

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 78, No. 5 78th Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$3.00 Per Year July, 2000

Little Things

'Tis the little kindly acts you do
That heartens one along,
And sends the friend away from you
With glad and happy song.

'Tis the little word you're led to say
Which touched that other life,
And gave it nerve and strength again
To conquer in the strife.

'Tis just the secret little talk
With Jesus by the way.
That keeps you loving, true to Him
In all you do and say.

—Maud Rose

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What Do You Do?

By Bro. James McMurrin

I was recently asked, "What does a normal Christian do with this life?" Although it may sound trivial on the surface, it is truly an important question. The person in question was puzzled and discouraged.

So many people think that when God controls and directs their lives they are going to embark on some big project. They read and listen to stories of great Christians who did all sorts of things and spent their lives touching thousands or millions. Then they hear about all of the wonderful services that Christians do, all of the things done to promote Christ. They look at their own lives and feel lost. Somehow, God never seems to have told them His great big plan for their lives.

Let's look at a parable in which Jesus explained how God deals with those who serve Him.

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability: and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two." Matthew 25:14-17.

Here we have three servants who were given

You're Invited! National Camp Meeting Monark Springs, MO July 21-30

money by their Master to take care of. Note that there is not a word mentioned as to any instructions he left. They came in, he divided up his goods, and gave it to them. "Here, these are yours to take care of now," he probably said and then left. He didn't tell them what to do with them, but they knew that it was his assets they had been given, and they also knew that someday they would have to give an account for them. The first two servants, then, proceeded with their own idea of what to do with their master's goods. They went and traded them. That means they took them to the marketplace—they went out into the wide world beyond their master's property, and they dealt with the goods he had given them. They used those goods in order to increase them, dealing with people who almost certainly did not know or even care who their master was. Their goal then, was to take what they had been given and to make it better. They weren't given instructions on how, but they knew where to go to do it, and they succeeded.

traded. Trading was something everyone did. It is the flow of goods, services and money which lets any society provide for the people in it. Everyone trades. We trade. We trade both literally, with our own money, and figuratively, in the sense that we trade ideas, habits, mannerisms, values, attitudes and many other things which are traded not in money but in the way we live our lives. These are the goods the Lord has entrusted to us, and our goal then becomes to engage in trade—to live our lives so that the things He gives us are increased. Remember that trade is a day to day activity. I'm sure the servants in this parable did not go out and in one day, or in one trade, double their money. It took time, effort, research and doing it consistently to yield results.

The danger, as outlined by the last servant, is to take what God gives us, and to be so fearful of losing it that we hide it. It is easy to laugh, or to shake your head and wonder about that servant's stupidity. But he represents the normal, natural fear in all of us. To an extent, it is

"What you dwell on is what you get. If you dwell on failure (the stormy seas of life), you will fail. If you dwell on your goal (God), you will proceed towards it."

"But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money." Matthew 25:18.

The other servant was given the same sort of responsibility. He, too, knew that he would given an accounting. As he later said, "he was afraid." He was afraid to lose what he had been given. He was afraid it would be hurt. He was afraid that he wouldn't be able to handle it anywhere outside the safe confines of his personal property. So he hid it. It may not have been gaining anything, but at least he still had it.

We, too, are in this same position. It isn't just money God has given us, but our abilities, the place we live, the people we are around, and all of the many opportunities of our situation which only He knows in full. We have two choices. We know that God has placed us here. We know that we are to serve Him. We know that one day we will give an accounting; so in the meantime, what do we do? The first two servants went out into the world and there they

actually good—we have been given an important responsibility and we should treat it seriously. But it's not something to hide or to worry about losing. Someone who continually worries about whether or not they are losing out is not someone who is growing—growing in God, or in what God gave them. What you dwell on is what you get. If you dwell on failure (the stormy seas of life), you will fail. If you dwell on your goal (God), you will proceed towards it.

There is another section to this parable which brings out another thought: "After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me

two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matthew 25:19-23.

Note the phrase that their master used to praise them, "Thou hast been faithful over a few things." Although what we have may seem overwhelming to us, it is good to remember that God's perspective is different from ours. It doesn't seem that big to Him, but also, we need to remember what little He has given us is what He expects us to use.

This, then, is the key that lets us truly begin a life for God. We know what to do—*increase the things He has given us*. We know where to do it—*do it in all of our lives, and wherever we find ourselves*. And we also know that it is not something that is done in one big project, one big deal, or in one huge task. It is done small, on a daily basis, and with the final goal continually in mind.

It has been said, "Life is no big mystery. It's lots of little ones!" That can well apply here. If you feel overwhelmed wondering, "What does God want me to do with my life?" don't look for some huge undertaking that you're missing out on. Look at the little things in front of you. Remember, the master's servants were given a few things, not many. They were not entrusted with many until *after* they had proven themselves faithful with a few. Their master didn't expect them to immediately take over his entire estate. He split up parts of it as he saw fit.

So, instead of asking, "What does God want to do with my life?" ask "What does God want me to do *today*?" What thing, or things, have you been putting off? What time do you need to spend in some place that you hadn't been considering? Who would benefit from a thoughtful word or a helping hand in some, perhaps trivial, task? Ask God, seek His will, and not just for the "big mystery" of life, but for all of the little ones. Once you learn to find and take care of the little things, you will find you are more open and ready to receive the big things. If the "big thing" never comes along, I suggest you look back upon that life of little things. You will find that they did amount to a far bigger and more important thing than any huge task you could have undertaken yourself.

Where Is Now Thy God?

A Tale of The French Revolution

By James F. Cobb

(Continued from last month.)

Meanwhile the mob rent the air with their exclamations of wild delight. Then a well-dressed man stood on a step and made a signal. Silence immediately followed.

"Citizens," cried he, "to the tribunal! smite the bloodhounds dead! They have murdered long enough. It is high time for their turns to come."

These words kindled the popular feeling like a spark which falls into a powder barrel. In a few minutes the street was empty. The crowd turned to the building in which that morning the tribunal had held its sitting. They found no one there; judges and bailiffs had fled in good time. They had expected this event. The people vented their fury on the building. All the documents were torn, the windows were broken, the furniture thrown out, burned, and destroyed, and of the massive house only the bare walls remained. The prison, too, was demolished. The destruction here completed, a portion of the mob turned to the market place. There the guillotine was broken to pieces. Afterwards the people dispersed, crying "Vivé in République," and most of them resorted to the public houses, which were soon filled. It was as if they were celebrating a great victory while for many the day had ended in defeat.

Kerner and Laforest were treated as brothers by the kind citizen and his family. The former soon won their love by his gentle sympathizing manner: the latter was regarded with a kind of terror by the younger portion of the family. He had hastily eaten a few mouthfuls of bread and drunk two glasses of wine, and then he sat dumb and silent, staring at one place, his face covered by a ghastly pallor. It seemed as if he did not hear a word of all which the kind citizen and the friend of his youth said to cheer and arouse him from his gloomy silence. At last Kerner stood up, shook his host by the hand, and said,—

"Accept many hearty thanks, citizens. I have now a sacred duty to fulfill. My poor wife, my mother, and my children are at home in dreadful anxiety about me. They have, perhaps, given me up for lost. I must hasten to them. I will see if I can find an extra post."

(Continued on page 14.)

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, 4318 S. Division, 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, 4318 S. Division, 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.faithpublishing.com>

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

EDITORIALS

For many people, the world we live in is nothing more than a stage on which to perform. Society is swept away in the admiration of those who perform the best, whether in entertainment or the business realm. From childhood up there is a feverish pitch to out perform competition.

This same characteristic can even invade the religious world. There are those who employ nearly any type of gimmick in order to swell the numbers on a membership roll. This is their focus. For others, the emphasis is on how much money can be raised so that "good deeds" can be financed.

This mentality is foreign and contrary to the life which Christ lived. To perform means to do something in order to receive recognition, whether it be applause or promotion. Applause and promotion may come our way, but these should not be the force motivating our spiritual walk, or the work of the Lord.

When Christ met blind Bartimaeus outside of Jericho, He did a wonderful thing—He healed him! Notice how Jesus did it. He simply told Bartimaeus, "Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole." There was no grandstanding by Christ, but a practical application of God's power. His was a service to mankind, not a performance. The two are as opposite as pride and humility.

A worthy question for all of us to ponder from time to time is: **Does my Christian life include any performing?**

To help answer that, ask yourself another question. Am I motivated by what people think? This can get real close. Consider it closely.

Why do we do what we do?

Do we talk, act or dress a particular way in order to receive the approval of others? Do we preach and teach certain things because we want our numbers to swell or because we want certain conditions to exist? What is our true purpose, reason and motive? Are our actions an earnest effort to honor God or are our decisions politically motivated? Is our desire to be in harmony with God, to be His servant, imparting the essence of eternal life to others, or do we prefer to impress people with our own holiness? Is our focus to minister God's grace in such a sweet, humble way that it will draw sinners to salvation, and saints to service? Or are we set upon establishing ourselves as "pillars of righteousness?" Is our supreme desire to humble ourselves before God and do His will, with His heart, with His love, with His spirit—with the true quality of His grace? Let us ask ourselves again, "Are we performing?"

God instituted a divine Church upon earth in which the Holy Spirit is the source of its inspiration. We cannot afford to go outside the boundaries of God's Spirit and operate in the flesh, even for what we perceive as "the cause." Our goal must be to pattern ourselves after the spirit and life of Jesus Christ, and that exclusively.

God's Word tells us that in a future event this world will stop its orbit with a jolt and eternity will descend upon us. If at that time we have lived our lives as a performance, all the applause of men will mean nothing. It will vanish in an instant. All that will be left will be dry disappointment. Jesus stated it this way, "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 6:1.

Those whose lives and works have been truly motivated by God's Holy Spirit, will hear these words on that day, "His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matt. 25:23.

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We are thankful for the way things are progressing here at the Print Shop. In the last month, a sizeable amount of literature has been printed and processed.

For several months we have been operating the offices, mail room, store area and darkroom in the new Print Shop facility, and we have immensely enjoyed the wonderful accommodations. The fresh environment provides a real uplift in which to work.

Since it is our usual custom to omit printing the August *Faith and Victory*, our plans are to move the presses and bindery department to the new facility either the last of July or first of August, depending upon the availability of electricians and moving equipment. We ask for your prayers that this can be expedited efficiently.

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As noted on the front page of this *Faith and Victory*, the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, MO, will be held, Lord willing, July 21-30. The Print Shop Bookstore on the camp grounds will be stocked and open for your convenience. We invite everyone to stop in and see what is available.

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We have an ongoing thanksgiving in our hearts for those who continue to support the gospel printing work. It requires much to sustain an operation of this sort and it could not be accomplished without those who carry a burden and an interest for the work of the Lord here. May God bless each of you is our prayer.

Love in Christ, —Bro. Wayne Murphey



Grand Cayman—"I ask you all to remember me in prayer; also my family." —Carmen Wilson

OK—"I need your prayers for health, and that I will get closer to God." —Sis. Mildred Hall

OH—"Some of my family need God, so please pray for them. Pray for me and my wife as we need God to heal our bodies."

—Bro. Chester and Sis. Velma Dunaway

GA—"Please put me on the prayer list for prayer. I have osteoporosis and high blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes. I am 80 years old and often have falls.

"Pray also for my daughter, Irma Hardy; son, Steve Hardy; nephew, John Robinson and granddaughter, Esther Gordon."

—Sis. Esther Wilson

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. Mary Hughes

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. Violet Sinkhorn
 Sis. Kay Stover
 The Mitch Taylor family
 Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.
 Bro. Max Williamson
 Sis. Esther Wilson



**Ministers at the Hammond, LA,
 Camp Meeting
 Approximately 1945.**

Camp Meeting Dates-2000

Loranger, LA—July 2-9
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 21-30
Myrtle, MO—August 2-6
Bakersfield, CA—August 9-13
Boley, OK—August 24-27
California State (Pacolina)—Aug. 25-Sept. 3
Duncannon, PA—September 13-17
Wichita, KS—September 15-24
Phelan/Baldy, CA—October 11-15

LORANGER, LA CAMP MEETING

It's not too early to lay up prayers for the summer meetings, "for lo the fields are white already to harvest!" The camp meeting services here at Loranger are to convene July 2-9, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Let us search and prepare our hearts that the meeting will be the means of encouragement, salvation and "times of refreshing." We must "with one accord" intercede for our land, children and ourselves. See the last verse of Malachi.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Power and water hookups are provided for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40.)

For more information, write Nelson Doolittle: 51367 Narretto Rd., Loranger, LA 70446. Phone: (504) 878-6111. The chapel phone is: (504) 878-2788.

NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 21-30, 2000. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

The Monark Springs campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and 3/4 mile south of the intersection of Highways 86 and 59.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may telephone the campground, (417) 472-6427, or Bro. Mike Hightower, (417) 451-3636, for transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or lodging on the campgrounds. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident that God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space and trailer spots are available on a first-come basis. Family units are also available.

All correspondence about dormitory space and family units should be addressed to Sis. DeLoris Bradley, 1540 2000 Rd., Bartlett, KS 67332. Phone (316) 226-3390.

The business managers are Randel Bradley

(above address), and Mike Hightower, 13974 Newt Dr., Neosho, MO 64850. Phone, (417) 451-3636.

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**50TH ANNUAL CAMP MEETING,
 MYRTLE, MO,
 and EVANGELISTIC TENT OUTREACH,
 THAYER, MO**

The 50th annual camp meeting of the Church of God at Myrtle, MO, will begin, Lord willing, on Wednesday morning, August 2, and continue through Sunday morning, August 6, 2000. We would like to invite and urge everyone who can to come and be with us during this special occasion.

We are very happy to announce that the Lord has graciously opened the door for us to have a special evangelistic tent outreach in conjunction with this year's camp meeting. The evangelistic tent will be set up near Thayer, MO. The Lord blessed us to be able to rent a piece of property at an ideal location, less than one mile north of Thayer on highway 63, just beside the local radio station. Highway 63 is the main route traveled through this area, therefore, the tent can be seen by all. Bro. Louis Kimble, and others with a burden for tent evangelism, will be present to assist in this effort. We would like to ask all the saints to get behind us in the burden of this effort and, if at all possible, come and be a part. Besides ministers, we will need special singers, prayer warriors, persons with a burden to hand out tracts and meeting invitations, etc. Together, and with the Lord's help, I believe we can make this meeting a success for God. I believe the Lord would like to pay a special visit to the people of this area again. If but one soul is saved from our efforts it will be worth it all!

Our plans are to have the day services on the Myrtle camp ground, either under the tabernacle or in the chapel, whichever is most convenient. Meals will be served as usual in the dining hall. The evening services will be held under the tent in Thayer, about 19.5 miles from the camp ground. Also, we plan to have the last service on Sunday morning under the tent at Thayer, after which the tent will be taken down and prepared to haul to California where it will be used in another gospel outreach effort.

We trust the saints will respond greatly to these gospel outreach efforts. Provisions will be made on the Myrtle camp ground as much as possible to care for all who come to the meeting

here. There are, however, two motels near the tent location for anyone desiring that option. They are the Highlander Motel (417) 264-3713, less than 1.5 miles north of the tent on Hwy. 63, and the Riverview Motel (870) 265-3218, less than 5 miles south of the tent on Hwy. 63 in Mammoth Spring, AR.

For further information, contact Bro. Harlan Sorrell, (417) 938-4336 or Sis. Carol Sorrell, (417) 938-4493. We hope to see you here!

—Bro. Harlan Sorrell

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BAKERSFIELD, CA, CAMP MEETING

A sincere invitation is extended to saints and friends everywhere to join with us in our battle against sin. Lord willing, our annual camp meeting will begin Wednesday, August 9, through Sunday, August 13. On Wednesday through Saturday, there will be two services daily, 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. On Sunday there will be Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., morning worship at 10:30 a.m. and an afternoon service at 2:30 p.m. We are expecting God's presence to save sinners, sanctify believers, heal, restore, edify and encourage. Come and join us if you can. If you can't come, please pray for the meeting that God will be glorified. For more information, please contact our pastor, Bro. Hayward Cox at (661) 366-4718.

—Submitted by Sis. Janice Herring

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CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The 51st Annual Camp Meeting at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA, will convene Lord willing, Friday night, August 25, 2000. There will be three worship services daily, 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m., commencing Saturday, August 26 and continuing through September 3, 2000. Come and worship the Lord with us.

For information, lodging or directions, call Bro. Herbert Clay, (818) 897-1396 or the Sunset Guest Home, (818) 899-2022.

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YOUTH ROUND-UP 2000

We are extending a nation-wide invitation, also an appeal for all the young people who love the Lord to come to the Florida Youth Round-Up 2000. It is scheduled for Friday, September 1st through Sunday, September 3rd. Come ready for work, spiritual work, and expect a blessing.

Contact personnel for the Youth Round-Up

2000 is Helena McIntrye at (305) 253-9737.
Youth on Fire Fax # (305) 247-8811.

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BOLEY, OK, CAMP MEETING

The Boley, OK, camp meeting will convene, Lord willing, August 24-27. We invite everyone to come and help us in this battle. If you can't come, please pray for the meeting.

—Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, (918) 667-3648
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DUNCANNON, PA, REVIVAL

The Duncannon, PA, congregation has scheduled revival services for September 13-17, at the Church of God chapel, located 5 1/2 miles from Duncannon on Route 849, on the right side of the highway.

We are planning morning and evening services, with the first service being held on Wednesday evening.

Accommodations and camper sites are limited, but there are motels within a half-hour's drive in the Harrisburg area, and some smaller ones even closer. For further details and/or to acquire overnight accommodations, contact Sis. Virginia Myers, (717) 834-4541 or Bro. Stanley and Sis. Nancy Huss, (717) 834-4490. The chapel phone number is (717) 567-6988.

Our desire is to reach the lost in this area and to receive inspiration and encouragement ourselves. The enemy of souls is working hard and we need to work harder. We solicit the saints' prayers and participation.

In His love, —Sis. Barbara J. Campbell
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WICHITA, KS, FALL MEETING

The Wichita, KS, fall meeting has been set for September 15-24. On both Sundays we will have three services. Monday through Saturday (18-23), we will have two services daily—11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. God has always been faithful to supply the ministers needed for our meetings and we will again trust Him to do so. There is an open invitation to anyone to come to be a help, to receive help, or both. God will provide any and everything that we all need. We will be expecting all-around blessings from our great, big God.

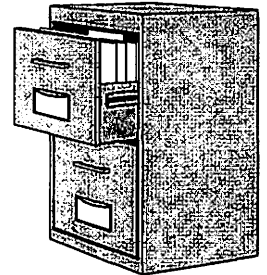
For further information, you may contact Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848, or Bro. Paul Phillips at (316) 721-9557. The chapel is located at 1701 N. Ash St. and the phone number is (316) 267-9582. —Sis. Shirley Knight

**PHELAN/BALDY MESA, CA,
FALL MEETING**

The Phelan/Baldy Mesa, CA, Church of God will have a fall meeting and special dedication service October 11-15, 2000. Further details will be in the September *Faith and Victory*.

—Bro. Travis and Sis. Alice Johnson, pastors, (760) 956-3432.
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LETTERS
FROM
OUR
FILES



OK—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you in Jesus' name, the One who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own precious blood. His blood, when applied to our hearts, gives us a welcome into heaven. The Father will receive us if He can see the blood of His Son applied to our hearts. The Scriptures say that we can have boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus. (Hebrews 10:19.) That same blood will give us boldness to stand before the throne when it is applied to our hearts. (Revelation 7:14.)

I was glad that I was privileged to attend some of the Guthrie camp meeting. I received much good.

Your brother in Christ, washed by His blood,
—T. V. McMillian
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KS—Dear Bro. Murphey: The Lord again has answered prayer for us and I'm writing to encourage others.

My husband was having a lot of trouble with his eyes at times. We did not know if he could drive much longer. The dear Lord answered prayer and his eyes are much better than they were for awhile. He even passed his eye examination for driver's license renewal....

Thanks so much for all the prayers from the saints everywhere.

In His love, —Naomi Hiebert
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CA—Dear Faith Publishing and saints: I want to give all thanks to God our Father and His Son for the mercy He has shown to me in my life, by His forgiveness of sin and His continued

mercy. I praise the Lord for this wonderful gift of full salvation and sanctification that is offered to all who will accept deliverance from God's Son, and pay the price for His blessings.

The Lord has never failed to show His great love to the world even though we reject Him continually. I was reading in II Thess. 2:10-12, where it says, "...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

We see the world going about having their own way, not paying any heed to the wickedness all around, accepting that this is just the way things are, as Lot's children did, and not wanting to believe that such a good God would in the end condemn them to everlasting damnation. The world doesn't love the light or want all the truth, just the part that says God is love and merciful.

Just as in Noah's day, it must have been hard to see the world all around him not accepting the truth of God, and not being willing to believe that God was going to destroy the world, partly because it had never rained before, but mostly because their hearts were wicked. We have never seen the firmaments fall apart before either, but we know God's Word is true and that this is going to happen.

I am so thankful that God still has a remnant as He did in Elijah's day that are holding to the truth even when they see most of the world willing to believe less than all the truth of God's Word. Many of us will have to stand alone in these last days and hold up the bloodstained banner for Christ, just as Noah and Elijah did.

I praise God for all of you who are yet willing to hold to all the truth even as it becomes more unpopular with loved ones and friends.

I desire your prayers for my body, but most of all that I will stay at my post of duty until the Father says it is enough.

Your sister in Christ, —Linda Tolliver

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ITALY—Bro. Wayne and Print Shop workers: As they say in Italy, "Siamo arrivati qual!" We arrived in Switzerland on May 18th after a tiring plane ride. The trip wasn't so long; it was just that we were so excited that we didn't sleep the night before, nor on the plane. Bro. Paul Fischer picked us up and took us to Siloah, the guest house run by the Swiss church. The

saints there were very gracious, and we were able to rest awhile before supper. We seemed to get over the jet lag quite easily, and after a good night's rest, we were ready for the next day. The weather in Switzerland was absolutely beautiful, and we visited with several of the saints there.

On the 23rd we left Switzerland with the car that the Lord provided. After a night in an Italian hotel near Rimini, we arrived in Brindisi on the 24th in the afternoon. Several were waiting for us, and they led us to our place, an apartment already prepared with some food in the fridge, plates, silver...a complete kitchen. We also had beds waiting. So again the Lord provided for us.

The church is situated about three miles from Brindisi, on the southeast side of Italy, in the "heel" of the boot. It is a converted winery, made into a beautiful building fit for worship. It has two stories. The first houses the sanctuary and some rooms that they use for guests, as well as a large dining room for meetings, weddings, etc. Then on the second floor are several apartments where four families live. We live in one of them. It's a semi-communal arrangement. We have private rooms, but not separate apartments. There is plenty of space, yet we're close in proximity to others.

Here are some prayer points for your consideration:

1. That we will maintain a humble spirit before the Lord.
2. That He will cause us to grow in love for each other.
3. That we will grow in our understanding of the Italian language and culture.
4. For Roberto, a young fellow who needs the Lord.
5. For Armando; for healing of his shoulder and for a steady job.

May the Lord bless each one of you as you serve Him. We look forward to hearing from you. You may contact us one of four ways:

(1) By e-mail at joefine@juno.com. This is the fastest way.

(2) By letter at C.P. 27, 72011 Brindisi, ITALY.

(3) By phone. We have a private phone, so you can call at any time. Remember that we're 7 hours ahead of Oklahoma! The number is 011-39-349-125-4550. If you live outside the U.S., dial whatever prefix is necessary for international long distance. For the U.S. it's 011. We'd love to hear from you, so contact us soon.

(4) Come for a visit! This is a beautiful place. We'd love to have you for our guest. Let us know in advance when you'll be coming and we'll prepare a place for you.

With much affection you are in our prayers,
—Bro. Joe, Sis. Judy, Anna and Paul Fine

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NE—Dear Bro. Wayne, co-workers and saints: This still finds me saved and encouraged to go all the way with Jesus. I have no desire to be one of the worldly minded. I see no future in that. I am content to be one of God's faithful followers.

I am still trusting in Jesus to heal me of the strokes that I have had since October, 1998. I do not suffer with pain and have improved a lot since the last one.

For several years I have learned to be content with my lot in life and thank God each morning for each new day. His blessings are too numerous to count.

I have a very loving and caring family and I do appreciate so much all they do for me.

Continue to pray for me and my loved ones....
Christian love, —Sis. Violet Sinkhorn

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IL—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary: I hope you are well, and still working for God. We are both crippled up, but still able to keep our home. Everyone is so good to us, and God supplies all of our needs.

Remember us in prayer as I do you. May God bless and keep you and your family. I hope to see you some day.

Love, —Marie Snell

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OK—Dear Saints: I feel that I should put my testimony in the paper again. It seems that down through the years one crisis after another has come our way to where we needed special prayer. And the saints have been so faithful to hold us in their prayers and visit. I have been feeling fairly good but as I get older I get weaker in my arms and legs. Even as this happens the Lord has been good to me in protecting me from falling and hurting myself. Of course I don't quite feel like Caleb in Joshua 14, when he said, "Give me this mountain." After all, I am almost 70 years old.

A few weeks ago I started having difficulty breathing, especially at night. This went on for several days, at times getting very bad, until I was wondering if maybe this was my time to go. I was really examining my life. (I am so thankful

that down through the years I have tried to keep everything straightened up.) It's easy to let down a little here and there until you don't really have what it takes to make it in. There are so many precious promises in the Bible not only of His power to heal and His ability to heal, but also that He will care for us in the affliction and not let more come upon us than we are able to bear. I have truly found this to be so.

Last Wednesday (May 24) the Lord seemed to inspire faith that He would give me a special healing touch. Even though I didn't feel like going to prayer meeting, I went anyway, and the Lord did start clearing up the heavy congestion and labored breathing.

Now I am able to rest better at night and am much stronger during the day.

Folks, we are so thankful for God's touch once again. I know that one of these days He will say, "That's enough, come on home." I sure do want to be ready and waiting with anticipation. Let's all do it, because I would just love to be able to sit down with all of you and visit with you and thank you for your prayers and phone calls and concern in helping me along life's journey.

God bless you all, —Dale Doolittle

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LETTERS FROM THE MISSION FIELDS



From Nigeria...

May 13, 2000—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Warm greetings of Christian love to the entire staff of the Lord's print shop in Jesus' most highly-exalted name. We ascribe all praises to our heavenly Father through the Son's name for all His blessings.

It is our sincere hope that this letter shall find all of you still dedicated in the service of God.

We are very grateful to you dear ones for your continuous financial assistance. Thank you very much, and may God keep rewarding you more abundantly in Jesus' name. Amen.

Last April a non-native who is schooling here in Tombia believed and was baptized in our midst. His name is Bro. Isaac. Many are called, but few are chosen. (Matthew 22:14.)

May the heavenly Father continue to uphold

us all until time shall be no more, in Jesus' name.

Yours for the entire truth,

—Bro. Onimite B. Alalibo

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May 3, 2000—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings to you and the Faith Publishing House family, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. We are gladly serving the Lord our Maker who loved us and gave us His beloved Son. Praise be to His holy name.

Thanks for the March issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper sent to me. The publication afforded us the opportunity to be acquainted with current events.

The October issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper was received together with the November and December issues about two weeks ago. I noted with gladness that you moved to the new office complex about seven months ago in October 1999 as published in the October issue. We were not abreast with the new development due to the late arrival of the *Faith and Victory* parcels. Thanks be to God for this wonderful achievement due to His constant support for this worthy project. While we could not help in any material form, our assistance had been in the form of prayer. We rejoice with you over this development. Please accept our congratulations.

A few days after reporting the commencement of the church building project, the enemy struck. Armed bandits invaded the church premises on February 12, 2000, at about 3:00 a.m. and at gun point made away with all of the cash in my room. The church was emptied of her treasury. Funds raised through a freewill offering the previous week for the building project were not spared. From part of February until now, work on the building has been in suspense. Money raised within this period has been diverted to put in place an improved security system, which included the raising of the block fence of the premises. This was the second attack. The first was on January 21, when a sister, a retail trader at the market, living on the premises since after the death of her husband, Bro. Silas Emmanuel, was robbed of substantial money. The setback has been much on us but we are still praising and trusting the Lord. We consider it as a "trial of our faith" and are thanking the Lord for sparing our lives twice from the robbers who could have gunned someone down without hindrance. We have been praying for their repentance and God to stop a

repeat of the ugly incident. We are also praying and looking unto the Lord to help us resume work on the project. The willingness to give is there, but many members are handicapped, and so it may take us a longer time to do appreciable work. Regrettably, the rains have set in and we cannot help it.

Let's give God the glory. The crises situation I reported earlier has given way to peace in Ogu town. Bro. Israel Darrick arrived here on April 22, 2000, and confirmed the prevailing peaceful atmosphere. Consequently, a five man team landed at Ogu by river, on April 29, 2000, and engaged in gospel work the same day and the following day.

We had a useful fellowship with the few brethren and prayed for the sick before returning to Port Harcourt on Sunday evening. Please include a brother here named Clement in your prayers. He is fairly aged and is being afflicted with a sore on his leg. Pray with us also for the growth of the Church there as well as the restoration of perfect peace for safer and easier entry into the area.

Meanwhile, we are still counting the Lord's blessings in an earlier revival meeting April 19-22, 2000. Activities included open-air preaching and personal witnessing in a neighborhood. Not only were the people blessed as we contacted a good number of them through the Word of God, but ourselves also.

A few souls have since been joining us in our fellowships. We have been visiting some of the people identified with the gospel in their homes. Like our first night message, taken from Matthew 13:47-48, the "net" of the Word was "cast in the sea" and the Lord knows who are His in the neighborhood. Our prayer is for God to give increase to the seed sown (I Corinthians 3:6) and to make us to be more useful in the Master's hands.

The evening of Sunday, April 23, 2000, witnessed the observance of the ordinances of feet washing and holy communion with a good attendance.

May the Lord continue to bless your labors in the interest of souls.

Yours for the love of Christ,

—F. Naths-Igbanibo

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May 30, 2000—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and saints of the living God: Greetings in the dear precious name of our only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This letter is from pastor Felix M. O. Ezelie of the Church of God, Kwale congregation in Delta State of Nigeria, primarily to inform you and the entire saints of God of the passing away of our beloved elder of this congregation, Bro. Titus Enu, from this earthly land of the living to the land of glory. He received the call from God on the 18th of this month of May, 2000, to join the ranks of those who have finished their earthly work and gone to rest from their labor.

The passing away of Bro. Titus Enu was a shocking event. It was from a heart attack as he was sitting in a chair reading his Bible in his house. The burial is scheduled to take place on the 23rd to 24th of June, 2000.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

—Pastor Felix M. O. Ezelie

From Ghana...

May 25, 2000—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Our convention at Tauoso was blessed because God glorified Himself by bringing in fifteen new souls into His royal family.

On May 26, 2000, we plan to conduct a Bible school and prayers for adults in the church, both men and women, at Akumadan. We would like to ask for your prayers for the work in Ghana, because the work is too great.

We also therefore pray and ask for His direction. By God's grace the work in Ghana is blessed and we are fully prepared to spread the gospel to every corner in the country. We hope that God will supply all our needs to bring souls who live in the dark to the Light.

Yours in Christ, —Pastor Maxwell Nkansah



Irene Romoser, 85, Shawnee, OK, formerly of West Union, IL, passed away Tuesday, Febru-

ary 15, 2000, at the Golden Rule Nursing Home, Shawnee, OK.

Born, May 31, 1914, in York Township, she was the daughter of Simon Ingle and Lydia Florence Wallace Ingle. She was a homemaker and had farmed with her husband. She attended the Church of God, Shawnee, OK.

On February 24, 1938, she married Harry F. Romoser, who preceded her in death on September 23, 1981.

Survivors include several nieces and nephews and their spouses including, Rose and Earl Daugherty, Arlene and Rex Bonesteel, Nancy and Joe Swope, Anna Mae and Raymond Holler, Chrisman, Karen and Jim Bonesteel, Carol and Troy Harmon and Norma and Don Colwell.

Preceding her in death were her parents; seven sisters, Mary Bonesteel, Lela Livvix, Lena Ingle, Esther Ingle, Inez Rawlinson, Sarah Leonard and Cloy Nidey; and two brothers, Harry Ingle and Ernie Ingle.

The funeral services were held at the Prust-Hosch Funeral Chapel, West Union, IL, with Bro. Michael Smith officiating. Burial was in the Ohio Cemetery, northwest of West Union.

Eva Magdalene (Bracken) Probst was born to William and Ella Bracken near Effingham, IL, on August 8, 1914, and departed this life at the Golden Rule Home in the Assisted Living Center at Shawnee, OK, on April 19, 2000, at the age of 85 years, 8 months, and 11 days.

Eva was married to Herbert Victor Probst at her parents' home on April 20, 1935, and to this union six children were born; Donald Probst, of Sand Springs, OK, Kenneth Probst, of McMinnville, OR, Dale Probst, of Guthrie, OK, Janice Probst, of Sapulpa, OK, Marvin Probst, of Sapulpa, OK, and one son, Maurice Probst who preceded her in death.

In addition there were three brothers, Stanford, Lester and Norman Bracken; one sister, Iva Adamson; two dear sisters-in-law, Lucille Perry and Ardell Lyons; 13 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, 28 nieces and nephews and a host of friends and family who remain to cherish her memory.

Eva was preceded in death by her husband, Herbert, in 1980, and lived by herself for most of the following years at Sapulpa, OK, until her recent move to the Golden Rule Home in September, 1999.

She accepted Christ at the early age of 10 years, and never faltered nor changed that

commitment. She encountered many battles of faith both for herself and her family, being healed of serious life-threatening illnesses dating from the first years of marriage, to her last years when she was miraculously healed following complications which would normally have meant death. God blessed us by leaving her with us for approximately twelve more years.

She received only eight years of formal education, but along with her husband gained much of her education through reading, traveling and ministering to others. She was very alert and active until the last few days, and became computer literate in her eighties and was actively involved in ministering to others by e-mail, through which she sent letters of encouragement, poems and even warning and caution of spiritual dangers which she discerned. She wrote many poems and songs which, along with others she personally valued, she passed to others for comfort, encouragement or personal benefit.

Although never greatly celebrated or publicly acclaimed, she fulfilled a personal ministry to all she came in contact with, from her immediate family, extending to the poor and less fortunate to whom she always paid special consideration and concern. Her reward will be in the world to come for all those whose lives she touched. She took time to teach her children as well as the many church and young people the principles of Christian living and godliness. Many others were recipients of her sewing and other miscellaneous services or deeds of kindness. Her influence will be remembered by many.

Note of Thanks

We wish to thank each of you for the cards, calls, flowers, and most of all, for your prayers during the time of the loss of our mother. We still desire your prayers as we adjust to the vacancy she left behind. —The family of Eva Probst

Willard Gene Underdown, was born October 13, 1934, in Athens, TN, to Oscar and Mamie Underdown. He left this world to be with Jesus after an extended illness, on June 5, 2000, at the age of 65 years. He was married for 34 years and 10 months to Helen Marie Underdown, daughter of Bro. William A. McCoy and Sis. Verga M. McCoy. Although they were currently residing in Fort Pierce, FL, they were formerly of Dayton, OH, and the Holly Hill, SC,

Church of God congregations.

Bro. Willard is survived by his wife, Helen, his daughter, Cheryl Smith and her husband, Kevin Smith; three step-daughters, Debra Lucas, Sandra Lucas and Sharon Frusher; one step-son, David Baird and nine step-grandchildren. He was loved by all of them so dearly and he will be sorely missed.

Bro. Willard suffered a great deal over the last few years and drew close to God in his pain and suffering. His testimony to his family was that he was ready to go, which gives them great comfort at this time.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Carl Shaffer of Holly Hill, SC, and Bro. Charles Clay of Miami, FL.

The family wishes to thank all who prayed for Bro. Willard, sent flowers, financial support, called them on the phone, and stood by them through this sad time. They now have one more big reason to remain faithful to the end—he has won his crown and they want to meet him in glory.



On April 26, 1991, God blessed Kenneth and Mary Baxter, Sr. with a beautiful baby girl, and they named her **Sarah Beth Louise Baxter**.

She attended Leisure City Elementary School. Sarah demonstrated a tender heart and loved the Lord with all her heart. She accepted the Lord very early in life, and attended the Church of God (Evening Light) with her parents, touching the lives of many. She was a leader in school and church, faithfully gathering young children together in groups to sing, pray and "have church." Sarah had a love for her family, especially her father. She would always greet him with a hug and kiss and wait for her special treat from him each morning when she left for school. She was extremely fascinated with angels, and we are comforted with knowing she is now one. Sarah's bubbly personality caused her to be loved and respected by adults and children.

Her grandfather, Lester Thomas, and four uncles: Raymon, Leroy, Frank and Tyrone preceded her in death.

On Monday, April 3, after eight short years with us, the angel of the Lord called our sweet little Sarah to Himself.

She leaves to cherish her precious memory, her devoted parents, Kenneth and Mary Baxter, Sr.; sisters: Hellen Baxter, Kenneeth and Henry Bacon, Charity and Herschell Hargrave, Shaneka Baxter, Esther Baxter, Miracle Baxter and Shaunbria Baxter; brothers, Kenneth, Jr. and Helen, Timothy, Richard, Jason, Joseph, Shadrach and Benjamin Baxter; grandparents, AnnieBell Thomas and Delbert and Alma Baxter; godmother, Alberta Olford; 12 nieces; 17 nephews; 15 aunts; 15 uncles and many cousins and friends.

Thank You

Please accept our sincere "thank you" for all you have done for us at this time. We would like to thank you in person and soon the Lord will allow us, but until then please let all of those that gave, prayed, called, sent food, flowers, offerings, and came, know that we thank you so very much. We do want to let you know that you have been our inspiration to go on.

There is a void in our lives now, an empty chair at our table, a vacant seat in the van and at devotion time. Oh, saints, please pray for us.

Our family is in the furnace. Please pray that God will take us through. —The Baxter family

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Elversa Eddens was born on December 2, 1924, in Wewoka, OK, Seminole County. She was born to the parents of Johnny and Clara Louie, Sr.

Henry and Luella Carter raised her and her siblings.

Elversa married Hurlon Eddens in 1958. She moved to Ukiah, CA, with her two small children in 1964, and raised them to adults there as a single parent.

Elversa always had the sweetest and meekest of temperaments and her calling in life was truly to do for others. She worked and retired as a nurse (caring for others). For years she volunteered on weekends in a nursing home. She often said, "These people need someone there who cares for them."

Elversa loved God mightily and was a praying woman. Many days and nights her children would find her asleep on her knees at the side of the bed.

She truly led by example and up to the day she died, she prayed and humbled herself be-

fore God, and everything was always "fine."

She is survived by her son, Victor Eddens and daughter-in-law, Jill, of Eugene, OR; her daughter, Leanetta Bossie and son-in-law, Henry, of Chicago, IL; grandchildren, Brenton Eddens, Morgan Eddens, Jarrell Eddens, Hannah Eddens, Latrendia and Jennifer Bossie; one brother, Johnny Louie, Jr. of Los Angeles, CA; three sisters, Verna Scott of San Diego, CA; Vernice Louie of Waco, TX; nephews, relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held in the Crutch Church of God chapel, Oklahoma City, OK, conducted by Bro. Wayne Murphey. Burial was in the Arlington Memory Gardens, Oklahoma City, OK.

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Where Is Now Thy God?

(Continued from page 3.)

"Stay a little while," replied the other, "I will send at once to the post-house and order one for you, but I fear there are no horses to be had. If so, you shall take my own carriage to the next station, where you are more likely to obtain them, as it does not lie in the high-road to Paris."

Kerner sat down. The messenger soon came back. It was as the citizen supposed. His carriage was at once got ready.

"Kerner, take me with you to my mother," exclaimed Laforest suddenly, and then he sank back again into his mysterious silence.

He was carried into the carriage, being unable to walk. They traveled all night. In the morning, Kerner hoped to reach the town in which were all most precious to him on earth. He tried several times to begin a conversation with his friend, but received no answer. Sometimes he heard him groan. With great care he wrapped him in the coverings which their kind host had lent them for the night. He suffered him to do everything without a word either of approbation or displeasure.

Whilst the travelers are hastening on their journey, it may be well to narrate briefly what had occurred at the parsonage since Kerner's forcible removal.

After Madame Laforest had sent the letter to her son, grief, for some time, took possession of all hearts; they wept and lamented aloud. The children sorrowed for their father, the mother for her son, the wife for her husband. The aunt was the first to recover herself.

(Continued on page 16.)

Bible Lessons



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

ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE

Bible Lessons is a Sunday School book published quarterly by Faith Publishing House and edited by Bros. Leslie Busbee and Wayne Murphey. Each Sunday features a scripture lesson, as well as questions, word definitions and comments.

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"Beloved ones," said she, "all our weeping and mourning is in vain. It can neither give us comfort nor help. There is only one thing which can procure us both, if it is God's will. That is prayer, fervent, unceasing prayer. You know what our Bible says,—'The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.' Let us pray earnestly together, and let us first strengthen ourselves by reading God's Word."

She opened the family Bible which lay upon the table. Her hand rested upon the forty-second Psalm. "As the hart panteth after the water brooks," she began to read, "so panteth my soul after thee, O God," and she concluded with the last verse,—"'Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.'"

Then she fell on her knees. All present, including the servants and the friendly neighbor, did likewise. She began with a thanksgiving for the precious words of comfort and of promise which the Lord had given them in His grace and mercy—words which seemed as if written specially for them; and then she poured out her soul in fervent supplication for the beloved member and head of the family who had been torn from their midst, perhaps never to return. She pleaded for him and his; for resignation to the unsearchable ways of the Lord; for a firm, immovable hold upon the faith; for the consolations of Divine mercy. Then she prayed for her own son, that God would dispose him to give heed to her petition, and hasten to Strasburg to save his friend, and that he would use this opportunity as a means of bringing him to the all-merciful Savior of sinners, and giving him a spark of that faith which was her only stay and comfort. Tears choked her voice, and she was obliged to compose herself in silent prayer before she could utter an audible "Amen." Kerner's mother then offered a simple, earnest prayer, in faithful confidence dwelling on the last words of the Psalm they had just read. His wife could not pray, willing as she was to do so, for weeping. Just as they were going to get up from prayer, they heard the tender voice of little Anna, four years of age, her father's darling—"O dear Savior, help my poor papa, and let him come back to us, that we may cry no more. Amen."

Deeply affected, they all said "Amen," and rose from their knees.

Affectionately kissing the pastor's wife, his mother repeated the words,—

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God."

Then she pressed her dear grandchild Anna in her arms—"The Lord will hear your prayer," she said, almost prophetically; "continue to pray, my child, and you will yet praise the Lord for His help."

The family remained a long time together. The precious words of Scripture, the fervent prayers, faithful confidence of the mother and her grandchild, had found an echo in their hearts. Though their tears flowed, they were not those of despair, as before. They mutually strengthened each other in faith; they even ventured to hope when there seemed nothing to hope for. In the evening they again met to pray, many other friends joining them.

(To be continued next month.)

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