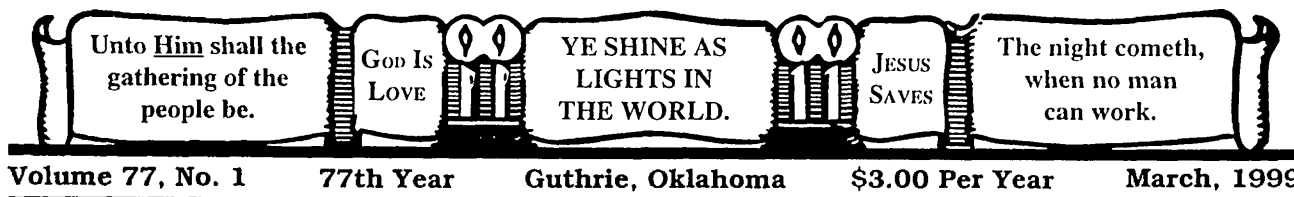


FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 77, No. 1 77th Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$3.00 Per Year March, 1999

“Praise Me”

By Sis. Mary Murphey

“Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop:
but a good word maketh it glad.” Proverbs 12:25.

One day I heard a child approach her mother with an unusual request. “Praise me,” the child said. There was nothing subtle about the appeal. The mother, embarrassed, offered a few lame words of approval, and I began to wonder at such obvious need for affirmation.

“Perhaps,” I thought, with a sudden surge of guilt as I reviewed my parenting skills, “an all-too-familiar weakness has overtaken us—that of noticing our children’s faults more readily than the things they do well.” The incident triggered some self-evaluation.

For instance, I thought, “If I were to hear my recent conversations with my children played back, would I be embarrassed? Would I discover a positive tone in the majority of what I’ve said to them, or would I find I’ve been overly critical and carping?”

I carried it a step further. What if I could review recent conversations with my spouse, co-workers and others in general? Would I find my input into their lives upbeat and uplifting? How would my words weigh out?

And I ask the same of you. If your recent conversations were replayed, would you be satisfied with what you heard?

As I stated before, we are more likely to notice when individuals, especially our children, fail to perform as we think they should, than we are to notice when things are done right. We often take responsible behavior or performance for granted.

A second fault is that when we do wise up and see the good about us, and begin to offer words of appreciation more liberally, we often direct them to those outside our inner circle.

The Bible even verifies that this occurs, for it states, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his own country,”—meaning, it’s easier to praise those who are distanced from us to some degree than the people whose faults and flaws are obvious to us because we live nearer them.

When we do come to the realization that we need to be more generous in the praise department, we should start at home.

One author suggested, “If parents and bosses administered praise more often, psychologists would get a rest from patients suffering from inferiority complexes. We must bask in the warmth of approval now and then; otherwise the health of our self-respect becomes seriously endangered.”

Contents

Friendly Fire	2
Editorials	4
Prayer Requests	5
Camp Meeting Dates	5
Meeting Notices	6
Letters from the Saints	7
Missionary Reports	9
In Memoriam	10
Question and Answer	12
Salvation—The Most Important	
Insurance	15
Standing in the Breach	15
Window to the Past	16

"What we must do is develop an eye for discovering what's right about a person, starting with those nearest us."

The same author went on to say that, as a rule, husbands are blinder than wives to this need. The wife of one prosperous Ohio farmer expressed it this way: "Maybe when I'm a hundred years old, I'll get used to having everything I do taken for granted. As it is, life comes pretty hard when you don't hear a word of thanks for your efforts. Sometimes I feel like copying the woman who served her men cattle food one day for dinner, after waiting 20 years for a word of praise. 'I've never heard anything to make me think you'd know the difference,' she said, when they declared she must be crazy."

Probably all that woman needed to make her happy was a "Thank You," or an occasional expression of appreciation for the good meals she had been preparing.

Being appreciated takes a lot of the drudgery out of housework. I still remember the time I stood washing a huge pile of dishes while my husband was preparing to leave on a business trip. Before he left, he stepped up behind me, offered a big hug and said, "Thank you for working so hard." Suddenly, one of my least favorite jobs took on some significance.

On the flip side, how many wives remember to thank their husbands for crawling out of bed and going to work every day in order to help support the family?

I don't know of one person who doesn't value a compliment, some encouragement, or a little recognition from time to time.

Telling people of things we admire or appreciate about them is a simple act of kindness. It takes such little effort. The power to do so is on the tip of our tongue.

So why would we be stingy with this ability to make others feel good? The fact is, when we make others feel appreciated, it makes us happy also.

One writer has said, "Most of us live such frantic, self-centered lives that we simply don't notice other people's need for encouragement. We're so busy keeping up with our own lives that we don't take time to stop and think how we might touch someone else."

What we must do is develop an eye for discovering what's right about a person, starting with those nearest us. Then we should actively seek ways to express appreciation for the good traits we find.

Someone said that encouragement is "oxygen to the soul." If that is so, I would say, as a closing admonition, "Let's not make people wheeze and gasp for a whiff of it!" Fill their hearts full of it. That way, they won't have to creep longingly up to you and plead, "Praise me!"



Friendly Fire

By Bro. Clifford Cole



A few weeks ago, the thought of "friendly fire" was impressed upon my soul in a very real way. In any battle a soldier may enter into, there is a good chance he will become a casualty during the course of the conflict. Most likely the cause of his injuries or death will be enemy fire. Unfortunately, however, there is always a chance that the source of his injuries could be someone on his own side—friendly fire. This isn't talked about a lot, and it doesn't happen very often, but remember, it has occurred even in some of the most recent conflicts in which our U.S. troops have been involved. Can you imagine how you would feel if you realized that you were the cause of injury or death to a fellow soldier, even if it were unintentional?

I awoke from a dream on this very subject and knew immediately that the dream was sent

from God to warn me against ever posing the threat of "friendly fire" to any of my fellow soldiers in this great battle we are engaged in for our eternal souls.

In my dream I was on a large battlefield in the midst of a deadly battle. All around were the customary coils of barbed wire, pits from exploded land mines, and spent shells. What immediately gripped my attention, however, was the presence of a fellow soldier not too far from me. The scene that unfolded before my eyes will never leave me.

The soldier in my dream was actually someone I knew—a brother in the Lord. He was writhing in agony and immediately my heart went out to him. I realized that this brother's condition was very serious. The Lord seemed to ask me a very simple question, "Would you

intentionally harm this brother? He is fighting the same enemy you are fighting. Now that he is wounded, is that any reason to inflict further injury?" "Of course not!" I thought. "I would never want to do anything to harm anyone, especially someone who is fighting desperately against the same enemy I am fighting!"

No doubt we could all echo this sentiment of not wanting to harm our fellow soldier, at least not intentionally, but what about "friendly fire?" The soldiers from our country's armed forces never intentionally want to harm someone from their own side either. They take certain precautions to eliminate all possible chances of putting their own troops in front of friendly fire. I have never been a soldier myself, but after reading of past conflicts I have learned some things that soldiers in combat practice: (1) Chain of command, (2) Communication, (3) Coordination and teamwork. There are no doubt many other things that are very important in avoiding friendly fire, but, by the Lord's help, we will discuss just these three.

strikes their fancy. The Apostle Paul said, "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air." I Cor. 9:26. Can you imagine how it would be if a soldier charged a hill at random and then started lobbing hand grenades in any direction that came to mind? No doubt he would end up wounding or killing some of his buddies. May the Lord help us and give us definite directions on where to go and definite instructions on what to do once we are there! We may sense the enemy in a very real way, and feel that we must strike out against him, but let us be very careful! Friendly fire is a distinct possibility when the battle is at its hottest. When we feel we must do something, our Commander will be looking down and will tell us exactly what to do, where to do it, how to do it and when to do it. Like any good soldier, we may not always understand why, but let us trust Him anyway. A quote adapted from *The Charge of the Light Brigade*, by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, says, "Mine is not to question why, mine is but to do or die!"

"We may sense the enemy in a very real way, and feel that we must strike out against him, but let us be very careful! Friendly fire is a distinct possibility when the battle is at its hottest."

Chain of command: In every battle our troops enter they receive specific orders from their superiors. The orders come from the lieutenant or sergeant fighting in the trenches with the troops. He receives his orders from perhaps a captain or some other superior, who in turn receives his orders from someone higher up in the chain, who receives his orders from the general at the very top. This general, of course, ultimately receives his orders from the Commander in Chief. With this type of forethought, someone is always aware of the positions of all troop placements and what their purpose is for being there. I am sure there is some degree of comfort in the knowledge that the mortar rounds being aimed at the enemy will not be directed by mistake into the middle of a platoon of our own soldiers. We have a "Captain of the Lord's Host" (Josh. 5:15) who can and will direct our battles just as the Israelites had in the battle over Jericho.

Not only are soldiers told where to go to fight against the enemy, they are told how to fight the enemy. They never go of their own accord and try to fight the enemy in whatever manner

Communication: The enemy has the upper hand when communications are severed between soldiers or between the soldiers and their commander. The enemy knows that a united force is several times stronger than the same number of soldiers isolated in pockets here and there. He also knows that soldiers cut off from their commander cannot receive orders and direction.

Abraham Lincoln quoted the words of Jesus when he said, "Every house divided against itself shall not stand." (Matt. 12:25.) How true this is! If we ever think that it is our duty to straighten out another brother or sister, we should remember this one thing—unless that particular person has been prepared by the Lord to receive our instructions, even if we believe he really needs it, he will not be able to handle it in a way that would benefit him or us. The only way the Bible teaches us to do this sort of thing is to get everything straightened up in our own lives by getting the beams out of our eyes; then we can pluck the mote out of our brother's eye. (Matt. 7:5.) Only after we have

(Continued on page 13.)

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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

(Periodical postage paid at Guthrie, OK)

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.

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

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever." John 14:16.

Our world is full of trouble. Since sin came onto the scene, it has always been so. But we were not built for worry. Therefore, there has always been a search for ways to escape anxiety. The ancient Egyptians used to deal in a drug called "nepenthes." It was known as a substance to "lull sorrow for a day." Our society has broadened the spectrum of "comforters" to a whole array of harmful drugs. Hence we have crime and sorrow upon sorrow.

What God meant for us to partake of is the consolation of His Holy Spirit. It soothes the aching breast and calms a fevered mind. It is the ultimate Comforter.

Anodyne is a chemical used as a means of relieving bodily pain. The word, in fact, means "soothing," or "freeing from pain." But anodyne is not guaranteed to live up to its beautiful name. There are times that the hurt is too deep for it to give total relief. The Comforter which God has given, however, can reach the deepest wound of the soul. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27.

Another drug known as an "antispasmodic" is purported to be a remedy for convulsions. Have you ever seen Christian workers who have spasms or convulsions? They do service for Christ now and then, and when they do, it is done like one in a convulsive fit. The antispasmodic remedy for such is the infilling of the Holy Spirit. He will abide with us and produce a continual healthy interest in the work of the Lord.

God's Word proposes great blessings through the Holy Spirit, and the lives of countless Christians ratify it. The Comforter is a priceless gift to us from God—a gift of which we should seek a full portion, and for which we should never lose appreciation.

Since it is human to become accustomed to things of great value and to allow their significance to dim, I pose this question to every child of God—do you have a proper appreciation for the Holy Spirit in your life?



Work on the new Print Shop is progressing. Bro. Earl Benson has been faithfully laboring to finish the concrete work on the loading dock. Bro. Dan Doolittle has been completing the remaining work on the heat and air system and helping to install the ceiling tile and insulation which is on the job site. And Bro. Arlan

Campbell is getting together material for the wood trim.

We are continually grateful for the way God is providing for this project of faith, and we thank you who have given of your means so willingly to support it. We are assured that God takes note of your sacrifice and the treasure you are laying up in store as souls are helped through the printed Word. (I Cor. 15:58.)

It was a pleasure for Bro. Joe Fine and myself to visit in the home of Bro. James and Sis. Charlotte Huskey during a recent trip to Ensenada, Mexico. We also appreciated the opportunity to visit again with Bro. Mayarino Escobar and his wife, Sis. Panchita, and others there, as well as saints in the Bakersfield, CA, area. As you will find listed under the camp meeting dates, plans are being made for services to be held in Ensenada on Aug. 4-8.

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Bro. Ben Tangunan, brother of the native Philippine missionary, Bro. Matias Tangunan. Bro. Ben was well educated in the doctrines of the Bible and was instrumental in teaching other young ministers in the Philippines. Pray for the unhindered continuance of the work on these islands, and for the solace of Bro. Ben's wife and family.

We have purchased and put into operation a new mailing list program. This program will help us in being in compliance with new postal regulations, and qualify for cheaper mailing rates. We would like to ask all of our subscribers whose addresses we have listed as a rural route to send us your 911 mailing address.

—Wayne Murphey

Prayer Requests

SC—Please pray for Sis. Marie Weatherford of Holly Hill, who has a very serious affliction and is in need of special grace and strength from God at this time. She also has a very urgent request at this time for God to have His way in a situation.

FL—"Could you please request prayer for my mother, Sis. Helen Underdown? She needs physical healing." —Cheryl Smith

NC—"Remember my husband, Gordon, in prayer. He is sick with lung problems." —Mary Snyder

IN—"My son, James, is very nervous, and so am I. So please pray for us." —Sis. Dessie Wilson

KY—"Remember me in your prayers. I have

very high blood pressure. Also, pray for my son who needs a good job so he can support his family better." —Sis. Wilma Horsley

IL—"My nephew's wife has cancer."

—Sis. Lavena Cole

OK—"Pray for Sis. Thelma Field of the Green Pastures, OK, congregation. She has had a severe stroke and cannot talk."

—Sis. Frances Chandler

OK—Sis. Ruth (Hornbeck) Taylor's son, Mitchell, has had a nervous breakdown and needs the saints' prayers.

Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Alta Bock

Bro. Jon Busbee

Sis. Mamie Butcher

Bro. Nathan Carver

Sis. Tammy Clevenger

Sis. Elaine Dunn

Sis. Olive Getterson

Bro. Ben Harrison

Sis. Janice Johnston

Bro. Louis Kimble

Sis. Helen Lambright

Sis. Betty Lassché

The Lounds sisters

Sis. Mattie McIntyre

Sis. Dollie O'Neal

Sis. Lois Sharp

Sis. Kay Stover

Sis. Beverly Wattenbarger

Sis. Marie Weatherford

Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.

Bro. Max Williamson



South Florida—April 4-11

Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 28-June 6

Holly Hill, SC—May 30-June 6

Jefferson, OR—June 11-20

Green Bank, WV—June 11-17

National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 16-25

Myrtle, MO—July 28-August 1

Ensenada, Mexico—August 4-8

Bakersfield, CA—August 11-15

California State (Pacoima)—Aug. 27-Sept. 5

Meeting Notices

SINGING IN ALABAMA

The Church of God, Enterprise Congregation, near Warrior, AL, is planning a singing for March 27, at 6:30 p.m. There will be other activities beginning Saturday morning, and regular services on Sunday morning, with dinner on the church grounds.

The chapel is located two miles west of I-65, north of Warrior, AL, off of exit 289.

Everyone is welcome to attend. For further information you may contact Bro. Marshall Whitson at (205) 647-6325 or Bro. Roy Herron at (205) 647-7869.

LOS ANGELES, CA, REUNION DINNER/SERVICE

Several of the saints in the greater Los Angeles area (congregations in Los Angeles downtown, Gardena and Pacoima) have desired to have a "reunion" dinner/service for the saints and their associates in this area at 5:00 p.m. on April 3, 1999, which is the day before Easter. It will be held at the Church of God, 16535 South Berendo Ave. Gardena, CA 90247.

The purpose would be to reconnect with many of the children, grandchildren, sisters, brothers, other relatives and friends of the saints from the past and present. There are several hundred saints' associates in this area with whom the Church of God has lost touch and with whom the Church would like to re-establish contact, ultimately for the salvation of their souls. There are also many, many former church members. If anyone has loved ones, relatives or friends, or knows of some deceased saints' relatives or friends in the Southern California area, and would like these people to be contacted through this outreach effort, please send their names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses or other information to: Church of God Reunion, c/o 2601 E. Victoria St. #136, Dominguez Hills, CA 90220. Or you may call (310) 515-9504 or (310) 638-6701. Your help is greatly appreciated.

SOUTH FLORIDA CAMP MEETING

The saints in the southern area of Florida plan on having a camp meeting April 4-11. There will be two services on both Sundays with

night services throughout the week at 7:30 p.m.

All are welcome to attend. Come praying for a blessing.

For further information you should contact Bro. McIntyre (305) 233-2166 or Bro. Clay (305) 235-4271.

PEA RIDGE, AR, REVIVAL

The Pea Ridge, AR, congregation is having a revival April 8-11, Lord willing. All who can come are invited. If there are any questions please contact Clint Wilson at (501) 451-1197, or e-mail at cs2040@AOL.COM. Please remember us in your prayers, —Clint Wilson

WICHITA, KS, SPRING MEETING

The Wichita, KS, spring meeting has been set for April 11-18, 1999. The first Sunday we will have Sunday School plus three services. From Monday through Saturday we will have two services, at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The last Sunday we will have Sunday School, morning service and an afternoon service.

Please pray that God will be in every phase of our meeting and the anointing and leading of the Holy Spirit will rule the entire meeting. Come help in the battle if you can. We are pleading with God to burden and anoint the ones He would have to come and break the "Bread of Life."

If you need to contact anyone, you may call Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848 or Bro. Paul Phillips at (316) 721-9557.

—Sis. Shirley Knight

SIS. HARGRAVE VAN UPDATE

After Sis. Mary Hargrave's passing, I spoke with several who contributed to this fund. Those whom I spoke with agreed with me to turn the balance of the fund over to the Hargrave family. That is what I have done. I trust this is acceptable to those I have not contacted.

\$3,235.60 was received. Of this amount, \$1,447.41 was expended on the van. The transmission cost \$1,129.00. A fuel pump was required at the end of December and its cost was \$318.41. A balance of \$1,788.19 was turned over to Sis. Crystal Johnson.

Thank you to all who contributed.

—Bro. Keith Butler

LETTERS
FROM
THE
SAINTS



OK—Dear Bro. Wayne: I am sorry I didn't get to attend more of the Guthrie Assembly Meeting because of my dear sister, Alta Bock, being sick, but I am thankful I was able to attend as much as I did.

I was sorry to hear of Sis. Melissa Linch's passing. Our God is still in control.

The Lord is blessing our congregation here, and we are so grateful for our dear pastor and family.

I trust all are well and much encouraged. I surely appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper.

In Christian love, —Sis. Frances Perkins

NC—Hello, Bro. Wayne and family: I want to renew my *Faith and Victory* subscription. I enjoy the paper very much. It has been much help to me and I read it over and over.

Bro. Wayne, I want to thank you and all the good people up there for all the prayers you prayed for me and my family in the passing of our mother, Sis. Rhoda Blevins. I also thank you for your support in my sickness. Please pray that I will get close to God. I want to see my sweet mother again.

May God bless you all real good,
—Sis. Faye Minton

OK—As a backslidden sinner I have been very fortunate to have the prayers of so many wonderful saints on my behalf. On Friday night (1-12-99), at a revival, I accepted God into my heart once again. I can't begin to describe the feeling of having God put a burden on my soul to become saved. There is a song in the *Evening Light Songs* songbook called, "Have You Counted the Cost?" I was sure I had "bartered my hope of eternity's morn for a moment of joy." I thought I had crossed the line of no return. But the Lord told me, "Phil, it's late. If you don't come to Me, you will perish." Dear friends, I couldn't believe that God still wanted me in His fold. Praise God for His infinite mercy.

I ask for your prayers for several unspoken requests, as I have family living as I was.

Thank you for persevering in publishing the *Faith and Victory* as I am always in need of an uplifting message and encouragement.

Please keep me in your prayers as I struggle

to keep Satan at bay. I know he will now redouble his efforts to destroy my soul. Praise be to God, for without Him I am nothing.

—Bro. Phil Washburn

MO—Greetings to all on this lovely winter day, which the Lord has given us to enjoy. I am striving to follow the great Shepherd—He offers every soul a key to the home in heaven He has gone to prepare. And He gives us a straight path to follow. We cannot try a shortcut (a detour).

I want to be sure of my salvation.

Love for souls, —Sis. Doris Bowers

OR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: We trust this will find all there enjoying the gift of salvation provided by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We can never in this world be able to comprehend the fullness of the love that was manifested by the crucifixion of Jesus in bearing the sins of the whole world.

In the cassette message we heard yesterday, the temple that Solomon built for God to dwell in was used as a type for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our bodies. As I considered and read about it, the fact that everything was prepared beforehand so that there was no sound of hammer or saw during construction made me think of the preparation of sinners for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. There is much "hewing and sawing" necessary for a sinner to realize his lost condition and bring him to a state of justification, but the sanctification and indwelling of the Holy Spirit is without noise or confusion....

With love and prayers,

—Bro. Bill and Sis. Ruby Fern Busch

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you all at the Print Shop. I hope all is going well with you.

The reason I haven't written sooner is that I fell on the kitchen floor and hurt myself and haven't been able until now to write.

I trusted in God and He has brought me to where I am completely well. I was sore all over but I didn't have any broken bones....

Remember my oldest sister, Grace Norton, in prayer. She has been sick but is some better. She is 87 years old.

Will close with love and prayers,

—Sis. Hallie Pinkerton

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus'

dear name.... I trust all is going well there, and that the new Print Shop is progressing. I remember the work continually in my prayers.

I enjoyed what little of the Guthrie, OK, Assembly Meeting I got to attend. It was a great uplift to my soul. I have heard that the rest of the meeting was also very good.

It was a good thing I came to Guthrie on the first weekend, because on the last weekend we had a very severe winter storm here—the worst in two decades, they said. We were without electricity for nearly 48 hours. I understand that some were without nearly a week. Temperatures were very frigid, and without electricity I wasn't able to have any heat in my house, as my wood furnace requires a blower to circulate the air. Fortunately, Mom and Dad have gas heat, so I was able to stay there until the electricity came back on. Several of my water pipes froze and burst, and when I finally did get heat back in the house, I had an awful mess to deal with. It took about a week to get things back in order again. We don't stop very often to think about how much electricity means to our lives until we are without it for a little while!...

Yours in Christian love,

—Bro. Harlan Sorrell

TX—I would like to say thank you to a very special person. I call her "Granny." You know her as Sister Ruth Shehee. As I read the article "Pressure in Pursuit" in the most recent edition of *Faith and Victory*, I too was reminded of times traveling down life's highway when truckloads of worry, fear, pressures and problems were gaining on me and oftentimes overtaking me. However, I always knew that someone was standing in the gap and interceding on my behalf with our precious Lord. That was Sis. Ruth Shehee.

Whenever any family member needed help, we may not have been saved, but we always knew who to get to first to start the saints praying for us. We would say it is Granny who has a direct line to God.

My early memories as a child are of sitting on the front row with Granny at the Church of God in Bakersfield, and then camp meetings in Pacoima, CA. I could always count on someone to request the hymn, "Be Ready When He Comes." Some 35 years later Granny is still faithful in serving God. One by one she is succeeding in reaching her family for Christ. As I learn more

about God's Word and experience His grace, mercy, healing touch and forgiveness, I now understand why she is always so relentless and tireless in her efforts to help us be saved.

I close with a favorite scripture to both of us—Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

We thank and love you,

Your granddaughter, —Stephanie Olesh

MI—Dear Bro. Wayne and dear Sis. Mary: Greetings in Jesus' name. May many of God's richest blessings flow upon all of you dear ones who are faithful in the Lord's work, which is very important for the lost souls out in this world of sin. The *Faith and Victory* paper is so wonderful to read. It can touch hearts when they read of how dear saints get healed when they are sick. They will know there is a healing God in heaven. I enjoy all that I read of the dear saints' healings. It is a real wonderful thrill to my soul. Praise be to our dear, precious Jesus, and the dear Father in heaven who watches over us.

I thank you for putting me on the prayer request list. I pray for all of the others on the list and ask our dear Jesus to heal all of us and make us well. I thank all of you who pray for me. I still need a healing touch and I am looking forward to it. Psalm 31:24 says, "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." Isaiah 49:13 says, "For the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted." What a great and wonderful God we have. I am so glad He loves and cares for us. Won't it be wonderful when He calls us to live in heaven with Him forever?

My love and prayers to all of you,

—Sis. Olive Getterson

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers: I hope this finds everyone well and encouraged. In these days there is so much evil going on. We really have to keep looking upward in constant prayer.

Please pray for my unsaved family and myself, as I surely want to make heaven my home

Also I have some very urgent unspoken requests. Thank you so much for your prayers and the *Faith and Victory* paper. I enjoy reading it.

—Sis. Doris Pihaylic

MISSIONARY REPORTS



Honduras, C.A. Report

January 18, 1999—Dear saints: I would like to report to you that the Lord blessed the recent trip to Honduras, and I would also like to express appreciation for the response to the great needs that were there.

The trip turned out to be a totally different trip than we planned due to Hurricane Mitch which caused havoc in Honduras. We are very thankful to the Lord for preserving the lives of the saints, as well as the chapel that is located on the island of Roatan.

I want to thank the group that went on this trip for the desire and enthusiasm which they expressed the entire trip. I have been to Honduras several times, and this trip has been the most physically taxing of them all.

The missionary group consisted of Bro. John Clements and Bro. Jim Wall who left on Friday, November 27, and returned on December 8. Their preparatory work was very valuable to the success of the trip. By the time the rest of us reached the island, materials for the construction of two houses were on site and construction had already begun.

The rest of the group consisted of Phillip Gellenbeck, his wife, Rosie, their son, Matthew, Galen Kelly, Phillip Bell, Sheldon Robertson, Karen Sallee and Toney Samons. We left on December 1 and arrived back in the States on December 9.

Our first obstacle was the airline's failure to get our baggage and tools to us upon arrival. Our clothes came the next day and the tools the following day. The tools shipped over on the first shipment were put to use and work progressed.

The main group arrived Tuesday evening and began working the next morning. The devastation in the village where we worked caused us to realize that our efforts would only scratch the surface in providing for the needs. We decided to focus on rebuilding two houses for the saints who had lost theirs. That was hard to do, seeing others who were also in need. Not being able to repair everyone's house, we tried to dispense money to buy materials for those

who seemed most needy, as far as our money would stretch.

We built the two houses for about \$3,000 each. These were very basic structures, 20 X 24 feet, built on posts. The saints were very grateful and helped all they could.

Sis. Rosie and Sis. Karen, along with a couple of the native sisters, did a very good job in bringing lunch every day and cooking meals for us every morning and night. We appreciated their dedication, and particularly appreciated Sis. Karen's bravery in being willing to go knowing that it was not the healthiest of situations.

There were some reports of malaria in the villages where we were, but the Lord was faithful to protect us all, and except for a touch of stomach trouble we all came through well.

We had service with the saints almost every evening, and the sisters had children's meeting every day. The last Sunday we were there we had an "out of order," but blessed, service, and it was very special to us all. We were encouraged by the spiritual progress we saw.

That same Sunday morning we had a baptismal service, and then went to a neighboring village, where we were building the houses, to conduct an open-air meeting. The people had taken benches from a church that had broken apart and partly washed-away and set them up on the beach. They then covered it all with canvas material, and we had another special service. The Lord gave a message on building our lives on shifting sand. In the background was a partially washed away church building built on the sand. One young lady named Margaret, 23 years old, left the service under conviction and later that evening got saved. Thank the Lord!

The last day we set aside to do a little sightseeing and souvenir buying. Some of the boys went out with some of the natives to dive for some sea shells, conchs and lobster. They appreciated the break from work and certainly deserved a little recreation.

All too soon this trip was over. The van hobbled along most of the week but quit again the last day there. Some of the saints in the states had purchased a small '95 Nissan pickup truck to take to Honduras, which will be very useful. The taxes, custom fees and shipping costs for the vehicle are the immediate needs. If you feel burdened to help in this area, please contact Bro. Kimble or myself. We hope to ship it to the island soon.

Neosho, MO, Raleah and Jason Murphey of Guthrie, OK, Sannetta Campbell of Republic, MO, Lacinda Campbell and Kristia Campbell of Neosho, MO; eight nieces, eight nephews, other family members as well as a great host of friends.

Funeral services were held on January 30, 1999, officiated by Bros. Stanley Dickson and Bob Huskey. Interment was in the Newtonia IOOF Cemetery, Newtonia, MO.

— — — — —

Rhoda A. Blevins, age 80, of Boone Trail, N. Wilkesboro, NC, traded her cross for a crown on January 17, 1999. She passed from her home.

Sis. Blevins was born in Wilkes County June 12, 1918, to Millard and Delta Adams.

She was as a rock of stability to all who knew her and was always there to help bear your burdens.

She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. She fought a good fight and kept the faith. One more prayer warrior has made it home.

Surviving are her beloved children; two daughters, Bessie Faye Minton and Betty Gail Blevins; four sons, John Quincy Blevins, James Franklin Blevins, Paul Lee Blevins and Thomas Ray Blevins, all of N. Wilkesboro, NC; eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her parents and husband, James Ira Blevins, also one son, David Monroe Blevins.

Funeral services were held January 19, 1999, at the Cricket Church of God. Burial was in the Mountlawn Memorial Park.

Note of Thanks

The family of Rhoda A. Blevins would like to extend their many thanks for all the prayers, and ask for continued prayer. Also, thanks to all those who prayed for their mother.

—The Rhoda Blevins family and Sis. Elaine Dunn

— — — — —

Louis Warren Kinchen of Albany, LA, was born to Edward Sherman Kinchen and Bythella O'della Hodges Kinchen on October 14, 1909, and passed away at his home on January 13, 1999, at the age of 89 years.

He leaves behind quite a legacy of hard work and determination. Bro. Louis was a cattle farmer in his community where he was known to have some of the finest cattle around. He was also a contract carpenter and a butcher. He

worked hard to provide a living for his wife of 69 years, Florence Inez Cooper Kinchen, along with their four children.

Bro. Louis was preceded in death by his parents and several of his siblings. He is survived by his wife, Florence Kinchen of Albany, LA; two daughters, Norma Purvis of Loranger, LA, and Donna Kinchen of CA; two sons, Henry Kinchen, of Kentwood, LA, and Don Kinchen, of Independence, LA; three sisters, Willie K. Jones and Effie K. Jenkins of Albany, LA, Lessie K. Ratliff of Baptist, LA; and one brother, Woodrow Kinchen of Baptist, LA; fourteen grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, many nieces, nephews and other friends and family members.

Funeral services were held at Geisler Funeral Home, Albany, LA, with interment at the Kinchen Cemetery in Albany, LA.

— — — — —

Pauline Ochsner was born September 8, 1914, in Madisonville, LA, to Seth and Lula (Snow) Ochsner, and passed away on December 30, 1998, at the age of 84 years. She lived many years in the community of Robert, LA. Many times people would see her walking on the highway at night with a flashlight—she was going to church. Pauline loved church and was a fixture at the Hammond, LA, Church of God campmeeting. She always wanted to help work, and her favorite job was peeling potatoes.

Pauline was preceded in death by her parents, Seth Ochsner and Lula (Snow) Ochsner and one brother, Austin Ochsner. She is survived by two sisters, Julia Fitzgerald and Mrs. Joe E. (Vesta) McMorris, both of Hammond, LA, and one brother, Leo Ochsner of Seattle, WA.

Funeral services were held on January 2, 1999, at Geisler Funeral Home, Hammond, LA, with interment at Oak Grove Cemetery, Oak Grove Church of God in Loranger, LA. She will be sadly missed by her family and all who knew her.

— — — — —

Claricia Connor, age 39, died November 7, 1998, at her home in Miami, FL. She was the daughter of Daniel and Marrette Stanley, and was born July 23, 1959, in Honduras, C.A.

Claricia was united in marriage to Krincess Connor on June 2, 1979, and they made their home in Miami, FL. They began holding church services in their home, and after the congregation grew they rented a place of worship. This church is now known as the Church of God,

Honduras Inc. Claricia's love, labor and kindness are greatly missed by her husband and the congregation, as well as many other family and friends.

She is survived by her husband, Krincess; two children, Deron and Thalia Connor; four step-children, Garson Connor, Sharon Pouchie, Pauline Tennyson and Dione Connor, and ten grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in the Church of God Chapel, officiated by Bros. Krincess Connor and Alex Fiqueroa. Burial was in the Memorial Plan Cemetery.



QUESTION AND ANSWER
BY
BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON
Reprint

QUESTION: Please explain and discuss Isaiah 66:17.

ANSWER: Isaiah 66:17 reads thus: "They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the Lord."

We must remember that the history of the human race presented a pretty dark and ugly picture until Christ came into the world and they that sat in darkness saw great light. (Matthew 4:16.) Nearly all the world was steeped in pagan, heathen, idolatrous darkness. God had gathered out a small nation of people (Israel) which were the "fewest of all people" (Deuteronomy 7:7), for Himself, and the remainder of the world's peoples were in this dreadful condition. But a prophecy of hope for all these poor benighted souls appears in the latter part of Isaiah 66:19 where it says, "...They shall declare my glory among the Gentiles." The Gentiles were all the people of the earth except the Jews (Israel), whom God had chosen out of the nations to be His own peculiar people, to reveal His glory through them. But the long-range importance of this prophecy was Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whom God sent forth into the world to manifest His glory unto all the peoples of the world.

Now with this little introduction to the subject, let us return to Isaiah 66:17, the principal

text for the discussion. This verse has to do with the sacrifices and worship of the heathen idolators and their system of worship, which was quite elaborate. They "sanctified" and "purified" themselves—the same things that God did for His people in their sacrifices and worship—to sanctify and purify them. But these people offered abominable sacrifices on their altars (swine's flesh and the mouse) and ate these things, all of which God had declared to be an abomination and forbidden. (Leviticus 11:1-44.) They had groves planted in the high places and altars set up among the trees, and apparently offered sacrifices to different gods upon these separate altars. The text says, "...behind one tree in the midst,..." The margin says "one tree after another." I think this would describe it better because there were always groves where the heathen worshipped and offered their sacrifices. The Lord said at the close of this verse that all their abominable sacrifices, and the abominable things they ate, and they themselves would all be consumed together in God's wrath. They set up their worship system pretty much like God's, with altars and sacrifices, and sought to accomplish the same results that God did in His people. But the sad and yet glorious fact is, that the kinds of sacrifices and worship which the true God prescribed had the effect upon the true worshiper of exalting him to a higher plane of living and more like God, while the heathen's sacrifices and worship had the effect of transferring his own corrupt nature to his god because there was no life nor essence in his god to exalt and lift him up. So he sank to a lower plane of corruption than before. Someone (an atheist, I suppose) has said that God never created man in His own image as Christians believe; but man created a god after his own likeness and in his image. I accept this to be pretty much true of the heathen pagan, and in a measure of religionists in our day who have no exalted idea of Christlikeness in Christian lives.

Now I will refer to a few other texts which describe the way of the heathen to confirm what I have already said. In Isaiah 65:1-7 God described the condition of the Gentiles (pagans). In verse 3 He said they continually provoked Him to anger to His face; they sacrificed in gardens (Isaiah 66:17 says they sanctified and purified themselves in the gardens), they burned incense upon altars of brick (whereas God required that His altars be built of whole stones, Deuteronomy 27:6), they ate swine's flesh and

broth (or pieces—margin) of abominable things in their vessels (which God forbade in Leviticus 11), and they said, "Don't come near me, stand by thyself; for I am holier than thou." (Isaiah 65:4-5.) God said these were smoke in His nostrils, a fire that burned all the day. Yet He extended His arms to them and offered them salvation.

In Deuteronomy 7, God instructed the Israelites that when they entered into the Canaan land they should utterly destroy the people that were there (verse two) and make no covenant with them. They were to destroy their altars, break down their images and burn them with fire, and cut down their groves. (verse five.) He said the reason for this was that the Israelites were a holy people unto the Lord their God (verse six) and the people of the land were not acceptable to Him, neither were their altars, their sacrifices, their groves, nor their worship. God still requires that same separateness today between the people who worship Him in spirit and in truth and the formal religionists who teach for doctrines the commandments of men and thus worship Him in form only.

Read also Exodus 23:24; 34:12-14; Deuteronomy 12:1-4; II Kings 16:4; I Kings 14:22-23, etc.

We see then how God hates idolatry and what an abomination it is to Him. We also see what an elaborate arrangement the heathen made for his place and system—high places, beautiful groves and gardens, etc. It was all so abominable and obnoxious to God that He required every trace and memory of it to be totally obliterated. He even required in Numbers 33:52 that all their pictures be destroyed. Pictures had a strange and powerful fascination to them, so God required that all the pictures that would be a reminder or a suggestion of idolatry to them be destroyed.

In closing this discussion, let us think a little of our idolatry. Is it as much an abomination to God as theirs? The Bible says covetousness is idolatry. (Colossians 3:5.) To covet this world's riches and to desire more than God has provided us with of the material things of this world is a form of idolatry in God's sight. He hates that disposition of heart. His Word says, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have:..." Hebrews 13:5. Discontent is a grievous thing in the sight of God. We are instructed in I John 2:15 to "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." James 4:4 says, "...Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." In Matthew 22:37 Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." In verse 38 He said, "This is the first and great commandment." Ah, folks, let us realize that this is the fundamental basic of holy living, and of our relationship with God—to love Him with all our being. Therefore, it becomes evident that to accept into our heart a love of the world, or any of the things of the world (self-love or a love for anything that is not godly), is to set up a rival love in the heart which God detests and will not tolerate. From Luke 14:26 and 33 we see that a father, mother, wife, child, etc., and yea, anything we have can become an idol to us if we do not forsake it all for Jesus' sake. (See also Matthew 10:37.) We cannot love any person or thing more than we love Christ without becoming idolaters. Quite a sobering thought, isn't it?



Friendly Fire

(Continued from page 3.)

gotten every possible thing out of our own lives, can we then consider going to him and being of help to him in his situation. (Matt. 18:15.) Would it not be wise to wait on the Lord until we are sure that our brother will hear us, thus gaining our brother? If we do not have the witness from God that our brother will hear us, we stand a good chance that he will not accept our admonition and we will not gain our brother.

Let us say that we are approached by someone who "just wants to help us" before we are prepared by the Lord to accept it. Immediately a wall will go up between us. We may not desire for that wall to be thrown up, but since we are human, that is exactly what will happen. Being human, we will need a lot of prayer and humility to be able to surmount the new problem we now have on our hands. Not only do we have the old problem that our brother or sister was trying to help us with, but we have a new one due to communication failure! Rest assured, the other party would feel the same lack of communication also if the tables were turned. Think for a moment what the enemy can do with this, if it is allowed to fester. Will either one of us be able to ask the other to pray for him in a serious need? Will we even want to ask him for prayer?

The other communication failure that would immediately come into effect is even more serious—soldier to commander. When we do not love our brother as we really know we ought to, (brother-to-brother communication failure can contribute to this) we find ourselves not being able to pray through to our heavenly Father as we would like to. "But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes." (I John 2:11) Can we think of anyone more useless than a blind soldier?

One might say, "I need to tell my brother thus and thus just to get it off of my chest, clear the air between us, and to keep good communications going." This may be well and true, but the Word of God gives very explicit instructions on how to do this, and we may find that after we have met all of the requirements to do it properly, we may not need to do it after all! I have mentioned a few scriptures already along this line, but here are a few more. "Love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." Gal. 5:14-15. "Speak not evil one of another. There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?" James 4:11-12. Last of all, "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, forgive him." Luke 17:3-4.

Coordination and Teamwork: One may, in contrast to the thought that "we must correct our brother immediately" have the opinion that we are never to admonish or correct our brother or sister if he or she is doing something out of line. Both mindsets are unwise and unscriptural. God's Word is perfectly balanced. We must never attempt to admonish our brother out of the perfect order of the Lord. Neither should we do it in the context of revenge or a personal vendetta. On the other hand, to ignore the problem totally would be neglecting our brother's soul. There will come a time, however, when the Lord sees that our brother's heart is ready and our heart is ready. Then is the time to act, as God directs, and gain our brother.

What would happen if a soldier on the battlefield lost his bearings and started firing round after round in the wrong direction? He obviously wouldn't be aiming at the enemy, but he would still be filling the air with hot lead. It

would not be long before the nearest soldier would inform him of his mistake! If the correction were done in the right manner, the erring soldier would most likely be only too glad to make right his mistake and point his efforts in the right direction. What good would it do, however, if another soldier simply sneaked up on the errant one and did away with him? Remember, these soldiers are supposed to be fighting a common enemy, not each other, and whatever they can do to help each other now would most likely be made up for in some future battle!

The Lord's army is run much in the same way if one considers the scriptures prayerfully. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Galatians 6:1. Notice that the primary emphasis is put on the one doing the restoring, not on the one with the "problem." Being spiritual, being meek, and considering thyself are all absolutely necessary both to restore the brother and to prevent the one doing the restoring from being tempted in any manner. "Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." I Peter 5:5. "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death." I John 5:16. "Bearable one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2. These last two verses help emphasize the fact that the most important thing we can do for a brother in need, even if we feel that the need is a wrong being done to us, is to pray for that brother. Prayer is more powerful and needful than anything else we may do or say.

Let us remember one thing. We are all fighting a common enemy, the devil, over the same thing, our souls, on the same battlefield, this life, and we have the same Commander, Jesus. If we ever expect to make it safely to the other side, we will need each other's prayers and support as well as the help of the Lord. Just envision for a moment the look of anguish coming over someone you love dearly as he falls to the ground after being struck by shrapnel. Next envision the look of anguish on that same loved-one's face if he were doomed to everlasting torment. May the Lord help us that this not happen because of "friendly fire!"

Salvation The Most Important Insurance

By Sis. Audrey Carver

One day recently as I came home from a "mission of mercy," I was stopped by a police check for car insurance. Some cars were pulled over at the park entrance—no insurance—a fine to pay. I thought of the most wonderful insurance we can have—SALVATION!

Salvation is free; my car insurance has gone up considerably in the past few years.

Salvation is a perfect plan; it never changes. Improvements and changes come periodically with my car insurance.

Salvation makes us happy. I was thankful I had my little slip in the glove compartment showing I had the necessary insurance. But of greater value will be salvation on the day of judgment.

Salvation is the sweetest thing—I can't say paying car insurance is very sweet.

And finally, SALVATION gives us the blessed hope of Eternal Life with Christ Jesus our Lord!

I pray daily that more people will accept this Great Salvation—the most important insurance there is.

Standing In The Breach

By Sis. Olive Davenport

"Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them." Psalm 106:23.

The children of Israel had turned away from God to worship the golden calf saying, "These are the gods that brought us out of Egypt." The Lord's anger was kindled as He called them a stiffnecked people. He told Moses to "...let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them." Exodus 32:10.

What did Moses do? He stood in the breach. What did God do? "And the Lord repented

of the evil which he thought to do unto his people." Exodus 32:14.

Again the children of Israel provoked God to anger by committing whoredom with the daughters of Moab and sacrificing to their gods. (Numbers 25: 1-8.) The anger of the Lord was kindled insomuch that twenty-four thousand people perished. Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron, took a javelin, went into a tent and slew a Midianitish woman and a man of Israel (Simeonite) who had defied the commandments by committing whoredom. When Phinehas had done this, the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.

To stand in the breach sometimes requires severe judgment against the offenders. This is not a position of glory, but one that the Lord Himself will reward. He was so well pleased with Phinehas, who had turned away His wrath from the children of Israel, that He said He would give unto him His covenant of

Order Blank

\$3.00 PER YEAR (11 Issues)

Mail this form to start or renew your own subscription — give a friend a gift — or do both! It only takes a minute.

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Start or renew my Faith and Victory subscription.

Send a 1-year gift subscription to the person named below:

Gift to _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail Order Blank and remittance to:

Faith Publishing House
P. O. Box 518
Guthrie, OK 73044

3/99

FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY

peace and to his seed after him because he was zealous for his God, and had made an atonement for the children of Israel.

In Ezekiel 13:5, the Lord is speaking of some foolish prophets who failed to stand in the gap. "Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle." He said they were like foxes in the desert. They had cunningly prophesied lies neglecting the house of Israel.

Another example which proves how important it is for one to stand in the breach is found in Ezekiel 22:30-31. "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the

hedge, and stand in the gap (breach) before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them;..." By this scripture we are convinced that had there been someone qualified to stand in the gap the fury of the Lord would have been stayed.

Today it is just He same. Many ills would not occur if individuals whom the Lord had designated to stand in the breach had been faithful. On the other hand, the mercy of the Lord has been extended because of faithful ones who stood in the gap. Are you willing to stand in the breach?



**Excerpts Taken From
March, 1949 Faith and Victory**

"Ostis B. Wilson, son of William and Paralee Wilson, was born February 8, 1870, near Athens, Tenn., and departed this life January 30, 1949, in Los Angeles, Calif., at the age of 78 years, 11 months and 22 days.

"On January 13, 1894, he was united in marriage with Mattie Bolds. To this union eight children were born; 5 sons, Arvid, Otto, Ostis, Eldon and Clifford; and 3 daughters, Opal, Birdie and Louie. Otto preceded him in death in August, 1941.

"He was converted to Christ and embraced the truth as taught by the Church of God in this evening light reformation on Feb. 8, 1891. Shortly after this he felt the call of God to the ministry of His Holy Word. He was obedient to the heavenly calling and launched on a long and, by God's grace, a

successful life in the ministry. He was continuously active in this field of labor for about 57 years.

"He was a pioneer minister of the church of God in this evening light reformation and labored much in those days when it required much sacrifice and effort to carry on. He was instrumental in establishing some new congregations in the early settling-up of western Oklahoma.

"He moved to Shawnee in 1918 and remained there until his death. He was pastor of the Church of God congregation on S. McKinley St. in Shawnee for about 27 years.

"His constant prayer for his children, and more especially in his declining months of life, was that they might be saved at any cost. These prayers, together with a godly life, a godly example, and a godly influence in their lives, are esteemed by his family to be a very great heritage.

"Funeral services were conducted in Glendale, Calif., on February 1, with Bro. I. D. Stover of Pomona, Calif., bringing the message, assisted by Bro. A. E. Harmon and Bro. E. M. Zinn. The remains were then taken to Shawnee, Okla., where funeral services were conducted in the Church of God chapel where he had been pastor for so many years, with Bro. Sam Barton of Tulsa, Okla., bringing the message, assisted by Bro. Fred Pruitt and Bro. Willie Murphey. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Shawnee.