

FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the
gathering of the
people be.

GOD IS
LOVE

YE SHINE AS
LIGHTS IN
THE WORLD.

JESUS
SAVES

The night cometh,
when no man
can work.

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The Master Jeweler

The Goldsmith takes the untried gold
And in the smelting pot
Melts it in the refiner's fire
Until it is exceedingly hot,

Separating and refining until
There is no dross or grain
And so the shine and sparkle
Exceeds that of the dew and rain,

Then He shapes and molds it
Making it perfect in form and size
Working the intricate design
That will win the greater prize.

Polished now to brightest perfection,
Nothing less would ever do,
Finally returning His own image
That is the Christlike you.

—Naomi Dickerson Hiebert

THE FOLLOWING WAS FOUND WRITTEN ON THE CANVAS COT OF AN AFRICAN CHRISTIAN FOLLOWING HIS DEATH (AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

"I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The die is cast; I have stepped over the line; the decision has been made; I am a disciple of His; I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or sit still. My past is forgiven, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low-living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, chincy giving and dwarfed goals. I no longer need prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits or popularity. I don't have to be first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by grace, walk by faith, learn by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by His power.

"My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my Guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, or ponder at the pool of popularity.

"I will not give up, shut up, or let up, until I have stayed up, prayed up, paid up and preached up for the cause of my Lord. I am a disciple of His. I must go until He comes, give until I drop, preach until all know and work until He stops me. And when He comes for His own, I don't want Him to have any trouble recognizing me.... I want my colors to be clear."

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A Message from Christ to His Bride

By Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

I feel impressed to tell of the Lord's blessings and answers to prayer in a recent trial of faith. We want to also express our appreciation to the saints for the earnest prayers that went up to God in our behalf.

The Lord blessed us this spring to find that we were expecting another child. Our desire to the Lord was that He would see fit to give us a normal pregnancy and delivery, since we have had serious problems in the past. All had gone so well until at 32 weeks it appeared I was going into labor. My midwife would not attend to me at the small hospital here, so we had to transport to the large university hospital. An attempt was made to stop the labor. We submitted only to what we felt was natural, and a call for prayer was made. The labor stopped and I was able to come home. During this experience of dealing with our own anxieties in this trial, God made a personal visit to my soul, and His dealings were so precious! I feel the Lord would have me to share this message with the saints in the form of a letter, from Christ to His Bride, the Church.

My dear People,

I want you to know once more that I love you with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3.) You belong to Me, and I have chosen you. (Ephesians 1:4.) I will never leave you nor forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5.) You are very precious to Me, and I would like to share My deepest heart with you.

Before the foundation of the world, (Ephesians 1:4) My Father had a special desire and plan that I would have a chosen companion, a counterpart, a Bride who would be part of Me, as bone of My bone. This would be people He had created, to be His children, as I was His Beloved Son.

When He created Adam, He made him alone. An helper or counterpart for him was not found. Then My Father put the man to sleep and from a bone in his side He made a woman and brought her to the man. The man loved her because he recognized she was taken from his own body. (Genesis 2:21-25.) My Father planned for this union to represent the relationship that He had created for Me and My Bride, the people He had created for Me. (Ephesians 5:31-32.)

Sin entered the picture, and destroyed the precious communion He had planned for us. The man He had created alone represented Me without the people He had planned for Me. We were separated by sin and death. To create for Me a loving and faithful Bride, I too had to sleep. I slept the sleep of death, and my side was pierced by a sword. The redeeming blood from My side restored and purified to Me My people, My Church, My Bride. (Ephesians 5:25-27, I Peter 1:18-19.) And so I love you, not only because I created you, but because I redeemed you with My own life. (Isaiah 43:1-2, Revelation 1:5.) You were taken from My own side. You are members of My flesh and of My bones. (Ephesians 5:30.) And you who were alienated from Me by sin, (Colossians 1:21-22), you who were not a people, are now the people of God. (I Peter 2:9-10.)

My Father instituted the holy matrimony because it is a perfect example of the wonderful plan of salvation and redemption. As He would have all the world to know Me as the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world, so He would show to all the Bride, the Lamb's wife. (Revelation 21:9.) In My Word are many guidelines showing how a man ought to be to his wife and how his wife should be to him. All of these point to My relationship with you, My Bride, and your response to Me. I am very zealous over this close relationship, and very particular about how marriage should be, because it is an example to all the world of the truth of my One and only Bride, the Church. I never want this truth to be distorted before the eyes of humankind. They need to see it lived out in your marriages and families. The enemy has made a concentrated effort, especially in this end time, to obliterate the holy state of marriage from the earth. I want my people to recognize this and endeavor to live out My plan to its Divine fullness.

I am your Savior (Ephesians 5:23), and Deliverer (Romans 11:26)—not just once from sin, but every day I am your strong defense from sin, self and Satan.

You can call on Me anytime, day or night, in distress, in temptation, in sickness and affliction, in the hour of death. I nourish you. (Ephesians 5:29.) To nourish means to foster, to incubate. I am to you like a hen who gathers her chicks under her wings. How often I would gather you! (Matthew 23:37.) Under my wings are protection and healing. (Psalm 91:4, Malachi 4:2.) I would have you to continually come to trust in My protecting wings. (Ruth 2:12.) I would have you live there. (Psalm 91:1.) I would have you walk close to My side, leaning on my bosom. In the wilderness experiences you will learn how to do this. (Song of Solomon 8:5.) In the rocky clefts and trials of life you will learn to call on Me. I love to hear your voice. Others hear it—cause Me to hear it. (Song of Solomon 2:14, 8:13.)

I know you are the weaker vessel. I have given commandment for men to honor their wives as the weaker vessel (I Peter 3:7); I could do not less. I honor you. I fully know your weaknesses. I regard your deepest desires. I bear with your infirmities. I bear the heavier share of the yoke that you share with me. (Matthew 11:29.) In truth, I am your Head. (Ephesians 5:23; 1:22.) What I command must be carried out. But—I listen to you when you sigh to me with your burdens. I answer your prayers. I cherish you. (Ephesians 5:29.) I am devoted to your care. I have betrothed you to Me forever in righteousness, and judgment, and loving kindness and mercies. (Hosea 2:19.)

One thing that I especially cherish about you is the purity that I gave you. I took from you the filthy rags of your own righteousness (Isaiah 64:6), and iniquity (Zechariah 3:3-4), and gave you a beautiful garment of salvation (Isaiah 61:10), the spotless, white robe of My righteousness. (Revelation 7:9-17 19:7-8.) You are adorned with ornaments of great price. (I Peter 3:4.) Your spirit is without guile. (Revelation 14:5.) You are not defiled with the corruption of this world. (II Peter 1:4.) You are a chaste virgin unto me (II Corinthians 11:2); a spotless white dove; gentle, meek, harmless and mild. (Song of Solomon 5:2, 6:9, Matthew 10:16.) This is My work

in you, and I rejoice greatly over the work of My hands. (Isaiah 62:5, 26:12, Psalm 104:31.) My salvation has made you exceedingly beautiful in my eyes. (Psalm 149:4.)

Another thing that I cherish about you is your submission to me. My Father seals you with His Holy Spirit when He sees you are completely Mine. (Ephesians 1:13, Revelation 14:1, 4.) You are not your own, you were bought with a price (I Corinthians 6:19-20); you are no longer to seek your own pleasure, or speak your own words, or follow your own ways. (Isaiah 58:13-14.) Oh, how I love to say, "You are mine!" And I love to hear you rejoice, "My beloved is mine and I am His." (Song of Solomon 2:16.) When you feel my slightest displeasure, you stop what you are doing and seek Me until My peace is fully restored to you. All your love and affection is toward Me and not on things of this earth. You love Me with your first love, a Bride's love. You are sensitive to My directions and to My will. You would not displease Me willfully. If you wander and My Father sees fit to chasten you as His beloved children (Hebrews 12:6), you kiss the chastening rod and call it sweet. How I am joyfully pleased when you do this! I too learned obedience by the things which I suffered, and I plead your cause before My Father, and pray for you in your times of failure that your faith fail not. (Luke 22:32, Lamentations 3:58.)

My own, you are a crown of glory in My hand. When I come in My Father's glory to make up My jewels, I will be so happy to claim you as My royal diadem. (Isaiah 62:3, Malachi 3:16-17.) I will present you unto Myself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, nor any such thing. (Ephesians 5:27.) And forever we will be together, never to part. (I Thessalonians 4:17.) I anxiously await My Father's proclamation that the time for our eternal Wedding Supper is come, and I will meet you in the air. (Revelation 19:7, Matthew 24:36, I Thessalonians 4:17.) I want you to earnestly anticipate this, plead with My Father for My appearance, and ever live so you can say at any moment, "Even so, come Lord Jesus!" (II Peter 3:13, Revelation 22:20.)

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



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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.

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As I begin to write these editorials, I am thinking of a great event which is scheduled to take place.

I Thessalonians 4:17 says, "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be

with the Lord."

To see Christ and the bride rejoicing together will be a spectacular jubilee. The yearning and anticipation of His return will be instantly satisfied as the One whom the saints have loved appears.

Perhaps this is the viewpoint which has always provided a stimulus to the children of God to remain faithful. But surveying the event from what Christ has planned reveals to us just how momentous it will be.

Note where Christ planned this special convocation—in the air. He could have arranged for it to happen upon earth, or devised it take place in heaven. But instead this celebration will be initiated in the air.

Consider the significance of the following scripture in regard to "the air."

Ephesians 2:2 says, "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."

There is a direct correlation to air and spirit. "Air" comes from a Greek word which means "breath," which is defined in the Greek language as "life, spirit and mind." This is the battleground of Satan in our world. Many downplay what is taking place in these spiritual realms by assessing problems as temporal pitfalls.

The report of an address given before the House Judiciary Committee's sub-committee on May 27, 1999, by Darrell Scott, the father of Rachel Scott, who was a victim of the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, CO, refers to this spiritual battleground.

Mr. Scott said, in part, "The first recorded act of violence was when Cain slew his brother, Abel, out in the field. The villain was not the club he used. The true killer was Cain, and the reason for the murder could only be found in Cain's heart."

"In the days which followed the Columbine tragedy, I was amazed at how quickly fingers began to be pointed at groups such as the NRA. I am not a member of the NRA. I am not a hunter. I do not even own a gun. I am here today to declare that Columbine was not just a tragedy, it was a spiritual evil that should be forcing us to look at where the real blame lies! Much of the blame lies here in this room. Much of the blame lies behind the pointing fingers of the accusers themselves.

"Spiritual influences were present within our educational systems for most of our nation's history. Many of our major colleges began as theological seminaries. This is a historical fact. What has happened to us as a nation?

"We have refused to honor God, and in doing so, we open the doors to hatred and violence. And when something as terrible as Columbine's tragedy occurs, politicians immediately look for a scapegoat such as the NRA. They immediately seek to pass more restrictive laws that contribute to erode our personal and private liberties.

"We do not need more restrictive laws. Eric and Dylan would not have been stopped by metal detectors. No amount of gun laws can stop someone who spends months planning this type of massacre. The real villain lies within our own hearts."

How utterly true that is! The devil has been the prince of the air ever since Adam and Eve opened the door of their minds, hearts and spirits to him. He has polluted the mind, overcome the heart and worked through the spirits of people to do evil.

But, thank God there are some who have found the cleansing power of the blood of Christ and experienced His keeping grace. And Christ has a happening of divine proportions planned for them! He is going to meet the saints in the very seat of authority from which Satan has ruled.

When the trumpet sounds all will experience it. Those prepared for this climactic event will brighten with joy, their hearts leaping with gladness. The minds of those unprepared will recognize the sound and sight with dread, their hearts crying in fear, their spirits hopeless.

Satan will no longer rule the air. Christ's return will mean the ultimate overthrow of corruption and the beginning of the marriage feast of the Lamb.

We are grateful for the way God is blessing

the work here at the Print Shop. We continue to make progress in moving to our new facility. The entire stock of books and tracts has now been transferred and stored at the new location.

Our plans for the month of February are to move the darkroom and offset plate department. Although some work is yet to be completed before the new darkroom is ready, we feel we are on the way to achieving this goal.

Some of our readers are already planning vacations to coincide with various camp meetings. Therefore we plan to print as complete a list of meeting dates as possible in the March *Faith and Victory* paper.

If you desire your camp meeting to be included on this list, please send the necessary information to this office by the 20th of February.

I recently received word from Sis. Charlotte Huskey that she does not feel able to continue writing the Junior *Beautiful Way* Sunday School papers. Sis. Charlotte has done an outstanding job in the past, instructing and inspiring the hearts of many children. We thank her for her faithful, loving labors in this capacity over the last 15 years.

In answer to prayer, Sis. Nelda Sorrell, of the Guthrie congregation, has expressed a burden to take up this responsibility. We are confident that she will excel in fulfilling it, and that the children who read the Sunday School lessons will have something to anticipate.

I also appreciate Sis. Joanna Booher and Sis. Connie Sorrell who edit the Primary *Beautiful Way*. God has blessed them in supplying Christian lesson material.

In like manner, I would also like to recognize all the time and diligent effort put into the writing of the *Bible Lessons* by Bro. Leslie Busbee.

As noted in the "Window to the Past" column, the saints have had the blessing of singing out of the *Evening Light Songs* hymnbook for fifty years. We would like to recognize the part which Sis. Ruthe Taylor, of Kingsburg, CA, had in compiling these inspired hymns while she worked at Faith Publishing House.

Uncle Lawrence Pruitt, who is deceased, was also instrumental in providing the saints with this heritage of songs.

With love in Christ, —Bro. Wayne Murphey

Bro. Donald Sharp has notified us that he has moved in order to be nearer to some of his children. His new address is: 5769 Beth, Huber Heights, OH 45424.



IL—"Bro. Wayne, wife and all at the Print Shop: I am doing fairly well, but not as well as I should. I need prayer for both soul and body. I don't live where I can go to a Church of God."

—Sis. Hallie Pinkerton

"Dear saints: Please add my mother, Sis. Loraine Lucas, to the standing prayer requests list. On Nov. 21, 1999, she took ill while on vacation visiting her children and saints in Oklahoma City, OK. Many of the saints in Bro. Charles Chandler's congregation were at her bedside. Saints in neighboring cities also stopped by to pray and sing songs of encouragement. We believe Mama is still with us because of the saint's prayers everywhere. Also, it is their prayers which have sustained her children through this difficult ordeal.

"Mother has improved a little, but we are looking to the Lord to continue to do a work in her. She is not able to return to her home in Ontario, CA, as of today [Jan. 13].

"Many thanks for the phone calls and love contributions, and to those who have already been praying for our mother."

—Shelia Campbell

FL—"Would you all please remember my dad, Bro. Willard Underdown, in prayer? He is not doing well at all. God has healed him many, many times, and we praise Him for all He has done in the past. Please pray earnestly for him,

if you will."

—Sis. Cheryl Smith

CA—"Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.... My wife is in the hospital with bronchitis. She has been there for five days and doesn't seem to make any progress. Prayer is requested for her, both soul and body."

—Bro. Bob Mickelson

NY—"Please remember me in your prayers. I fell on Aug. 6 and messed up my knee. I still can't walk, and I am in a lot of pain."

—Margie Bolden

SC—"Please pray for me, that I will hold out faithful to the end. Also pray for my children.

—Sis. Lillie Russell

Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Lydia Bennett
 Sis. Alscene Breckenridge
 Bro. Jon Busbee
 Sis. Mamie Butcher
 Bro. Nathan Carver
 Sis. Estelene Cramer
 Bro. Daniel Davis, Jr.
 Bro. Dale Doolittle
 Sis. Elaine Dunn
 Bro. Ben Harrison
 Sis. Janice Johnston
 Bro. Louis Kimble
 Sis. Helen Lambright
 Sis. Betty Lassché
 The Lounds sisters
 Sis. Loraine Lucas
 Sis. Mattie McIntyre
 Sis. Bertha Miles
 Sis. Virginia Myers
 Sis. Dollie O'Neal
 Bro. O. C. Porter
 Sis. Melba Powell
 Sis. Rose Samons
 Sis. Myrtle Savoie
 Bro. Rudolf Schmidt
 Sis. Kay Stover
 The Mitch Taylor family
 Sis. Marie Weatherford
 Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.
 Bro. Max Williamson
 Sis. Esther Wilson



"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day."

—Abraham Lincoln



MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

BAKERSFIELD, CA, REVIVAL

Greetings from the Church of God here at 802 Virginia Ave, Bakersfield, CA. It is almost time again for our annual revival. The date has been set for February 16-20. Lord willing, there will be two services daily on Wednesday through Sunday; at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, Sunday School will begin at 9:30 a.m., worship service at 10:30 a.m. and an afternoon service at 2:30 p.m. We are expecting a special visitation from God to save sinners, sanctify believers and to continue working mightily among us. Come if you can, but if you can't, you too can be a part by praying much for the success of our revival.

For more information, contact our pastor, Bro. Hayward Cox, (661) 366-4718.

**CHURCH OF GOD CAMP MEETING
SOUTH FLORIDA**

The saints in South Florida will be having an annual Spring Camp Meeting. The dates are April 2-9. There will be nightly services at 7:30 and two services on both Sundays. Day services will be announced.

Come praying and expecting a blessing.

The Church's address is 235 NW 47th Street. Lodging and meals will be provided. Motels are also available. You may contact the pastor, Bro. McIntyre, at (305) 233-2166, Bro. Clay at (305) 235-4271 or Bro. Edwards at (305) 258-4925.

—Sis. Florine Edwards

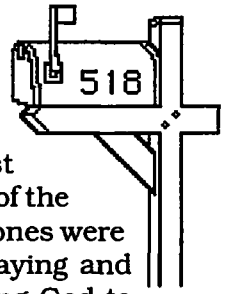


The Master

He never thought it stepping down
to walk with men who earned their bread.
Their joys and woes to share He chose.
He understood the tears they shed.

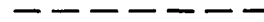
—Selected by Sis. Doris Bowers

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne; Greetings in the name of Jesus, the one that forgives all our iniquities and healeth all our diseases. (Psalm 103:3.) I just recently had two or three days of the flu. I was quite sick. Different ones were praying for me. I also was praying and searching my heart, and asking God to help me on my weak points. I felt God had heard my prayer, and that was a comfort to me. Then the first thing I knew, He had touched me and healed my body. I have gained more faith and love for God and for His Word. He also has increased my joy. One scripture says, "The joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10. Thank the Lord for His kindness and tender mercy.



Your saved and sanctified brother,

—T. V. McMillian



NE—I thank God every day because I had the privilege of being raised in a Christian home and was taught right from wrong.

Although I suffered a major stroke in October of 1998, and have been disabled since then, had two more light strokes and another bad stroke on December 8th of 1999, my trust is still in the Lord and He blesses me each day. Please pray for me that I might have complete healing. I know that with God all things are possible.

My family has been very supportive of me and I appreciate all their care and concern. I am now making my home with my oldest daughter and I couldn't ask for better care. I count my blessings every day.

I really enjoy the *Faith and Victory* and enjoy the testimonies by the saints.

May God bless each and every one.

A thankful sister, —Violet Sinkhorn



Canada—Dear friends in the Lord: I would like to give a word of encouragement: "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9.

That is a wonderful word. God has promised to be with His children whatever their motive, as long as they keep His commandments.

I pray that God may bless His mission through Faith Publishing House and that many might find the truth and forgiveness by reading

the *Faith and Victory* paper. May God richly bless and guide you in this new millennium...

Yours in the Lord, —Johan Friesen



CA—Dear saints: Greetings of love to you all at the Faith Publishing House. I am thankful to be saved and am very much encouraged to live for the dear Lord. He is so good to us.

I am thankful to see another year and want to do more for the Lord in this year than I did last year....

You all are doing a wonderful work. —Sis. Earleen Jackson



KY—Dear saints: Hello. My name is Sis. Priscilla Cooper. I attend the Church of God in Garrison, KY. I have been saved since November of 1997. The Lord has been so good to all of the saints in our congregation.

God has healed me many times when I was sick and I praise Him for that. I also would like to thank the Lord for being with our family through all of our trials and battles. He has been there to comfort us when we lost our loved ones. Sis. Lillian Cooper, our grandmother, was killed in a car accident on June 21, 1999, and we also lost our aunt, Sis. Nancy Nadine Woodruff, on October 9, 1999, due to an extended illness. I would like to thank all of the saints for their prayers, which went up for us during these times.

Continue to remember all of my loved ones who are lost. Pray for me that I will stay true to the Lord. Remember our congregation that we will keep going on for the Lord, that we will keep pressing the battle on until the victory is won.

Christian love, —Sis. Priscilla Cooper



FL—Bro. Wayne and Sis. Murphey: Greetings in Jesus' name. I am so thankful God has spared me to see my 88th birthday. I love to serve my Jesus, and am very thankful He gave me this great salvation.

I am having a problem with my right foot and am looking to Jesus to heal it. Please remember me in prayer. I know that Jesus never fails.

Love and prayers, —Kathleen Williams



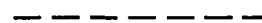
KY—I was on my way home late one night, and I still had a good ways to go when my car suddenly made a horrible sound. It scounded like I had a flat tire. All I heard was this hissing sound, and when I accelerated the car it would barely move. So there I was out on the back

roads of Kentucky in the curves and hills. I was scared at first when I thought I was going to have to get out in the pitch dark and find a house in order to call for a ride. Well, since my car didn't completely die, I thought I could just putt-putt the rest of the way home, until I realized that I most likely would not make it up the last big hill before reaching home. I got worried.

I then began to remember my cousin, Bro. Matthew, telling about his wife's car quitting on her. He had asked the Lord to start the car to prevent them from having it towed in. At last he reminded the Lord of His promises to His children when we have "faith as a grain of mustard seed." (Matthew 17:20.) Then the car immediately started on the next try and was fine.

So as I was remembering this, I too reminded the Lord of His promises and told Him that I knew He was still on His throne and could see that His child was in need. I told Him I had the faith of a grain of mustard seed...that He could fix the problem and get me home soon. Then immediately the car went boom and was back to normal! I began crying and praising the Lord for His wonderful blessings! It was only the soot that needed to be backfired out of the tail pipe, and possibly more, but my dear Lord took care of it. He is my daily blessing.

—Sis. Saprena Cooley



OR—Dearest loved ones at the Print Shop: May God bless you all for the great work you do. Our Father truly is a strength to all in His Holy Kingdom. The battle between right and wrong is truly fierce, and it seems so few people understand it.

I can understand the writing of the true fathers of God's Kingdom more every day—Warner, Riggle, Smith, Pruitt—and have received all their books from your publishing house.

Pray that I will be an encouragement to others as you all have been to me.

I thank God, our Father, that He has set eternity in my heart and soul and no earthly thing satisfies me, only the peace that passes all understanding. (Philippians 4:7.) Praise His holy name!

My love and prayers to all there, —Betty Anderson



KS—Dear ones at the Print Shop: Greetings

to all the saints. Thanks for sending me the *Faith and Victory*. I enjoy reading it so very much.

My dear husband has been gone on for five years. I miss him so very much. I am 81 years old and God has been so good to me down through these many years.

I am not very well, but I trust God to help me and give me grace to stay true to the very end. Sometimes I long to go on and be with all the dear ones that have gone on to a better place.

I have some loved ones who are not saved. Pray for God to save them before it is too late.

Christian love, —Margaret Angle



LETTERS FROM THE MISSION FIELDS



From India...

December 17, 1999—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints everywhere: Happy New Year greetings to you in the glorious name of Jesus.

We are under preparation now for our 35th General Convention which will be held during the second week of January, 2000.

Persecutions have already started against Christians, even in our state.

All of our congregations are going on fine. We will have a special meeting at Kothamangalam for two days, for which I plan to go tomorrow.

May God keep and protect the saints everywhere. Our prayers are for your work in the Faith Publishing House.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese



From the Philippines...

December 21, 1999—Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey: Greetings of Christian love to you and your dear family, and to all the dear saints abroad.

Thank you so much for the *Faith and Victory* which is a very encouraging paper of the Church of God, full of information and learning...

Thank you so much for your unfailing concern for our tabernacle. At first our brothers and sisters made plans to hold our camp meeting during the last week of December, this year, in the Mount Zion Tabernacle. But only the other day, they changed their minds because there is

no place for them to sleep, especially since some mothers are planning to bring their small babies with them. So it will be done in Sibut, and they are now busy preparing their activities and their accommodations. They are all very eager to experience a meeting in the tabernacle.

I am writing this letter here in Guimba. Thank the Lord, I am happy in my new home, thinking that I am serving my Lord for the salvation of precious souls. I thank Him so much for giving me the opportunity for this most noble task while I have still life and a little strength, although I often got sick because of my allergies. While I am writing this letter I have a cold and am a little bit dizzy. December is the coolest month of the year.

I am so happy to report to you that the gospel work here is progressing with the Lord's help and guidance. There were some hindrances, trials and persecutions. I feel that the enemy is working against me trying to hinder the work, but thank the Lord, as my personal Savior, I feel His presence and He is in control of the situation.

I am a stranger in this place but I always pray fervently, and thanks be to our faithful Lord, He is giving me strength to stand firm and preach the truth with peace. Many are now becoming interested to study the Bible so my time is full of Bible studies every day.

Again, I say thank you so much for your unending love for us in the Philippines. I covet your fervent prayers for us. We are praying for you.

Your brother,

—Matias S. Tangunan and family



From Malawi...

December 8, 1999—Dear Bro. Wayne: First of all, we send greetings in the name of Jesus Christ here in Malawi. We are all well.

The main information that we want to tell you is that God is giving grace here in Malawi. We had meetings in Mozambique on October 3rd and October 17th, and in Malawi on November 17th, November 28th and December 5th, and at Zomba on November 21st.

We thank you very much at Faith Publishing House for working hard so that others can be blessed. I get ideas from reading the news from there. Please carry a burden for the work here in Malawi.

We plan to have a women's meeting at Zomba. The request is that we need help to buy

maize to grind to feed them, because we will have many people attending. We need 5 bags of maize and 30 chickens. This meeting will be held in June, 2000.

Lastly, may God be with you and everyone there.

Yours in love, —Pastor Failos Namaozongo

— — — — —

From Mexico...

January 13, 2000—Yesterday I read about Dr. Staines and his two sons, Philip, nine, and Timothy, six, being burned to death. Dr. Staines had helped translate the New Testament into Ho, one of the tribal languages of India. He and his two sons were asleep in their jeep when Hindu extremists bathed it with gasoline and set fire to it.

I said, "Thank you God for freedom from persecution here in Mexico." But sometimes we feel sharp rejection from "professing Christians" causing us tears, but amidst it all, God is blessing. Almost daily He gives one of us some encouraging promise. Also we are seeing some very positive results from our outreach projects. The Lord has used Bro. Saul in talking to people about their need of salvation and three of one family have claimed salvation, and two more are under conviction. Some of the children in the condo complex have been touched and have prayed for Jesus to come into their hearts. Today one of the newly saved women came to our home to be anointed for healing.

Tuesday morning, James, with a director of the rehabilitation center, went to the hospital and got a fellow out that had tried to take his own life. We gathered at Tim's house for a noon prayer meeting and prayed that the powers of evil would be broken, and that this disturbed fellow would be cooperative and get on the bus to go to his family. Bro. Marcos asked to be anointed and prayed for. He had an affliction on his body. Thank the Lord, in both cases the Lord did answer. James and the director felt the presence of the Lord as they had no trouble putting this fellow on a bus going directly to his home town. Also, the next day Bro. Marcos said, "I woke up feeling like a new man."

As James was visiting in the hospital a lady asked him to pray for her husband who was in a coma. The following day the man was alert and thanked James for praying and asked him to pray again. Bro. Marcos went back to the hospital to donate blood for him and found that he had passed away. The wife could not make

contact with her son to take care of arrangements, so James recorded the death certificate and got a permit to transport the coffin, made of half inch particle board, in our pickup to their home about 100 miles south of Ensenada. They were able to minister to the neighbors of these needy people who have seasonal work harvesting vegetables and flowers grown for export to the States.

Our theme song for the last month has been #246 in the Evening Light Songs, "I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go."

"It may not be on the mountain's height,
Or over the stormy sea;
It may not be at the battle's front
My Lord will have need of me;
But if by a still small voice he calls
To paths that I do not know,
I'll answer, dear Lord, with my hand in
thine,
I'll go where you want me to go."

Sometimes we do not understand the path in which God leads. The question is, "Are we willing to hold His hand and go wherever He leads?" It is easy to say, but hard to rearrange duties and make time to do.

Bro. Joe Fine and family left for Italy. They plan to be gone three weeks. We greatly miss them in helping to teach the gospel workers that are here in training. Pray that their trip will be fruitful for the Lord.

Tim, with the boys in training, is building a bathroom for a family expecting an addition to their family. They almost have our wrecked van rebuilt so we can use it again.

We are praying for the gospel workers in Sinaloa, that they will keep encouraged, and reaching out to lost souls. Bro. Saul would like to go encourage his street gang friends that are now going to church there in Culiacan.

We appreciate the dear saints who stand behind us with prayers and offerings. We depend on the Lord and He uses you dear ones to make it easier to continue going and doing what the Lord directs us to do.

—Sis. Charlotte Huskey

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

"I have heard many great orators," said Louis XIV to Massilon, "and have been highly pleased with them; but whenever I hear you, I go away displeased with myself."



Henrietta (Pat) Blackwell Francisco, the second child of J. K. and Frances Blackwell, was born February 20, 1920, in Bristow, OK.

During her early childhood she attended Sunny Slope Elementary School and later continued her education at Bristow High School. In 1936, when the J. K. Blackwell family migrated to Bakersfield, CA, Sis. Pat attended Kern County Union High School. She also became involved in a federal program designed to help young women become better homemakers.

Sis. Pat was united in holy matrimony to Otis Francisco on December 27, 1940, a union that lasted more than fifty years, until the Lord called her husband home in July, 1999. This couple was blessed with nine children, four girls and five boys. Two children, and her husband, preceded her in death.

As a child, Sis. Pat gave her heart to the Lord. Later in life she rededicated her life to God and lived faithful, vividly demonstrating the gift of hospitality as she served the Church and others heartily as unto the Lord. Like Dorcas, of Acts 9:36, Sis. Pat "was full of good works and almsdeeds."

In 1969, Sis. Pat and Bro. Otis, and their two youngest children, returned to Boley, OK, where they lived for thirteen years. There she was active in the Church in various positions; teaching children in Sunday School and also leading the congregation in singing. She was employed at the Boley Nursing Home.

Sis. Pat's last two years were spent in Grand Prairie, TX. After the death of her husband, she returned to Bakersfield, living with her two daughters, Shirley and Odessa, and her sister, Janice Herring.

Her husband, children, parents, brothers

and sisters preceded her in death, but she leaves precious memories to be cherished by three daughters, Shirley Brown of Francisco, CA, Odessa and Cebron Bradford of Bakersfield, CA, Kathy and Gary Reeves of Grand Prairie, TX; four sons, Otis and Melba, Raymond and Herman, all of Bakersfield, CA, Leo and Denise of Prague, OK; seventeen grandchildren, twenty-four great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild and one sister, Janice Herring. Five other children whom she loved are Ruth, Jones, Fleta King, Clarence Brown, Charlesetta, Elotis and Andrea Bradford, as well as a host of relatives and friends.

— — — — —
Pauline Louise Bettis Hall, daughter of John James and Artie Lee (Reid) Bettis, was born March 10, 1908, in rural Harper County, south of Anthony, KS.

She finished grade school at the Burchfiel grade school, which her father and mother had attended in their school days. Pauline graduated from Spring Township High School, then attended Southwestern College at Winfield, KS, and Emporia State Teachers' College at Emporia, KS. After obtaining her teaching certificate, she taught school for three years.

In 1930, Pauline was married to Lawrence E. Hall, whom she met while attending Southwestern College. Lawrence taught and coached athletics in high schools at Bushton, Sublette and Garden City, KS.

When Lawrence took a job with International Harvester Company, they moved to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Chicago, Kansas City and Indianapolis.

Pauline and Lawrence were living in San Francisco in 1941 when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. They were greatly concerned that San Francisco would be bombed. They left San Francisco by auto via the Bay Bridge and were held up for hours by the congested traffic of others who were also evacuating the city. They feared every moment they might be bombed, but made it safely to Oakland.

In 1967, they moved to Wichita, KS, where they made their home for the remainder of their lives.

After returning to Kansas, Pauline attended services at the Church of God, where she was converted and baptized.

Pauline had a very kind, gracious person-

ality. If there was a need, she was willing and ready to do what she could to help. She had no children, but her nieces and nephews were very dear to her, as she was to them.

On Monday, January 17, 2000, Pauline passed away at Wichita.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and husband in 1984.

Pauline will be greatly missed by her two sisters, Margaretta Kennedy and Evelyn Pickerill, both of Wichita, KS; three nieces, Carolyn Denver of Wichita, KS, Dana Kretz of Olympia, WA, and Patty Ahrberg of Cushing, OK; three nephews, John Kennedy and Bill Kennedy, both of Wichita, KS, and James Hall of Tory, OH; three grandnieces; four grand-nephews; other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held in the Williams Funeral Home chapel, Anthony, KS, officiated by Bro. Wayne Murphey. Sis. Pauline was laid to rest in the Forest Park Cemetery, Anthony, KS.

— — — — —

Sis. Lucille (or better known to many as "Pete") **Kinchen Young** was born to Richard and Nora McCullen Kinchen. She resided and worked in the Hammond, LA, area most of her life. The Lord took her home to be with Him on January 5, 2000, at the age of 76.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Nora McCullen Kinchen; her husband, Alfred Young; a brother, John Nolan Kinchen, a sister, Irma Lee Butler; and her son-in-law, Vincent P. Adams, Sr.

She leaves to cherish her memory her beloved daughter, Carol K. Adams, her sister and constant buddy, Guy Kinchen Domin; and many nieces and nephews.

Sis. Lucille was buried in the Kinchen cemetery in Albany, LA. Sis. Karen LaCroix and Bro. Steve Elston officiated at the services.

Sis. Lucille was a people person. She loved people and relished the love bestowed upon her. She loved doing things for others and put her whole heart and life into it. We will miss her ready smile.

We thank the Lord that Sis. Lucille gave her heart to Him. Her heart's desire was that the Lord would have His way in her earthen temple. She once said, "I am thankful for my affliction." She acknowledged that it drew her to the Lord. Pray for her loved ones in their grief

Master of My Fate

by Mary Murphey

"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." Proverbs 15:1.

"He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly:..." Proverbs 14:17.

"I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul," wrote William Earnest Henley in his poem *Invictus*. Those words came to mind one day after hearing a news story on the radio.

It seems a motorist had nearly collided with a man on a bicycle. The close encounter frightened the cyclist badly, and he reacted by pounding his fists on the hood of the car. The pounding, in turn, enraged the motorist, who waited until the cyclist got in front of the car, and then rammed the bicycle repeatedly. The result—a dead cyclist.

As I listened to the news story, I was appalled at such barbaric behavior. However, in considering the incident, I came to the conclusion that the story could have ended another way.

Suppose the cyclist had reacted differently to the near collision? What if he had not responded in anger to the motorist's oversight? Perhaps the driver of the car would have felt embarrassment for the stress caused, and behaved apologetically. But when the cyclist reacted with violence, the driver responded with the same.

The incident reminded me of a time when I attempted to back my car out of a driveway. I failed to notice an approaching vehicle, and nearly ran into it. Stopping just in time, I waited, expecting the driver to move on down the street, but that's not what happened.

The car remained motionless. The five female passengers glared at me with hostility, none of their faces conveying the least bit of friendly forgiveness.

It wasn't hard to determine that this was an awkward and even dangerous situation. I knew if I did not react properly, the status of "battered woman" might apply to me. It was a time to choose the path of prudence. I offered an apologetic smile and a feeble little wave which meant, "Oh, how foolish I've been." And it was amazing how quickly attitudes changed. The tension of the moment was broken. The girls relaxed into

laughter before moving on down the street. I went on my way relieved and unmolested, convinced that an apologetic attitude had saved my skin.

In this era of "road rage," a gracious response can prevent disaster.

I like the way one woman described the response of her boss to similar tensions in life. She said that he always tried to create a win-win situation for everyone. He taught that treating others with respect was the only way to earn respect, and that everything we do has the potential to affect those around us. He said that if our behavior isn't governed by the effect it has on others, "sorry" may not be enough to repair the damage.

Her comments bring to mind the shootings which occurred last year at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. Coverage on the tragedy included reports about how the students who did the killing had been treated by classmates. While nothing can excuse their evil, one wonders if the crime was triggered, in part, by accumulated bitterness over personal wrongs.

The fact is, there is a principle of sowing and reaping. What we put into other people's lives does have a cumulative effect. It's nearsighted to believe we can say or do whatever we feel, without it producing results.

You've heard it said that "what goes around comes around," and "you reap what you sow." Those sayings are more than clichés. They are principles from God's Word. And our choice to regard or discard them will surely come back to haunt or bless us, even as history proves.

For instance, the story is told of a Christian who operated a trading post in the 1800's.

The Indians had gone on the warpath and were plundering and killing settlers in the area where the store owner lived. However, because the Christian had consistently treated everyone, including the Native Americans, with respect, his life was spared. The Indians had high regard for him because of the courtesy he had shown them. His own conduct, it seemed, determined his fate, or in this case, his fortune.

Our conduct can determine ours also. The challenge is to remember this in a moment of intense emotion, and to respond with wisdom.

Accidents and injustices will come our way

unwarranted, but we can limit the amount of suffering we bring on ourselves by showing self-control.

The next time you're nearly run over, or almost collide with someone, as I did, backing out of the drive, don't pound a hood or carry a grudge. Just offer an apologetic wave as if to say, "It's all my fault." You may just save yourself some serious consequences. And you will have been, to some extent, the master of your fate.

Nabal, Master of His Fate

I Samuel 25

A certain man in Maon, who had property at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel. His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband was surly and mean in his dealings.

While David was in the desert, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep. So he sent ten young men and said to them, "Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name. Say to him: 'Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!'"

"Now I hear that it's sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing. Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore be favorable toward my young men. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them."

When David's men arrived, they gave Nabal this message in David's name. Then they waited.

Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days. Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?"

David's men turned around and went back. They reported every word. David said to his men, "Put on your swords!"

One of the servants told Nabal's wife Abigail: "David sent messengers from the desert to give our master his greetings but he hurled insults

"The fact is, there is a principle of sowing and reaping. What we put into other people's lives has a cumulative effect."

at them. Yet these men were very good to us. Night and day they were a wall around us all the time we were herding our sheep near them. Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him."

Abigail lost no time. She took bread, wine, sheep, grain and cakes of raisins and figs and loaded them on donkeys. But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward her. David had just said, "It's been useless—all my watching over this fellow's property in the desert so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good. May God deal with David, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!"

When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David. She said: "My Lord, please let your servant speak to you. Pay no attention to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name is Fool, and folly goes with him. But as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my master sent. Let this gift be given to the men who follow you. Please forgive your servant's offense."

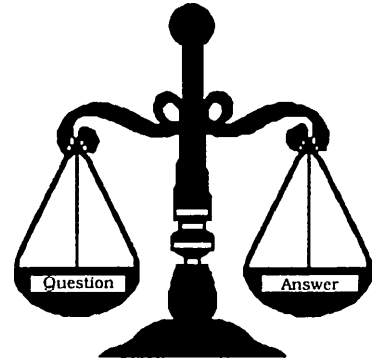
David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you today. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. As surely as the Lord lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak."

Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, "Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request."

When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing until daybreak. Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone. About ten days later, the Lord struck Nabal and he died.

When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Praise be to the Lord, who has upheld my cause against Nabal for treating me with contempt. He has kept his servant from doing wrong and has brought Nabal's wrongdoing down on his own head."

Where's the Balance?



By Wayne Murphey

Question: As I was reading the 99th chapter of Psalms I took time on verse 8. My question concerns the last two words, "their inventions." This is referring to Moses and Aaron. If you could expound on this, I would be blessed.

Answer: Here is Psalm 99:6-8 in its entirety. "Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among them that call upon his name; they called upon the Lord, and he answered them. He spake unto them in the cloudy pillar: they kept his testimonies, and the ordinance that he gave them. Thou answeredst them, O Lord our God: thou wast a God that forgavest them, though thou tookest vengeance of their inventions."

The word "inventions" used in this verse comes from a Hebrew word meaning "a performance of man, often in a bad sense." It also comes from the root of another Hebrew word meaning, "maltreat, be saucy to, pain, impose, abuse, affect, defile, mock,..."

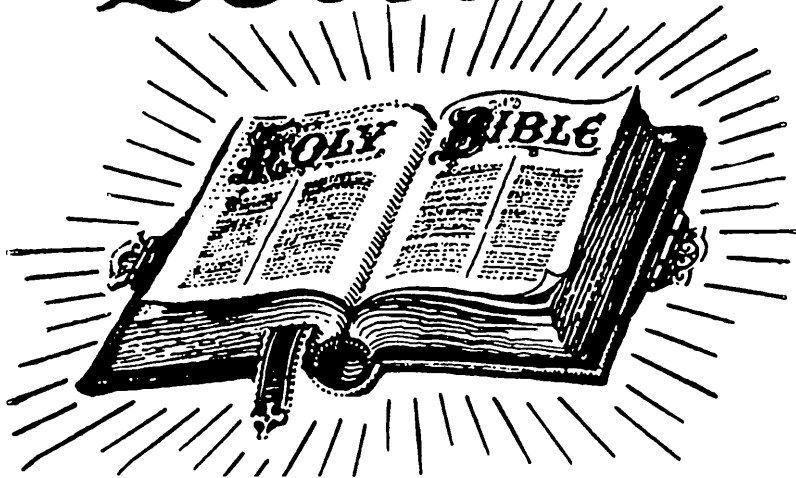
With this understanding the verse could read, "O Lord our God, thou didst answer them; thou wast a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their sins."

There are some Bible commentators who feel that God was talking in general to the nation of Israel when He said that He was an avenger of their sins or wrong doings. But it seems that there is plenty of evidence that He was speaking specifically of Moses, Aaron and Samuel.

Both Moses and Aaron angered God at Meribah

(Continued on page 16.)

Bible Lessons



**Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord,
we are CHANGED” II Cor. 3:18**

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when they took the credit for bringing water out of the rock. Here is how God took vengeance upon it. "And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them." Numbers 20:12.

The scriptures indicate that Samuel's judgeship was brought to an end by the people whose excuse was his leniency towards his sons. (I Sam. 8:5.)

A noteworthy observation is that although God punished their sins, He was compassionate towards them. Although we cannot presume upon the mercy of God, we can depend upon His forgiveness to pardon every transgression. Moses was human and had his failures, but he was still recorded as a hero of faith. (Heb. 11.)



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FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY



**Excerpts Taken From
Feb., 1950 Faith and Victory**

"The Lord has so blessed that we have the new song book entitled, *Evening Light Songs*, completed."

"Sister Ruthe Byers, who has been a worker here in the Lord's Print Shop for more than a year, has returned to Shreveport, LA. She has been a faithful servant in the Lord's work, and we all pray that God's blessings will be richly bestowed upon her in all of her new fields of labor.

"Sister Lois Whipple, of Forest City, MO, has taken her place in the Print Shop and is adapting herself to the work nicely. She has had some experience in typesetting, so has been operating the Intertype machine here.

"Last summer I went out to the cemetery here at Guthrie to look for Bro. and Sis. George Winn's graves, better known among the saints as Father and Mother Winn. I went to the place where they were buried, but found no marker or headstone, and I was not certain which were their graves, so I had to get the keeper to locate them for me. As I meditated upon the matter, my heart was saddened to think that these two dear saints who had been pillars in the church for years should be thus treated. The Lord put it in my heart to do something about it. We asked the saints in the recent Assembly Meeting for a free-will offering to pay for a stone for their graves, and the offering was \$40.00. We want to have these words engraved upon the stone: 'They have fought a good fight; they have kept the faith.'"

—Bro. Fred Pruitt