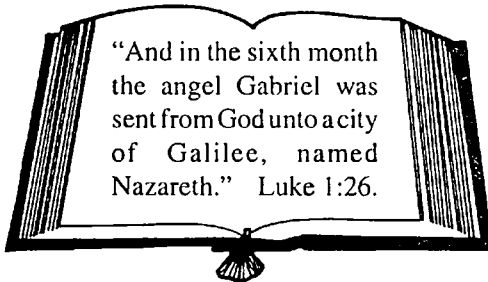
On that memorable Christmas Eve, the occasion of his new birth, he went to his old companions and told them what the Lord Jesus had done for him. They thought he was joking and laughed at him. They tempted him to their utmost to drink with them, and when he was firm, they emptied their glasses over him and he walked out wet with the liquor. Then they followed him home with offensive songs and jeers.

Surely if God can save a drinking, swearing, smoking, gambling sinner of the deepest dye, and make him a "new creature" in Christ, He can save anyone, even you. Burdened, weary, sin-sick soul, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29.) Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and obtain eternal life. God is able to save the worst sinner, and He is both able and willing to save you.

—Selected

What God Can Use

Adapted from writings by Doug Goins



From our human perspective, God's choice of the province of Galilee seems suspect. Why didn't He choose Judea, the geographical heart of Israel, the center of His dealings with mankind down through the centuries? Judeans took great pride in their identity and place. Galilee, by contrast, lay to the north, in the hill country. It had been long disdained. Here is what the prophet Isaiah said about it back when the Galilee of the New Testament period encompassed the tribal territories of Zebulun and Naphtali: "In the former times God brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and Naphtali." Even in the Old Testament times, Galilee had been overrun by pagan religion. Now, at the time of Gabriel's appearance, Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great, was tetrarch of Galilee. He had followed in his father's footsteps, introducing Roman idolatry and barbarism into the life of this province. Yet God chose Galilee over Judea.

God's choice of cities also seems illogical from our human point of view. He did not choose Jerusalem, the city of David, the heart of religious influence and life in the nation. Jesus called it the "city of the great King." (Matthew 5:35.) Jerusalem was the religious, political and social seat of power and authority in the life of Israel, but God chose Nazareth, situated some 70 miles northeast of Jerusalem, just above the main caravan route between Jerusalem and Tyre and Sidon, on the north coast of Israel.

Nazareth had a population of about 15,000. The city had many hostelries to serve the needs of the myriad travelers, Roman soldiers, pilgrims and merchants who journeyed back and forth on the caravan route. Under these influences, immorality and corruption had become commonplace in the life of the city. No wonder Nathaniel responded, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46), when he learned that Jesus came from that city. Yet God chose Nazareth, not Jerusalem, "the city of the great King."

God's choice of the specific site of Gabriel's annunciation of the coming Messiah can cause us to wonder also. He chose a stable, not the temple. The temple was God's very dwelling place, the designated holy place of worship and sacrifice, the place where God's glory and blessing had been known. But God chose a private stable, a humble dwelling in all likelihood, devoid of any institutional religious sanctions or influence. God passed over the temple and chose a simple Galilean stable.

We have been confronted in this passage with a God who takes insignificant places and graces them with His blessing, with His usefulness. Do you feel insignificant? Do you ever wonder if God can use you, if anybody even knows who you are? The truth of this revelation is, there are no insignificant people. God is looking for obedient, not important people. He can take your life and use it for His purpose.

"The truth of this revelation is, there are no insignificant people. God is looking for obedient, not important people."

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

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Notice to subscribers: When 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.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year \$3.00
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 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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

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.

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EDITORIALS

"He must increase, but I must decrease."

John 3:30.

John the Baptist expressed this noble sentiment to his disciples in relation to Christ. The only power able to motivate such a desire to crucify self is that of love for the truth, and in particular Christ—for He is the truth. (John 14:6.)

Such deep-seated devotion should be a quality of every minister of the Gospel. The message which Christ brought to us is too valuable to taint with our humanity. If a preacher can be completely hidden behind the cross, Christ will be so well portrayed that the listeners will not necessarily be conscious of who the messenger is. Their minds and spirits will be captivated with the beauty of truth rather than the one who is speaking.

This is a challenge for all involved in ministry. Workers for the Lord should make a conscious effort to display Christ and not themselves.

It is possible to gain admiration from people when self is exhibited, and it is possible to gain a personal following, but these kinds of works will be burned up on the day of judgment. (I Cor. 3:13-15).

"He must increase, but I must decrease," is a good motto for daily living. The apostle Paul said, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection." I Cor. 9:27. Life is too short and much too precious to allow carnality to be at the forefront of our living. Yet there are many things to entice us in that direction.

Paul also exhorts us to strive to live in the fullness of Christ. "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Eph. 4:13.

Our lives can be compared to an hourglass. Before we are saved, all of the grains of sand are in the top portion. But through justification and sanctification the grains begin to flow to the bottom and we start to acquire Christ's attributes. But when temptation presents itself, when we are hurt by something someone does or says, or if the base things of this world catch our eyes, the glass is tipped and the grains of sand flow in the opposite

direction—Christ begins to decrease and self increases. We cannot flow in that direction long before the image of Christ is marred and we are unrecognizable as Christians, no matter how high our profession.

This is a careful walk in which we must keep focused on Christ. We must not allow anything to draw our attention away from Him. When we maintain a close relationship in which He has predominance in our lives, it brings satisfaction to our hearts and merit to our ministry.

May the Lord help us to apply to our daily lives the principle of, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

On the evening of November 1, after several days of rain in the Guthrie area, authorities from the Civil Service began warning the residents and businesses in the Cottonwood Creek flood plain that the creek would come out of its banks and crest several feet above flood stage. This is the same creek which flooded the Print Shop in years past, causing much damage to printing supplies and equipment.

Prayer was offered that God would hold back the water, and He did just that. The water did spill over the banks, but not in an amount to cause any damage. We thank the Lord for this merciful favor.

However, it did reinforce in our minds the urgency of the need to complete the new Print Shop building so we can leave this flood area.

In last month's editorials, we related that we had enough cash on hand to buy and install interior doors. We are happy to report that job is now complete except for a few remaining details.

The next project we are seeking God to provide for is ceiling tile and insulation. After that the remaining major expense will be for sealing the surface of our drive and parking in order to obtain an occupancy permit. These two major stages of construction require approximately \$23,000. Beyond that, there are only small finishing projects which we are confident will be easily taken care of.

We are so grateful for those whose interest in this building project has made the current progress possible. Each stage of completion is cause for thanksgiving. Our earnest desire is

to be able to get into the new Print Shop sometime next year. Please pray that we may soon see the fulfillment of this goal.

The Lord has blessed us to continue printing the gospel. At this time, *Bible Readings for Bible Students*, by S. L. Speck and H. M. Riggle, is on the press. The book has been out of stock for several years because printing plates and negatives for it were destroyed in the flood of 1995. Since then we have reset it on the computer and remade negatives and some of the plates. We hope *Bible Readings* will soon be ready for sale.

1999 wall calendars are 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.

Bound volumes of the 11 issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper for the year of 1998 will soon be in stock. The price is \$2.00 per book, plus \$1.50 for postage and handling.

Also for sale are the 1998 *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 1998 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 1999, the year which closes this century. The thought causes solemn reflection on how close Christ's second coming may be. There is no time to be lethargic about our soul's condition or sharing the gospel with others.

Please keep this work and those who labor here in your prayers, that we may accomplish much for the Lord.

We wish each of you a blessed Christmas and the happiest of holiday seasons.

—Wayne Murphey

Jesus Lives and Speaks

By Bro. James Huskey

Jesus, my Lord, the Christ, is alive in the eternal glory. He knows my whole life and also knows what I experience as He too has experienced this time side of eternity.

I am living here in this time world, but because Jesus has given me His Holy Spirit I now have an experience also with the heavenly world. So as I love and obey Him with all my heart He helps me to live a holy life.

Jesus is now making a special call to those close to Him to be His hands reaching out to the sick and poor, and to be His voice warning those that love Him to escape the judgments of God which are coming upon those who are disobedient.

Let us read I Peter 4:1, 6, 8, 17 to confirm by His word what Jesus is telling us today: "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"



Prayer Requests

IL—Pray for Sis. Ruby Blanchard, as well as her family.

TN—"Pray for me. I need healing."
—Sis. Virginia Hill

FL—"I am having a problem with my eyesight. Please remember me in prayer."

—Sis. Kathleen Williams

NC—"Please pray for Faith Oakley Gerrald, that the Lord will heal her of depression. Also remember her brother who needs prayer for his body."

—Sis. C. B. Nelson

CA—"Please keep my mother, Sister Melia Viser, in your prayers, that God will give her strength and healing."

—Bro. Donald Viser

CO—"Please pray for me. I also have an unspoken request which is very urgent."

—Sis. Leona Carey

WV—Bro. James White has a very serious affliction that he would like for the saints to remember in prayer.

Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Alta Bock

Bro. Jon Busbee

Sis. Mamie Butcher

Bro. Nathan Carver

Sis. Tammy Clevenger

Bro. Marvin Corteway

Sis. Elaine Dunn

Sis. Olive Getterson

Bro. Ben Harrison

Sis. Janice Johnston

Bro. Louis Kimble

Sis. Betty Lassché

Sis. Melissa Linch

The Lounds sisters

Sis. Mattie McIntyre

Sis. Lois Sharp

Bro. Max Williamson



CAR FUND

Sister Mary Hargrave is in need of a dependable car. The car she presently has is a 1992 Dodge Caravan with 140,000 miles. The transmission was recently replaced and the van needs to be traded in on another car while it is running. The \$1,129.00 cost of the transmission is being paid for with donations. If you wish to help pay for the transmission or contribute to the purchase of another car for Sister Hargrave, please make your check out to the Church of God and mail to Keith Butler, Suite B, 8242 South Harvard Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74137-1648.

—Bro. Keith Butler



A FINANCIAL NEED FOR THE TENNESSEE WORK

The saints at Alcoa, TN, purchased a church building in June of this year. We desire to pay this debt off ahead of the loan schedule. Anyone who desires to see this accomplished may send your donations to: Church of God, Evening Light, 322 Lindsay Street, Alcoa, TN 37701. All donations will be appreciated.

—Sis. Mary McDonald



WANTED

Tim and Debbie Madden of Sapulpa, OK, are interested in obtaining recorded messages preached by the late Bro. Richard Madden.

To contact them about the availability of tapes, call (918) 321-3269 or write 15710 S. 81st W. Ave., Sapulpa, OK 74066.



MEETING NOTICES

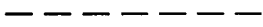
OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 92nd annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK, from December 25, 1998, through January 3, 1999. 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 25th, 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 morning prayer services and youth services, the times of which will be announced at the meeting.

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 congregations 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.



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting will convene, Lord willing, December 25, 1998, at 7:30 p.m., and continue through January 3, 1999. The campgrounds are located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA. The chapel phone number is (818) 899-9021.

The daily schedule of services is: 6:30 a.m. prayer service, 10:30 a.m. morning service, 2:30 p.m. afternoon service and 7:30 p.m. night service. Accommodations will be provided for all who attend. Those who can should furnish their

own bedding. The expense of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

The Lord has richly blessed in past meetings and has never failed to send His Word with rich anointing and power. We are confident that all who come expecting a blessing in humble readiness for it will not be disappointed. We urge every saint of God to make special effort to support the meeting in attendance, and particularly in prayer.

For more information, contact the Sunset Guest Home, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331, (818) 899-2022 or Herbert Clay, 10330 Woodale, Mission Hills, CA 91345, (818) 897-1396.



your



LETTERS

KS—Dear saints of God: I surely thank God for salvation and for His keeping grace to help me endure the trials of old age.

The Lord has blessed me to reach my 90th birthday on October 21st. I appreciated all the cards, letters, phone calls and personal visits during that time. On Sunday afternoon my children had a special time of celebration for me. They recorded the memories that everyone told on tape, so it continues to be a blessing.

God has blessed me with reasonable health, but numbness in my fingers hinders me a lot, especially since I am blind. I would appreciate your prayers concerning this.

My evenings are long and sometimes lonely, but I am so glad to have the Bible on tape to listen to. I am also thankful for the *Faith and Victory* on tape.

I was thinking about the goodness of God to me, that my parents accepted the truth years ago when I was young. Now I have a heritage in the Church of God and I want to pass it on to other generations.

Pray that my spiritual eyesight will be ever clear.

Your brother in Christ, —Albert D. Eck



PA—Dear saints in Guthrie: We greet you

from Pennsylvania. We pray for the Lord's blessing on the efforts for His kingdom that you put forth.

We were surely encouraged and challenged during our revival services in September, and wish to stay that way—to "keep swinging the bat" as Bro. Larry Abbott said, and to be able to let the minuses be turned into pluses as Sis. Mary Lawson expressed.

May God bless, —Sis. Barbara Campbell and the Duncannon congregation

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KS—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints: Praise God from whom all blessings flow! I am still encouraged to serve God and follow Jesus all the way to glory.

About a dozen people whom I have known well have died since August, and it makes me sober about death, its finality and how quickly it can take us out. I want to be completely ready when death comes my way. I want to be close enough to God that when He is ready for me to leave this life I will welcome death as my passage to the wonderful home which I am looking forward to living in for eternity.

I appreciate life here and I am enjoying my journey to heaven, but I don't want to get so attached to earth that I draw back from the passage to my heavenly home.

I love God and the saints, and I am pressing on the upward way.

Christian love, —Shirley Knight

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LA—Dear family of God: My heart thrills with the love and tender mercies of my heavenly Father. Psalm 68:5 is very special to me this morning. "A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation."

May God continue to bless each of you with strength and courage....

Your sister in Christ, —Sis. Dorall Forbes

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KS—Dear Bro. Murphey and saints: Greetings from the Kansas City area to everyone across the nation. I thank the Lord for salvation and His healing power.

This past summer at the Monark Springs camp meeting I asked the congregation to pray for me that my faith be increased in the area of divine healing. Within ten days I was in a battle with a serious eye problem. My left eye was bright red and swollen. The continuous throbbing left me with a headache and blurry vision

in that eye. During the next eight weeks there was little relief.

On the first Sunday of November, a carload of saints from across the state came to minister to me. On Friday saints from another state came by. From that week forward, my condition progressively improved. Today I can thank the Lord for the complete healing of my eye. I thank the Lord for His kindness and mercy given unto me. I thank each of you for the many prayers, calls and cards.

Please remember me and my mother in prayer, that we be faithful. —Gertrude Lounds

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KY—My name is Elizabeth Cooper. I have attended the Church of God for about eleven months. I remember feeling totally different when I got saved. It was like I was a new person.

The Lord has done many things for me. He has been there for me. He has answered many prayers of the saints, including our pastor, Sis Mary Hughes. She has been a very strong spiritual person for us. She teaches us everything that we need to know and she doesn't hold anything back. So I thank the Lord for a true leader to lead us in the way the Lord wants us to go.

The Lord has healed many of the sick in our congregation, including myself. I remember one time in particular when I had very sharp pains in my stomach. The pains were so severe that I could hardly move. We called several of the saints for prayer. One of the sisters had an agreement of prayer with me over the phone. I was instantly healed, and I thank the Lord for that. It goes to show that the Lord does hear and answer prayers. I praise the Lord for healing me.

If it wasn't for His mercies to me I might have still been lost. So I truly thank the Lord for saving and sanctifying me. I know that with God nothing is impossible. (Luke 1:37.) With the Lord by my side I mean to continue on until I reach my heavenly home.

Sincerely, —Sis. Elizabeth Cooper

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne and all the workers at the Print Shop. May God bless you for the work you do for Him. I received my November *Faith and Victory* paper and enjoyed it very much.

I want to thank all the saints for your prayers for me....

Christian love, —Sis. Mamie Butcher

IN—Dear ones at the Print Shop who are working so much to send out the truth to people all over the world: I do enjoy the truth, and I love to read your *Faith and Victory* paper.

I am up in years and I am so glad that many years ago the Lord saved me. I am going to trust in His truth as long as I am in this world.

I have had a broken hip and God has been good to help me. He is my help. May God bless one and all of you is my prayer.

—Sis. Mary Rogers

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CA—Bro. Wayne: I once again want to thank each and every one of the workers for all your labors which have blessed me.

I want to thank God for loving me. I desire your prayers for a daily increase of faith in every area of my life, not just for healing of the body, but of mind, soul and spirit. God is a big God and I praise Him.

I thank God for healing my back which I suffered with for years. My faith would not take in healing until about four years ago. I also thank God for healing some tumors I had until I went to Monark Springs, MO, camp meeting last year, and went up for prayer on fast day. I was sitting there looking at others going, and I thought, "Well, I have had this so long I will just endure it." Then the thought came to me, "Is anything too hard for God?" I went forward in faith believing, and from that day until today, Oct. 20, 1998, I have not had another problem.

My God is awesome. He is wonderful. He is big.

—Sis. Dorothy Gray

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FL—Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey and saints: Greetings in Jesus' precious name—the name above every name. I would like to tell how the Lord is still looking after His little children.

Early this summer, as we were at home planning and preparing to attend a certain camp meeting, the Lord gave me a message for that meeting on "Joy." After I got there and observed the people, I did not want to bring the message. These people were so sweet and precious that I asked the Lord if He would give me another message to preach. I said, "Lord, these people are going to say that I am 'laying them out' because they are a quiet type of people." So the Lord did give me another message, although He did not say when it was for. He kept showing me that He wanted me to preach the message on "Joy" the following morning. I kept begging the

Lord to please change that. I finally told the Lord that that message was too hard for me to preach, "Lord, You know I am not a good preacher and this other message is much easier." After that He ceased to impress it on me. So then I thought it was okay to preach the second message, the easy one.

I went on to bed. At 8:30 a.m. I woke up and the Lord said, "Get up." I said, "Lord, You know that if I don't get enough sleep I get headaches, and I need more sleep." The Lord said, "That message that I gave you, go over it."

So I sat up, threw off the cover, lowered my legs to the floor, and where I had been lying was a big bed of the biggest fire ants I had ever seen. There were hundreds of them. I was so afraid. All I could do was to take my hands and start rubbing them over those ants. I looked, and they were all under my bed, all over my blanket, pillow, everywhere, and I was in this women's dormitory all by myself. There was no one to call on but Jesus. Some of the sisters had wanted to take me home with them the night before, but because of the weakness in my body, I preferred staying alone in the dorm. And I love to get alone with my Savior at times.

When I saw those ants all over my bed and this big, live mess under me, the scripture in Daniel 6:22 came to me, and my God, whom I serve, shut those ants' mouths. Saints, I believe that had I not obeyed God and gotten up then, those hundreds of ants would have bitten me, and I am allergic to ant bites. God is so good to me, I could write a book of His goodness.

I got dressed and went to service. I still thought it was okay for me to preach the second message the Lord had given me. But once I was in service, everything started pointing me to the message the Lord had given me in Miami for that place. When it was time for the Word, the Lord said to me, "If I don't help you with the easy one you can't preach it anyway." I said, "Yes, Lord," and got up without my notes for that message on "Joy," (I had left them in my room). I could only remember one scripture, I Chronicles 16:23. I told the saints in the congregation what had happened, and that they would have to help me preach the message. And what a good job they did! I could not have done it that well. I have to stop even now to weep when I think back on how we think sometimes that we can do something, and we really can't do anything good unless the Lord helps us. After the message everyone said

that they were so blessed by it—that that was what they had needed.

Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart. I would like to encourage all ministers to ask God for your messages and preach what He gives you, even if it is just John 3:16; maybe that is what the people need to hear. Only God knows, we don't.

Pray for me and thanks to all, especially to the one who encouraged me and helped me to go to this meeting. May the good Lord reward you for it. My Christian love to all of you. Keep me in your prayers for my memory.

Yours for souls, —Sis. Lydia Bennett

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: I would like to share three things the Lord has done for me recently. First of all, I had an ingrown toenail on my right foot for six or seven years. It became so bad that I had almost lost all hope of it ever being normal again. A few months ago the Lord told me, "I can take care of this for you." I responded by saying, "I would sure appreciate it!" This problem has completely cleared up! I do not have to buy steel-toed shoes any longer!

The second miracle involved something a little more serious. I developed a hernia a few years ago. It did not pose too much trouble, usually, but I did desire healing for it. The Lord inspired my faith for healing just before this last Monark camp meeting and I was anointed and prayed for on fasting and healing day. I took my healing by faith, and left it in God's hands. About a week ago I began having severe pains with this affliction. Praise the Lord, I am healed now. The other day I lifted whole sheets of plywood by myself!

The third miracle is my spiritual healing. When I was being anointed at Monark for my physical need, the Lord reminded me of some "spiritual wounds" that had been afflicting me. He reminded me that He could heal these just as easily as a physical problem. Thank the Lord, He has taken care of these too!

Our God is a wonderful physician! He is a specialist.

Your Brother, —Clifford Cole

TN—Dear Bro. Wayne and co-workers: Greetings and best wishes to each of you for the good work at the Print Shop. I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper each month and look forward to receiving it. It gives me spiritual help and en-

couragement for my daily walk with the Lord.

I am nearing 90 years old, and thank the Lord for a good and long life. My dear and precious wife, Margaret, died this past January. She would have been 89 in March of this year. I hope to meet her again in the sweet by and by.... I am so thankful for good health, a good home and neighbors.

May the Lord bless and encourage each of you in the good and responsible work being continued there.

Christian love and best wishes,

—Bro. Charles B. Williams

KS—Faith Publishing House: Thanks to all the workers for the time and effort put into the *Faith and Victory* paper and the *Bible Lessons* booklet. I do enjoy and appreciate the literature. The Word has been made plain and ever dearer to our hearts through some of the writing and explanations.

Ever since I was a toddler and can first remember, I knew God made the world and everything in it. I often marveled at the works of His hands. The last *Bible Lesson* quarterly has caused me to take those days of creation one by one and think more deeply about His wonderful works.

Knowing that God is able to put the moon, stars, sun and planets in their orbits, all moving precisely in split second timing, makes us to know that He is able and willing to keep us in the path of righteousness when we are willing to submit to His will and His ways.

Thanks again to each of you, and may a special blessing of His love and spirit be upon you. —Naomi Hiebert



Problems

Psalm 37:40; Job 14:1

Problems are pit stops we must make on our journey here below in order to make it to heaven. God has made every hindrance conquerable. Don't spend a lot of time talking to others and looking for solace or agreement. This ends up being needless pain we try to bear all because we do not carry it to God in prayer. Pray without ceasing. The trying of your faith worketh patience. (James 1:3.)

—Sis. Loyce Davenport



From the Philippines...

November 9, 1998—Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey: Greetings to you in the lovely name of Jesus. May this find you happy and healthy, working for the Lord. May the saints in the Print Shop be happy helping one another working for the most precious thing—the eternal salvation of men.

With God's loving grace and mercy, we are also doing what we can to preach the gospel in this area of the world. I am sending you a photo of our baptism of five precious souls on Wednesday, November 4, 1998, in Gandos, Rijal, N.E. I am also sending a photo of the little group with some pastors in front of the little house where they meet for worship. They are so happy that they have found true salvation. We hope for more to be baptized later this month.

When I was preparing to go to attend the baptismal service in Gandos on Wednesday morning, my son-in-law arrived from the farm. He told me that my cow was lost. When I arrived home in the afternoon, I immediately went to the farm and they said that my cow was already butchered by thieves. Only the head and skin was found along the riverside. The cow has a little calf—two months old. We are feeding her with milk, thinking that she may survive.

The economic condition is very bad with our new leaders, and wickedness is now very rampant. There is economic sabotage, drug addiction, kidnapping for ransom, and the Muslim and Communist rebels are becoming strong. It seems the government soldiers cannot do anything to stop the crime.

There is hardship of living conditions because the plants and crops have been destroyed by strong typhoons and floods. Surely these are the signs of the end of time.

There is danger everywhere, but these will not hinder us to go to preach the gospel and help precious souls to be saved. We are very much

encouraged and our joy is beyond measure to see sinners repenting of their sins and living a new life with the Lord. It is more than all the wealth in the world to bring precious souls to the Lord.

Greetings to all the saints in the U.S.A. Please give them our heartfelt thanks for their kind cooperation to support the mission work in the Philippines. May the loving Lord reward them so richly.

Your brother in Christ,

—Matias S. Tanganan

From Nigeria...

August 31, 1998—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and saints everywhere: Greetings in the all-prevailing power of the Lord Jesus—our Captain who has never lost a battle. We hold His authority to put foes to flight in His might. "Behold, I give unto you power...." Luke 10:19. He is unchanging to the end. "For I am the Lord, I change not." Malachi 3:6. Praise Him forever.

We are going higher, yes higher, steadily on the way to the glory world, with hope as sure as death of seeing Him face to face in a short while. His love for us is bringing us nearer to glory. He is not far away in the sky.

We have cause to be thankful in our heart for our achievement in the field of evangelism. Through the labors of the young people in the Kwale congregation, another congregation has been added to the existing ones. This new congregation at Okolori was officially declared open by this writer on June 21, 1998. Saints at Kwale and Umuachi-Afor came in a large number to Okolori to hail the birth of the new congregation with an exceedingly great joy. Okolori is predominantly a village of idol worshippers. The Church of God is the first Christian movement to establish a church in this village of over three thousand inhabitants. The community is educationally enlightened, but yet in the gross darkness of heathenism. Ministers are sent in turns from Kwale to Okolori at a high cost of transportation every Sunday to share spiritual food to the new converts. Their number is most encouraging and steadily on the increase. Worship here is held in the classroom of a Primary School allowed us by the community and the headmaster. The headmaster is recognizing the Lordship of Jesus and has turned his face thitherward to Zion....

Faithfully yours in Him, —Titus U. E. Enu

From India...

October 20, 1998—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and saints in America: Greetings to you again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ.

Heavy rain in our state for the last two weeks has resulted in flooding and many calamities. By the grace of God we are all safe. Floods, storms, landslidings, earthquakes and other calamities are taking place all around the world, which shows the quick appearing of our Lord to this world for the relief of His children.

We had a wonderful ministers' meeting here during the first week of October. It was a good time for our ministers to share the Bible doctrines and teachings of the Church of God.

Please pray for the needs of our twenty ministers. Our van is about ten years old and it is not running good now. We need to buy another one if God opens the way. Your prayers are requested. Our prayers are for the saints everywhere.

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese



Lewis Westley Guliford was born in Manter, KS in 1923, to Wallace and Mary Guliford, one of eight children.

As a young man he served in the United States Navy from 1943 to 1946. He was stationed in Boston, MA. He met Mary Frances Woodrow and they were married on October 7, 1944, on her birthday. After he received an honorable discharge in 1946, they moved to Colorado Springs, CO, and together they attended Colorado Springs Bible College.

They later moved to Spencer, OK, in May of 1954, where they made a home full of love and devotion, and raised their two children, Richard L. Guliford (who has preceded his parents in death), and Karen J. Kane, now of Midwest City,

OK. Bro. and Sis. Guliford attended the Church of God in Green Pastures, OK, for many years, under the pastorship of Bro. Charles Chandler.

Bro. Guliford was born with asthma, and he fought a courageous battle with cancer for eleven years, with his devoted wife always by his side.

Lewis left us for his final resting place on October 25, 1998, after a long illness.

He leaves to mourn his beloved wife, Mary Frances, daughter Karen Kane, son-in-law Kenneth B. Kane, daughter-in-law Janice Brantley; five grandchildren; Kevin Guliford, now serving in the U.S. Army, Crystal Guliford, Katrina Kane, Patrick Guliford and Amanda Guliford; one great-grandchild, Kentral; brothers Chester Guliford and Herbert Guliford; several nieces and nephews, and special friends Vernal "Shorty" Frazier and Ms. Toni Taylor.

Bro. Guliford—husband, father and grandfather—will be missed by us all.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Charles Chandler, assisted by Bro. McKinley Warren and Sis. Frances Chandler. Burial was in the Hillcrest Memory Gardens, Spencer, OK.

The family would like to thank everyone for their kindness during this time of bereavement and also for all of their love and prayers during Bro. Guliford's extended illness. Continue to pray for Sis. Mary Guliford and her family.

The late William H. and Mary E. Knight were the proud parents of eight children. **Gwendolyn Mary Knight** was the eighth child, born in Tullahassee, OK, on November 28, 1920. Being raised in the truth, she faithfully attended the Church of God and later professed her trust in Christ.

Gwendolyn started her education in Tullahassee, OK. Later the Knight family moved to Tulsa, OK, where she continued her education and was a proud graduate of Booker T. Washington, class of 1939. She advanced her education by completing Cosmetology and Barbering College. She also obtained certificates for her training in Large and Small Appliance Repair, Real Estate, Dental Assistant, Health Care, Upholstery/Furniture Repair and Automotive Repair. She was a lifetime scholar.

She had a wonderful gift and heart of compassion for helping anyone with anything. This spirit of generosity and humanity inspired her to be one of the original organizers of The Club

30 in this community. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, volunteer and friend. Gwendolyn will be sorely and greatly missed because she has touched many hearts.

Gwendolyn was preceded in death by her parents; four brothers, William, Alphonso, Frank and Earl; two sisters, Lela and Mattie; and both husbands, Cecil M. Brown, Sr. and Elmer E. Nealy, Jr.

Loving and cherishing the sweet memories are one sister, Bertha Long; four children, Marvin Brown, Gwendolyn Pat Brown Gaiters, Sundra Nealy Brannon, Daryl Nealy, Sr.; four play children, Marilyn Stripling, Waymon Knight, Bobby Joe Knight, Shirell Tucker; one aunt, Elnora Bell; one son-in-law, James Brannon, Sr.; one sister-in-law, Vera Brown; eight grandchildren, Malia Carter, James Brannon, Jr., Kahlil Gaiters, Emire Gaiters, John Brannon, Lameshia Nealy, Daryl Nealy, Jr. and Martin Brown; two great-grandchildren, Giovanni Chambers and Tristin Cox; and elder cousin, Ethel Wilcox and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and many special friends.

Bro. Charles Lowe officiated at the funeral service, and burial was in the Fort Gibson National Cemetery.

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Otis Hill, Sr. was born on November 8, 1922, in Daingerfield, TX, to Nancy Jones and Nathan Hill. He was raised in Naples, TX, by his grandmother and aunt. Otis moved to Oklahoma City, OK, at the age of fourteen.

Otis faithfully served in the United States Army as a chef under the leadership of General George Patton. He was honorably discharged in 1945.

Otis was a hard and diligent worker. He was employed by Armour Meat Company, Rothchild's Department Store and Tinker Air Force Base until his retirement in 1979. Upon retirement, Otis began a successful lawn care service. He operated this service for many years. He unwillingly gave up his business when his health began to fail.

Otis was a faithful servant of God. He was a devout member of the Church of God. He served in many capacities, including teaching and ministering.

Otis was preceded in death by his wife, Florence White Hill, and his eldest son, Otis Hill, Jr. Otis leaves to cherish his memory: four children, Lawrence Darlene Hill, Rubye Jean Phillips and Monique Monea Hill, all of Okla-

homa City, OK, and Woodrow Warren Hill of Washington, D.C.; two granddaughters, Stormy Gayle and Zsa Zsa Chappelle Hill.

Funeral services were officiated by Bro. Charles Chandler, assisted by Bro. Emmanuel Gracey and others. Interment was in the Hillcrest Memory Gardens, Spencer, OK.

The family wishes to express our thanks for the many expressions of kindness and sympathy extended during the loss of our loved one. May God richly bless you. We also thank all of you for your many prayers during Bro. Hill's extended illness.

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Izetta Ruth (Ligons) McCray, the daughter of James and Amelia (Nash) Ligons, was born July 14, 1944, in Hallie, OK. She departed this life October 22, 1998, in Wichita, KS.

On November 18, 1972, she was united in marriage to Leroy Theodore McCray. To this union one son was born.

Izetta loved the Lord and was converted as a young girl. She held true to the Lord throughout her school days and became a pillar in the Church of God. Proverbs 31:10-31 gives the account of the virtuous woman and we can truly say of Izetta, her life displayed those qualities. She was given to hospitality. Her home was always open to others. She would fix a lovely dinner for a couple or spread a banquet for a crowd. She carried a great burden for all her family, praying and counseling with her nieces and nephews. Her gift included caring for and teaching young people nationwide.

Izetta graduated from Grayson High School in Grayson, OK, in 1962. She received her Bachelors degree in Home Economics from McPherson, KS, in May, 1968. She moved to Tulsa, OK, where she started her teaching career while working for American Airlines. She moved with her husband to Wichita, KS. She continued her education at Wichita State University while she continued her teaching career.

Izetta was a teacher in the Wichita, KS, school system for twenty-six years. She began in North High School and then West High, Allison Middle and she was employed at Metro-Midtown at the time of her demise. Many times she would counsel and pray with students who had problems and needs.

Although Izetta was blessed with only one son, she claimed many children as her children and grandchildren. She was preceded in death

by both parents and her adopted mother, Cornelia Ragsdale Williams.

She leaves to cherish her memory her devoted and loving husband, Leroy Theodore McCray, her very dear son, Abdiel Leroy McCray, her husband's mother, Ardelia McCray Ballard; six sisters, Loretha Johnson, Rialto, CA, Julie Ann Stone, Los Angeles, CA, Jo-Ann Gresham, Tulsa, OK, Zenobia Willis, Tulsa, OK, Wynema Clay, Mission Hills, CA and Goletha Fancisco, Sylmar, CA; four brothers, James C. Ligons, San Diego, CA, William C. Ligons, Ogden, UT, Donald Ligons, Wichita, KS, and Marcus Ligons, Tulsa, OK; three aunts, Geneva Bruner, Oklahoma City, OK, Gustavia Anderson, Hoffman, OK, and Odie V. Nash, Hoffman, OK; three uncles, Andrew Ligons and wife, Frankie, Wichita, KS, John Ligons and wife, Ruthie, Oklahoma City, OK, and Theodore Payne, Okmulgee, OK; her special cousin, sister and friend, Mrs. Patricia Paulk, Wichita, KS, and a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

Bro. Charles Chandler officiated at the funeral service, assisted by others. Interment was in the Resthaven Cemetery, Wichita, KS.



God's Order

By Bro. Clifford Cole



Have you ever wondered why God created things in the particular order which He did, almost six thousand years ago? It can be very thought-provoking and inspiring. Let us delve into it just a little by outlining the basics of God's wonderful creation day by day.

- 1st day: The earth and light.
- 2nd day: Divided the firmament (atmosphere).
- 3rd day: Divided land and water and made vegetation.
- 4th day: Created the sun, moon and stars in the heavens.
- 5th day: Created the fish in the water and the birds in the air.
- 6th day: Created animals for the land and created mankind.
- 7th day: God had everything done so He just relaxed.

I happened to be listening to the radio one day and chanced upon a discussion of the creation. The dissertation was focused on how God, in His infinite wisdom, created things in a very particular order. God saw that the fish

and birds needed the firmament divided (creation of the atmosphere) before they could survive. The animals that roam the land and mankind needed dry land to roam around on so God divided the land and water into two separate entities just for that purpose.

The first and fourth days are the essence of a thought the Lord dropped into my heart this morning. Why would God choose to make the earth before He made the other heavenly bodies? Why would God choose to make light before He made the sun, moon and stars? Think about it for a few moments. Could not God have chosen to make the whole universe, with the exception of the planet earth, then make the earth? The second and fifth day pairing of creation makes perfect sense, as well as the third and sixth day pairing. It was very convenient to have everything created on the former days before those on the latter days. Why, then, did God reverse the obvious order of things for the first and fourth days?

We all know that the earth revolves around the sun every twenty-four hours to give us day and night. It is interesting to realize that God created day and night before He created the sun which currently gives us day and night. Could it be that God just made a little mistake when He made the earth before the sun? Or could it be that God knew we might need the extra assurance it would give us when we realize that He is the giver of light, not the sun, moon and stars. God uses these respective heavenly bodies to do their job now, but light was here three days before the sun, moon and stars. If this is really so, can't our faith take in other miracles that could seem out of order to our feeble minds?

Think of any problem you may have, or a problem that you know about. The problem may seem out of control and hopeless, but remember God sometimes does things out of order. Only God Himself can actually put the "cart before the horse" and make a very workable situation out of it. He managed to do that, with obvious success, almost six thousand years ago, didn't He?

The apostle Paul suffered labours, stripes, prisons, deaths of self, beatings, stoning, shipwreck, a day and a night in the deep, journeyings, perils of waters, perils of robbers,

(Continued on page 16.)

The "Frying Pan" Test

By Sis. Marie Miles
(Written in 1973)



An angry woman with a sooty, greasy, frying pan ran out after a man of God with whom she sought to provoke a quarrel. This man was a relative of Hudson Taylor, the well-known missionary. Being a man of God, he did not threaten nor revile her. Seeing that she was not getting anywhere, she rubbed the dirty frying pan vigorously on his light-colored overcoat. The sooty bottom of the frying pan and the greasy inside greatly soiled the man of God's overcoat. While she was rubbing the dirty frying pan on his overcoat, she was lashing out with her tongue many hateful, dirty words, accusing him falsely in every way she could think of. There were many looking on, and it was very amusing to them. However, James Taylor was able to pass the "frying pan" test. Turning around with a smile, he suggested that if it would make her feel any better she might smear the other side of his coat as well. This surprised the woman greatly. She became very confused and soon retired from the scene. This scene was not easily forgotten in the town and the account of it was often repeated. No wonder that the account has been passed down to us today.

Would you be able to pass the "frying pan" test as James Taylor did? How can we be prepared for such times? Those things that come upon us suddenly are sometimes our greatest test. If we hear something of disrepute about ourselves and later we face the one who has spread the untruth, we have had time to pray and get plenty of grace on hand so we can have the right kind of attitude to face him; but those sudden things that come are things that might bring us trouble if we do not keep prayed up all the time. No wonder we have the instruction in the Bible to "pray without ceasing." That would mean we are to continually feel our dependence upon God and at all times look to Him for that "sufficient grace." When we are prayed up, God will verify His promise which says, "...When the enemy

shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." Isaiah 59:19. Also, we are told that "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." Isaiah 54:17.

So, dear fellow-traveler, we can know that if we will continually look to God with faith for Him to keep us in the hour of trial, we, too, can pass the "frying pan" test. How can we have such peace? The Bible tells us, "Thou [God] wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Isaiah 26:3.

Christ is our example. "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously." I Peter 2:21-23. Jesus remained calm and patiently endured under severe trial. We are bidden to follow in His footsteps.

But how quickly, at times, we are ready to defend ourselves against any accusation! Why is this? We are not living as close to the Lord as we should. But how thankful we are that the Holy Spirit is faithful to check us. When we are checked and see our need, we should then learn our lesson and look more closely to our Example. We should keep our minds stayed upon the Lord and continually be in an attitude of prayer. Remember, the devil is ever ready to be there at that time of trial to cast us down, but there is a way out for us. By the grace of God we can pass the "frying pan" test. And when we do, it encourages us to love and serve our God. We learn that God's ways are best and this gives us that inner peace that no man can take away from us.

"So, dear fellow-traveler, we can know that if we will continually look to God with faith for Him to keep us in the hour of trial, we, too, can pass the 'frying pan' test."

